

**Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS)
American Statistical Association (ASA)**

**Business Meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2003
Final**

The SRMS business meeting started at about 6 PM, Wednesday August 6, 2003 at the JSM meetings in San Francisco, California, and ended around 8 PM. There were about 90 members present at the meeting.

Board members present

Lynne Stokes, Chair
Lars Lyberg, Past Chair
Sharon Lohr, Chair-Elect
Leyla Mohadjer, Secretary
Tom Belin, Treasurer
Howard Hogan, Program Chair
Partha Lahiri, Program Chair-elect
Michael Cohen, Publication Officer
Rachel Caspar, Council of Sections Representative
Elizabeth Stasny, Council of Sections Representative
David Chapman, Continuing education
Anthony An, Amstat On-line Editor (webmaster)

Agenda Items

1. Overview of Section Activities (Lynne Stokes)
2. Treasurer's Report (Tom Belin)
3. 2003 Program (Howard Hogan)
4. 2004 Program (Partha Lahiri)
5. Council of Sections Report (Rachel Caspar and Elizabeth Stasny)
6. Continuing Education (David Chapman)
7. Committee on ASA Fellows (Mary Mulry)
8. Student Awards (Tom Belin)
9. New Student Travel Awards (Tom Belin)
10. Other Business

The SRMS chair, Lynne Stokes, welcomed all members to the business meeting. She started the meeting by thanking the Marketing Systems Group for sponsoring the SRMS mixer. The Marketing Systems Group is the creator of GENESYS. She then introduced the executive committee members, and welcomed the new officers:

- Sarah Nusser, Chair-Elect,
- Rachel Harter, Program, Chair-Elect,
- Elaine Zanutto, Secretary, and
- Steve Cohen, Council of Section Representatives.

1. Overview of Section Activities

Lynne provided an overview of the Section's activities, as follows.

Project Funding -- SRMS provided funding for a number of projects including the QDET (Questionnaire Development, Evaluation, and Testing Methods) conference which was a major success. Another major funding was allocated to all the activities completed to put the proceedings online.

For next year, SRMS will cosponsor a conference on Current Trends in Sample Surveys and Official Statistics in Calcutta, India, January 2 and 3, 2004. Partha Lahiri provided some information, and referred members to the JPSM website for detailed information about this conference.

In addition, SRMS will cosponsor an International Conference on Telephone Surveys in January or Fall of 2006. Clyde Tucker, the organizer of this conference, reported that he has received some requests (one from OMB) on the need for a telephone survey conference. The rising cost of in-person surveys has made telephone surveys more attractive. However, the decline in response rate of telephone surveys is a major concern. Many agencies, including BLS, conduct important national surveys using telephone.

The last conference on telephone surveys was the 1987 conference. Clyde has talked to Jim Lepkowski about setting up a new conference. Clyde has a list (close to final) of those in the management of the conference. He is now working on a budget and believes he has sponsorship from ASA and AAPOR. The two dates that are being discussed for this conference are January 2006 and Fall of 2006. These dates are acceptable to ASA and AAPOR. Several sites are being considered including San Diego, San Francisco, Albuquerque, NM, or some place in Texas, New Orleans, and Savanna GA. The expectation is to have about 400 to 500 attendance (the 1987 conference had 300 to 400 people attending).

There will be a monograph of the invited papers. There will also be contributed papers, and possibly some short courses.

Tom Belin talked about the travel award initiative. The goal is to provide opportunities to young statisticians without too much restriction. The SRMS committee reviewed a number of options to provide travel money to students who have not been to the JSM meetings before. The current proposal is to award \$400 travel money, plus attendance to a CE short course. The current plan is to give out 8 travel awards. SRMS will send a notice to the members in the near future. A subcommittee is established to select the awardees.

SRMS Newsletter -- Copies of the SRMS newsletter (December 2002 and July 2003 editions) were available for those who had not received a copy or wanted extra copies. Lynne thanked the newsletter editors, Tom Krenzke and Leslie Wallace, for their outstanding job.

