

## **Friends of Australasia Charter**

### **Article I. NAME**

The name of this organization is Friends of Australasia (hereafter called the Subgroup), and the organization is designated by the American Statistical Association (hereafter called ASA) under Article XIII of its By-Laws as an *Other ASA Subgroup*.

### **Article II. OBJECTIVES**

The vision of the Subgroup is to promote the exchange of statistical expertise between the US and Australasia (where Australasia refers to Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Island region specifically known as Oceania).

The primary objectives of the Subgroup are to:

- Inform American audiences about statistical developments from the Australasian region (primarily through speaking opportunities at the Joint Statistical Meeting and through written articles in ASA publications such as AmStat News).
- encourage ASA members to make working visits to the Australasian region. This includes opportunities for ASA members to take part in a range of conferences held in Australasia, as well as to facilitate workshop tours given by ASA members to the Australasian region. (These activities will often be in partnership with Australasian groups such as the Statistical Society of Australia).
- Promote the establishment and continuation of research collaborations between statisticians in the US and Australasia.
- Contribute to the development of statistical expertise in developing nations in the Pacific Island region. This will be achieved through contributing to local meetings and conferences held within this region, and to supporting an email discussion forum established for this region.

### **Article III. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Subgroup is open to anyone, including non-ASA members.

### **Article IV. FINANCES**

The Subgroup shall not charge dues. A small budget might be obtained through fund-raising events (such as workshops and seminars organized independently of existing ASA meetings). These monies will be spent on achieving the objectives listed above (activities which might include meeting costs and publications).

## **Article V. OFFICERS**

The elected officers of the Subgroup shall be the Chair, the Past-Chair, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Executive Committee for this Subgroup will consist of these four elected officers.

- The Chair is the chief officer of the Subgroup and is the Chair of its Executive Committee. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Subgroup and the Executive Committee. The Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may designate committees or individuals to carry out functions of the Subgroup. The Chair shall coordinate the work of the officers and committees of the Subgroup and shall prepare an annual report, for publication in a news bulletin, on the activities of the Subgroup.
- The Past-Chair is the holder of the office of Chair in the most recent previous term and shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
- The Secretary shall i) serve as a member of the Executive Committee, ii) take and maintain a record of the minutes of all meetings of the Subgroup and the Executive Committee, iii) maintain a list of the membership that includes information on the Subdivision members' areas of interests and expertise, and iv) maintain an electronic discussion forum for the Subgroup.
- The Treasurer shall i) serve as a member of the Executive Committee, ii) maintain all financial records of income and expenses of the Subgroup, iii) manage a bank account for the Subgroup's finances.

In addition, there will be an advisory sub-committee (termed the Representative Sub-committee) for this Subgroup consisting of representatives from the Statistical Society of Australia (SSAI), the New Zealand Statistical Association (NZSA), and the Pacific Island Region. The SSAI and NZSA shall be responsible for selecting representatives for their organizations to the Subgroup. The Pacific Island Region representative shall be identified through discussion of the Subgroup's Executive Committee and members from the Pacific Island region.

The Executive Director of the ASA shall also serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

## **Article VI. TERMS OF OFFICE and SUCCESSION**

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall serve concurrent two-year terms. By September 1 of the year immediately prior to the conclusion of the officers' terms, the Chair shall nominate at least two persons as successors to the offices of Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chair can nominate currently-serving officers as candidates for the next election. A vote shall be taken by members of the Subgroup prior to the following convened meeting (at JSM) to elect the next Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer; the newly elected officers shall take office at the conclusion of that JSM.

If the office of Chair becomes vacant, the Secretary shall assume the duties of the office until the next scheduled election.

If the office of Secretary or Treasurer become vacant, the Chair shall appoint a successor who must be approved by a majority of members of the combined Executive Committee and Representative Sub-Committee. Once approved by the Executive/Representative Committee, the successor shall serve until the next scheduled election.

The Director of Communications shall serve an indefinite term at the discretion of the Chair of the Subgroup.

