

Minutes of Business Meeting  
Survey Research Methods Section  
American Statistical Association

8 August 2001

The Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS) Business meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 August 2001, by Daniel Kasprzyk, SRMS Chair during the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) in Atlanta, Georgia. There were over 100 members in attendance, however only 55 members signed-in.

The meeting began with the introduction of officers: Chair Elect, Lars Lyberg; Past Chair, Brenda Cox; Program Chair (2001), Jim Lepkowski; Program Chair Elect (2002), Pat Cantwell; Secretary, Elizabeth Zell; Treasurer, Sarah Nusser; Council of Sections Representative for 2000-2002, Bill Kalsbeek; Rachel Caspar (Council of Sections Representative for 2001-2003), Al Tupek (Publications Officer), and Sharon Lohr (Assistant Editor, AmStat Online) were unable to attend. New officers were announced and introduced: Lynn Stokes (Chair Elect 2002/Chair 2003), Howard Hogan (Program Chair Elect 2002/Program Chair 2003), and Leyla Mohadjer (Secretary 2002-2003, unable to attend).

Daniel Kasprzyk announced that Anthony An would serve as Assistant Editor, AmStat Online for 2002-2003 and that Pat Dean Brick had agreed to serve as SRMS Historian and work with Irene Hess who has developed the section's history through the 1980's.

Copies of the SRMS Newsletter were available for those who had not received a copy or wanted an extra copy. SRMS has an outstanding newsletter and appreciation was expressed for the great job the editors were doing. Leslie Wallace and Tom Krenzke are the newsletter editors.

Wendy Alvey updated our Survey Research Methods Section flier. She has done this every year since its creation. The section expressed a thank you to Wendy for all her efforts.

Jim Lepkowski provided an update about this year's JSM program. He was happy to report that the meetings were almost over. He noted that it had been an interesting year and that he had learned a lot about putting together our section's program. There were approximately 240 papers given in 40 sessions which took place in 13 time slots and nine roundtable sessions. Jim noted a few problems which had occurred. He asked our members to please let him know of problems they had encountered and he would pass them on to ASA staff. Jim noted that tomorrow (Thursday), 8:30 a.m. in the Paulding Room that five of the six student paper award winners would present their work. The awards were sponsored by the Social Statistics Section, the Government Statistics Section, and the Survey Research Methods Section. He introduced the four students present: Kristen Blenk, Ohio State University; LinChiat Chang, Ohio State University; Jennifer Czuprynski, Stetson University; and Ji-Yeon Kim, Iowa State University. Jennifer Czuprynski and Ji-Yeon Kim were the SRMS award recipients. It was requested that those members in academia please encourage your students to submit papers for next year's

student paper competition.

Pat Cantwell provided an update about next year's JSM in New York City. He has already submitted the five invited sessions for next year. Two additional sessions have been submitted to the overall conference competition of which two additional invited session slots are available. He noted that the International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) will sponsor a session in memory of Leslie Kish on 'Training of Survey Statisticians.' Graham Kalton, Jim Lepkowski, and Lars Lyberg are the scheduled speakers for the session. It was also noted that SRMS past program chairs have been appointed overall JSM chairs, Nat Schenker in 2002 and John Eltinge in 2003.

Howard Hogan announced that he was looking for roundtable topics for the meetings in 2002. He requested that members e-mail him ideas right away ([hhogan@census.gov](mailto:hhogan@census.gov)),

Sarah Nusser provided the treasurer's report. It has been a good year for our section. There is a \$130,000 balance in the budget. The International Conference on Establishment Surveys-II (ICES-II) was very successful. SRMS will be providing support this fiscal year for the conference honoring John Rao, the conference honoring Wayne Fuller, the two student paper award winners, travel support for the International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing (QDET), and to the Urban Institute for the update of the 'What is a Survey' series. The SRMS Executive Committee is in the process of developing uniform criteria consistent with the mission of the section for awarding funds. Ideas for funding initiatives include developing an open travel request program for first time attendees, students, retirees, and international members and a scholarship program. Please contact Sarah if you have additional ideas ([nusser@iastate.edu](mailto:nusser@iastate.edu)).