SRMS Fellows -- Lynne congratulated the SRMS new Fellows:

Alan Tupek
Robert Newcomb
Carol House
Lynn Kuo

Marilyn Seastrom
Trivellore Raghunathan
John Czajka
John Neuhaus
Sarah Nusser
Mary Batcher
Balgoblin Nandrum
Lawrence Brown

Lynne congratulated Fritz Schuren who is the President-elect for 2004.

2. Treasurer's Report

Tom Belin distributed the 2002-2003 budget and expenses. The \$127,000 balance from January 2002 is brought down to about \$77,000 as of the meeting. We spent about \$29,000 for the online proceedings, and about \$21,000 for QDET and other conferences. This year's expenses are about \$11,000. The ASA guideline for the SRMS Section is to have about \$60,000 in revenues. The ASA guideline says the revenue should be about twice as much as the operating budget. Our operating budget is usually about \$20,000, but because we always have big expenditures, we decided last year that our revenue should be around 60,000. Tom said we need to have a built-in savings to be able to anticipate sponsoring new conferences as they are organized, and that our continued sponsorship of these conferences is very critical for our section. Currently, the Section is planning to sponsor two conferences (as mentioned above); 1) Current Trends in Sample Surveys and Official Statistics in Calcutta, India, and 2) International Conference on Telephone Surveys in U.S. Other future expenses include annual updating of the proceedings online and adding money to the International Conference on Telephone Surveys to sponsor student travel and short courses.

Tom reported that in 2002 we had about \$7000 loss due to our share of the cost of the CDs (of proceedings), which was balanced by page charges.

3. 2003 Program

Howard reported that about 50 sessions were organized, 7 were invited, more than 20 were topic contributed sessions, and over 20 were regular contributed sessions. There were seven roundtable lunches. Two memorial sessions were organized this year, one for Chip Alexander, and one for Tore Delenious. Howard got help from a number of volunteers to organize the sessions. The sessions were well spread out. There was very good cooperation between SRMS, SOC, and GOV sections. Howard thanked everyone who helped organizing the sessions.

Howard distributed flyers for next year's student competition for JSM papers.

4. 2004 Program

Partha Lahiri provided an update of the next year's JSM program. Partha reported that he received 8 very good proposals, and he allocated 5 to be the invited sessions for next year. The session topics are

- Disclosure limitation
- Outlier and finite population
- Software development in survey organizations

- Resampling methods in surveys
- Multilevel modeling in survey data

Partha encouraged members to submit proposals for topic contributed sessions. There are five papers in these sessions, each one being 20 minutes long.

5. Council of Sections

Rachel report that there are no plans to change the price of CDs of proceedings, currently at about \$35. Also, ASA will leave page charges as they currently are. Rachel reported that since there is some space still available on CDs, ASA is considering increasing the limit of page numbers for the proceedings.

Update: ASA has decided to increase the page limit for proceedings beginning next year. As a result, page limits will now be 8 pages for contributed papers and 12 pages for invited papers. These new page limits are also mentioned on the ASA website where other details regarding submission of proceeding papers are posted.

ASA has allocated \$100,000 for general proposals on new initiatives due the beginning of the year. This year ASA will hold \$30,000 for proposals that could come out any time during the year.

Proposal for a new section - Section on National Defense and Homeland Security. Elizabeth and Rachel reported that they will vote (in September or October) on whether to create a new section. The SOC has received a very brief proposal to create a new section entitled Section on National Defense and Homeland Security. The proposed Section has a draft Charter. To get on the ballot to become a section, they need 100 signatures from ASA members. The 100 signatures should come from members who say they will join this section. Elizabeth said one concern is that SRMS now has 5 invited sessions, and any new section will take away one of our invited sessions.

The members discussed the possibility of this group becoming a special interest group (rather than a new section). Under ASA, a special group can exist for three years. After three years, they need to become a new Section or they cease to exist (ASA decide if such a section is needed). Rachel reported that other sections like SOC, GOVT, RISK, and BIO think the new section's activities could be included in their sections.

