

Minutes of Business Meeting
Survey Research Methods Section
American Statistical Association

16 August 2000

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) Business meeting was called to order a 6:05 p.m. on Wednesday, 16 August 2000, by Brenda Cox, SRMS Chair during the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were over 83 members in attendance.

The meeting began with the introduction of officers: Past Chair, Bob Groves; Publications Officer, Sharon Lohr; Secretary, Elizabeth Zell; Council of Sections Representative for 2000, Ralph Folsom; Council of Sections Representative for 2000-2002, Bill Kalsbeek; Chair Elect, Dan Kasprzyk; Program Chair Elect-elect, Pat Cantwell; Program Chair, John Eltinge; Program Chair Elect, Jim Lepkowski; Chair Elect-elect, Lars Lyberg; Treasurer Elect, Sarah Nusser; Publications Officer Elect, Al Tupec; and Council of Sections Representative, Rachel Casper.

It was noted that the section had been a busy year at this year's meeting. A short course was given by JNK Rao which had been organized by Barry Grubard. Dave Chapman will begin serving as the SRMS Education Chair. He will be looking for proposals for short courses for next year and future years. SRMS would like to look for short courses to be provided outside of the JSM and the Washington, D.C. area. SRMS would like to spread survey methods around the country. Please let us know if you have an area that is interested in a short course.

Our section has sponsored some conferences this past year. John Eltinge reported that a book is in progress from the International Conference on Survey Nonresponse (ICSN). He thanked the chapter contributors. It was reported the ICES II (International Conference on Establishment Surveys II) was a huge success with 35 countries represented and over 450 attendees. ICES II had 5 to 6 concurrent sessions, but will not produce a book. There will be an invited and a contributed proceedings. Thought is being given to an ICES III in 2005.

There are two conferences coming up in the future which were highlighted: (1) International Conference on Small-Area Estimation and Related Topics and (2) International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing (ICQDET).

Mike Larsen provided an update on the Conference on Small-Area Estimation. This conference will be held 11-14 April 2001 in Potomac, Maryland at the US Postal Service Training Facility. There is a link provided through the SRMS web page. During the next few weeks, more information will be available.

It was reported that the ICQDET is in the early planning stages. There will be a call for papers and a monograph. An outstanding proposal was submitted to SRMS requesting \$5,000 seed money. The Executive Committee voted to provide \$10,000 and hope that the addition funds can be used to support students attendance at the meeting.

Lars Lyberg reported on an additional conference to be held in Stockholm in May. The conference is on the Quality of Official Statistics. All EU countries are involved. Brochures are available from Lars.

Publications Update: Sharon Lohr's term will be ending this year. She has been asked to be the Assistant Editor, Am Stat Online. The update included: (1) The summer newsletter is out. Tom Krenzke and Leslie Wallace did a great job. (2) The web site is up and running. (3) Please send material/suggestions/links for our web page to Sharon Lohr. (4) A big thanks to Wendy Alvey for updating our SRMS flier. (5) We have a page in the Am Stat News that would be good for announcing conferences, providing a history of

our section, etc. (6) There will be printed proceedings in 2000, (7) Current proposal, as of 2001, ASA will no longer produce paper proceedings. Only electronic proceedings will be produced. The cost was felt to be prohibitive to produce both paper and electronic proceedings. ASA will produce the PDF files and will have restrictions on how the paper would be received. It is anticipated the Word, Word Perfect, and a few other common formats would be acceptable. A suggestion was made that the section print copies for those that cannot read a CD-Rom. It is anticipated that the \$15/page charge will remain the same. There will be no problem continuing to include AAPOR papers in our proceedings. There was concern expressed about the longevity of the file structure. It is anticipated that eventually we will have the proceedings on the web and later convert to other formats. It was felt this would provide added benefit to our members. It is felt the CD-Rom would cost approximately \$20. The cost is still under discussion.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report is on our web page. At present there is an approximate \$70,000 surplus. This does not include money our section made on ICSN or ICES II. With the surplus we should explore electronic forms of storage of old proceeding issues. Ideas for utilizing our funds included support for students to attend conferences (money included for ICQDET) and supporting Fritz Scheuren to put the What Is a Survey pamphlet series into a booklet. David Binder suggested updating eht electronic presentation he and Bill Kalsbeck put together.

Newsletter: Looking for articles (also for Am Stat News) to include. It might be useful to profile key papers in the survey literature.

SRMS is establishing an historian. It is hoped that Irene Hess will accept this position.

SRMS is setting up a student award committee. If interested in serving on this committee, please see Brenda Cox. The Social Statistics Section has an award. SRMS will support them this year by funding one student. SRMS needs more student oriented initiatives.

SRMS approved last year the creation of the Innovations in Statistics. A committee needs to be established and an SOP set.

SRMS has been asked to fund an undergraduate data analysis conference. SRMS plans to support this activity, but wants to get more information before awarding funds.

The new SRMS members that became fellows were announced (Linda Carlson, Barry Grubard, Sharon Lohr, John Thompson, and Jay Waitz).

John Gardner announced that the ASA Committee of Public Affairs is creating a strategic plan and welcomes input from the sections and individuals.

Betsy Martin informed us of the AAPOR initiative to improve basic reporting on surveys. This includes the development of standard definitions of response rates. AAPOR would like to have collaboration with SRMS. If anyone is interested, please see Betsy Martin.

Jim Lepkowski stated that he is soliciting ideas for topic contributed papers for the JSM in Atlanta in 2001.

Dan Kasprzyk announced that Nat Schneker will be the National ASA Program Chair for the JSM in 2002.

Brenda Cox thanked John Eltinge for the great job that he did this year serving as program chair for our section.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.