A nominating committee, to be selected by the inaugural Executive Committee and headed by one of the two founding co-Chairs (to be selected by the inaugural Executive Committee), shall create a slate of nominees for the first election.

## **Article VII. COMMITTEES**

- **Types:** The Committees of the Subgroup shall consist of the Executive Committee and such committees the Chair may establish as s/he deems appropriate.
- **Membership:** At the time of the creation of a committee, the term of membership and the charge, composition, reappointment, and other rules governing the committee shall be established. The Chair of the Subgroup shall designate a chair for the committee.
- **Review:** The Executive Committee shall regularly review the status of committees to determine if they should continue, change, or sunset.
- These principles do not apply to the Representative Sub-Committee, where this Sub-Committee will be governed by the principles listed in Article V.

## **Article VIII. MEETINGS**

The annual business meeting of the Subgroup shall be held during the Joint Statistics Meetings. The officers may also conduct business with members of the Subgroup by email or other electronic means between meetings.

## **Article IX. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Charter may be proposed by the officers or by a petition signed by at least 10 members of the Subgroup and submitted to any current officer of the Subgroup by September 1. An amendment originating by petition shall be referred to the Secretary of the Subgroup, who shall consult with the petitioners about final wording of the proposed amendment and then announce it to the membership of the Subgroup. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the members of the Subgroup for vote prior to the next annual business meeting. If approved by a majority of the members voting, the amendment

shall take effect at the conclusion of the following JSM. A copy of any amendment approved by the members of the Subgroup shall be filed with the Secretary of ASA.

## Appendix: Formation of other subgroups of the ASA (approved by the Board July 2007)

*Subgroups of ASA other than Committees, Chapters, and Sections may form as needed and appropriate. To become officially recognized subgroups of ASA with the ability to create budgets and spend ASA funds, these subgroups must have a charter that is approved by the ASA Board of Directors.*

1. *The charter must explain the purpose of the subgroup, its name, and its rules for governance.*
2. *The charter must be consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the ASA.*
3. *Unless the subgroup is open to all ASA members, its charter must include a mechanism for determining who can become a member.*
4. *The subgroup will report to the Board of Directors through a Vice-President of the BOD. The BOD will identify which Vice-President the subgroup will report to.*
5. *The Executive Director will assign a staff liaison to officially recognized subgroups.*

*Formation: To become an officially recognized subgroup of ASA, the subgroup must submit a petition to the Board of Directors. The petition must be signed by at least 50 ASA members who wish to be members of the subgroup. The proposed Charter should be submitted along with the petition. The Board of Directors normally shall review the petition for a period of no less than 30 days and no more than 60 days, but may decide to have the review occur at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board. Following this review period the Board of Directors will vote on whether to accept or reject the petition. The decision will be based on a simple majority vote.*

*Dissolution. A subgroup of ASA may be dissolved for any of the following reasons:*

- *Failure to maintain at least 50 members for two consecutive years.*
- *Failure to provide a full slate of nominations for its officer positions for two consecutive elections.*
- *For reasons agreed to by at least two-thirds of the Board of Directors. If such a vote is to be taken, the subgroup members must be given at least a one-year notice.*

*A subgroup which qualifies for dissolution under any of these three criteria will be notified immediately. Notification of the impending dissolution and the reasons will be sent by both mail and e-mail to the Officers of the subgroup. Within 60 days of the mailing, the subgroup may petition the Board of Directors for a probationary continuance, the length of which may not exceed two years. If the subgroup does not petition for continuance within 60 days, it will be considered dissolved.*

*The petition for probationary continuance must include a plan for rectifying the problems that caused dissolution to be proposed. The petition will be automatically granted until the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Rejection will complete the dissolution of the subgroup. Acceptance of the petition will require that the subgroup make the required changes and face a vote of the Board of Directors following the probationary period. A simple majority vote shall be required for continuance of the subgroup's existence, at which time the subgroup will either be restored to regular status or dissolved.*