**American Statistical Association**

**Section on Teaching of Statistics in the Health Sciences**

**Minutes of the December 2019 Executive Committee Meeting**

**December 19, 2019**

Attendees: Amy Nowacki (Chair), Laila Poisson (Chair-Elect), Ann Brearley (Chair-Elect-Elect and Publicity Officer), Jeff Szychowski (Past Chair), Jose-Miguel Yamal (Council of Sections Representative), Jacqui Milton (Program Chair), Maria Ciarleglio (Program Chair-Elect), Bob Oster (Secretary/Treasurer), Ed Gracely (Webmaster), John Doucette (Communications Officer), Carol Bigelow (Portal Representative), Heather Hoffman (Publicity Officer-Elect)

Unable to attend: Jaya Satagopan (Program Chair-Elect-Elect)

**CALL TO ORDER**

* Amy called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM (Eastern).

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2019 MINUTES**

* *Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 21 meeting with corrections. The motion was made and seconded. The motion was approved.*

**JSM 2020 (Philadelphia, PA)**

* Topic contributed sessions – The executive committee (EC) reviewed the document that Maria sent, which was titled “TSHS JSM 2020 Program Update”. The primary topic of discussion was the proposed topic-contributed (TC) sessions that would be sponsored by TSHS.
  + Since TC session #1 (“Translational Statistics: Addressing shortfalls in preclinical experimental design”; a panel discussion) was deemed similar to TC session #2 (“Translational Statistics: Problems in preclinical studies and a call for change”; a paper discussion), the EC thought that TC session #1 would be a better choice since it already meets the requirements of a panel session, while TC session #2 does not yet meet the requirements of a paper session.
  + It was also suggested that Brandon George be asked to chair TC session #3 (“Methods for Fostering Student Engagement in Online Statistics Courses”; a panel discussion) since Maria will be a speaker in another JSM session.
  + TC session #4 (“Characteristics of a successful biostatistics summer internship program”) was also discussed.
  + Maria will follow up with the primary sponsors of the TC sessions that TSHS is co-sponsoring.
* Contributed sessions – Abstracts for regular contributed presentations can be submitted now. The deadline for submitting these abstracts is February 4.
* Roundtables – The deadline for submission of abstracts for roundtable discussions is February 4.
  + Thus far, we have received one proposal on the topic of causal inference, and one on “statisticians and promotions”. The EC suggested that the latter proposal should be revised to focus on education before TSHS can sponsor it.
* Broader discussion on Roundtables
  + It was mentioned that there should be 8-10 people attending our Roundtables.
  + In order to promote the roundtables that we sponsor, should we include the target audience and the audience objectives in the description? We want the attendees to believe that they belong at the roundtables.
  + Should the section subsidize the cost of the roundtables? The current cost of these is $45 for a lunch roundtable and $20 for a morning roundtable. The EC thought that this idea might receive pushback from the ASA.
  + It was mentioned that the Section on Statistics and Data Science Education (Stat Ed) have birds-of-a-feather (BOF) sessions during JSM. These sessions are free, but registration is required.
  + Our options are (1) to have regular roundtables in 2020 and to implement BOF sessions in 2021, or (2) to implement BOF sessions in 2020. Jacqui will reach out to Stat Ed to get information on how they conduct their BOF sessions, how they publicize these sessions, and how they determine where the BOF groups will meet at JSM. The EC will discuss these options further once Jacqui obtains this information.

**PUBLICITY PLAN FOR 2020 TSHS AWARDS**

* Young Investigator and Outstanding Teaching
* Nominations for these awards are due in on May 15, 2020.
* Ann has already posted updated announcements for these awards in Amstat News and also on the ASA Community Forum.

**TREASURY REPORT**

* Bob provided a brief treasurer’s report. He first noted that the current treasury balance is $16,061.82. He then said that the amounts for all 2019 section awards have been paid from our account. The only remaining item to be paid (for 2019) is the honorarium for our most recent webinar presenter (Erin Blankenship).
* Amy will follow up with Stata on a possible sponsorship for our 2020 JSM mixer. Jeff will forward emails that he has regarding the 2019 Stata sponsorship to Amy.

**TSHS WEBSITE (https://community.amstat.org/tshs/home)**

* The website appears to be unfriendly until one logs in.
* Much of the TSHS material is blocked from view until one logs in.
* Suggestions include the following:
  + Reorganize the website
  + Post pictures with attendees at our 2019 mixer
  + Make the link to the TSHS Portal more prominent
  + Post a “check out our webinars here” link. This will allow those who don’t log in to the website to have access to the webinars, including those who are not TSHS members.

**WINTER TSHS WEBINAR**

* This will take place on January 30, 2020 at 2:00 pm (Eastern).
* The presenter willbe Tom Braun, of the University of Michigan. The title will be “Biostatistics for Public Health Students: What Benefits Does a “Flipped” Classroom Have?”.

**COUNCIL OF SECTIONS REPORT**

* The annual TSHS report has been completed and submitted by Amy.

**TSHS PORTAL UPDATE**

* Carol contacted 5 other sections about (their potential use of) the portal. These include Biometrics, Biopharmaceutical, Health Policy Statistics, Mental Health Statistics, and Statistics in Epidemiology. She has heard back from some of these and is waiting to hear back from the others. The Health Policy Statistics Section has confirmed that they would like to collaborate with us.
* Ann mentioned that we have received one additional submission for the portal.

**TSHS BLOG WORKING GROUP**

* This working group is organizing a schedule of blog submissions and a list of TSHS officers and others who could (or should) submit blog posts during the year.

**CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

* Amy noted the following:
  + Laila will become TSHS Chair on January 1, 2020
  + Ann will become TSHS Chair-Elect on January 1, 2020
  + Amy will become TSHS Past Chair on January 1, 2020

**NEXT MEETING**

* The next TSHS executive committee meeting will take place on January 17, 2020 at 1:00 PM (Eastern).

**ADJOURNMENT**

* Amy adjourned the meeting at 1:55 PM (Eastern).