Members expressed their views. Many members had concerns about the name (Homeland) of the section, and suggested a name change (e.g., National Security).

Update: Rachel reported that based on the SRMS feedback, as well as that of a number of other sections, ASA asked the people who submitted the proposal to consider a different name. They did so and have now revised the title to the Section on Statistics in defense and National Security. Elizabeth and Rachel will vote for/against approval of this new section sometime in September.

Elizabeth reported that there were a lot of complaints about the brown bag lunches at JSM last year in New York. As a result, ASA has gotten a refund of \$10.00 per person for those attending the luncheons. . ASA has allocated the refund back to the Sections. Tom Belin acknowledged the receipt of the refund.

Rachel reported that COS is collecting ideas to attract new members.

Other COS updates included news about Charters; 1) ASA will put section Charters on the ASA website, and 2) the SRMS Charter change was passed. The change involved adding an elected Education Officer to the SRMS Executive Committee.

6. Continuing Education

Dave Chapman provided an update of the SRMS Continuing Education (CE) activities. This year, SRMS sponsored a course taught by Mick Couper on Designing Effective Web Surveys, and a course on Protecting Confidentiality in Micro data files taught by Laura Zayatz. There were 20 students enrolled in Mick's class, and 10 students enrolled in Laura's class.

For the next year's JSM meetings, ASA is planning a course on Recent Developments in Survey Sampling taught by Jon Rao and Sharon Lohr, and SRMS is planning a course on Data Quality taught by Lars Lyberg and Paul Biemer.

Dave's current plan for the 2005 JSM includes a CE course on Adaptive Sampling by Steve Thompson. Dave asked members to contact him if they had any suggestions for future CE courses.

7. Committee on ASA Fellows

Mary Mulry, the committee chair, reported on the Fellows committee's work. There are five members besides herself in this committee: Paul Biemer, Don Dillman, Chris Skinner, Clyde Tucker, and Lynne Stokes. Basically, the committee reviews the members list to see if there are members who deserve to be nominated and were not nominated by anyone, and try to find nominators for these members. At the conclusion of this work, SRMS Fellows Committee identifies fellow candidates and enlists specific individuals to develop the Fellow nomination material, which is then reviewed by the ASA Fellows Committee.

The current chair of the ASA Fellows Committee is Rich Allen. The ASA committee on Fellows has 9 members. This committee reviews nominations and determines the next year's fellows.

Mary asked members to contact her if they think of anyone who should be nominated.

8. Student Award

Howard briefly mentioned the winner's names, probably during the JSM comments.

9. New Student Travel Award

This topic's discussion is given under "Project Funding" in item 2 of the agenda.

10. Other Business

Publication Issues - Mike Cohen reported that SRMS can contribute one page of material to the AMSTAT newsletter. He asked members for contributions to this page.

Mike introduced Tony as the Web master and our assistant editor, and reminded members that the newsletter is on the web.

SRMS is now actively looking for new editors for the newsletter. Mike asked members to contact him if they know any one who is interested. Tom and Leslie (the current editors) will work with the new editors and provide assistance as needed. This assignment has no term, i.e., editors can stay as long as they wish.

Questions were raised about having links in the proceedings. One concern was to maintain the links over the years. Members asked Rachel to ask COS about this proposal.

Interviewer Falsification Document - Dan Kasprzyk is our Section's official representative in this work group. He reported that the plan is to come up with a document providing Best Methods on identifying interviewer falsification. Currently, the document is on the SRMS website. The goal is to get some input from members.

The SRMS committee has endorsed the document Dan asked the members to review the document on the SRMS website and provide comments.

Outreach Activities - Lars talked about SRMS initiatives to increase membership through the use of a new member packet. The committee now has extra copies of the JOS and the Survey Methodology journals to distribute to new members (nothing is given to the new members yet). The packet will include a cover letter, a copy of the SRMS brochure, and the JOS and Survey Methodology journals.