Dave Chapman provided an update on SRMS continuing education activities. This year SRMS sponsored a half-day course by John Gardenier on 'Understanding and Applying Basic Statistical Ethics.' SRMS is submitting two proposals for continuing education courses at the JSM in New York. One is for a full day course taught by Sharon Lohr based on her introduction to statistics textbook and the other is for a full day course taught by Clyde Tucker on nonsampling errors. Topic suggestions for 2002 or future years should be sent to Dave Chapman ([DACHapman@FDIC.gov](mailto:DACHapman@FDIC.gov)).

Eleanor Singer provided an update on the International Conference on Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing (QDET). She thanked SRMS for sharing the risks in supporting the conference. The conference will be held 14-17 November 2002 in Charleston, S.C. Twenty-four of the fifty-three submitted abstracts were accepted for the monograph. Decisions on contributed papers are due by December 2001. Those interested in additional information were directed to the web site ([www.jpsm.umd.edu/qdet](http://www.jpsm.umd.edu/qdet)).

Mary Mulry announced that the Fellows Committee has met and begun its work. Members of the committee include: Don Dillman, Paul Biemer, Lynne Stokes, Clyde Tucker, and Chris Skinner. Mary is the committee chair. Members of SRMS who became fellows this year

included Howard Hogan, Pat Doyle, Andy White, David Banks, and Steven Thompson. Bill Kalsbeek provided an update from the Council of Sections (COS). He provided items for ideas and comments. (1) He noted that ASA has a strategic planning initiative. Money is available for initiatives that broaden statistical education and reduce membership decline. (2) COS has suggested the possibility of a core slate of continuing education courses to be offered at the JSM. Bill is interested in the members opinions about such a possibility. (3) This year, 2001, is the first year that proceedings will be available in a machine readable format. No printed copies will be available. It is anticipated that the CD-ROM with all section proceedings will cost approximately \$25. A final decision will be made in February 2002. (4) Bill raised the issue about moving up the deadline for papers so that the CD-ROM proceedings could be available for purchase at the meetings. Ten weeks is needed to produce the electronic proceedings. The group strongly rejected this idea.

Bill Kalsbeek raised the issue of producing electronic files of SRMS past proceedings. It appears that SRMS is the only section interested in archiving past proceedings. ASA is not sure if they have copies of all past proceedings. Discussion showed vast support from the membership for this activity. Dan Kasprzyk suggested that the Executive Committee should look into it in more depth and develop a plan to move this concept forward. David Binder informed us that '**Survey Methodology**' is currently evaluating cost as they plan to move forward with electronic copies of the journal this year. He is willing to provide information he learns to SRMS about electronic archiving. It was noted that at present, SRMS is looking into this process for proceeding since the formation of SRMS in 1978. It was also suggested that SRMS explores the possibility of a DVD versus CD-ROM.

There was no update from the Publications Officer.

John Eltinge announced the Bureau of Labor Statistics approved doctoral dissertation fellowship program. The focus is on economics and statistics/survey methods.

Pat Doyle announced that the Government Statistics Section has created a scholarship fund in memory of Wray Smith. The principal for the scholarship fund was raised in two months. The focus is students and others early in their career. There will be an announcement later this year concerning how to apply for consideration as a scholarship recipient.

The meeting ended with several comments about the conference. Phil Knott raised the issue that 7 paper sessions were long and could sessions be shortened. Jim Lepkowski suggested people working together to put forth ideas for topic contributed sessions. These session provide 5 extra minutes per speaker and have one less speaker per session. Meena Khare requested in future conference that ASA go back to the format of providing an index that lists each session a person is associated with including speaker, chair, or co-author.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.