

## Business and Economic Statistics Section Business Meeting

Washington, DC, August 4, 2009

### Minutes

Total Attendance: 36 (see list at end)

- 5:28 Welcome by Stuart Scott, BLS, Section Chair  
Agendas for the meeting are distributed.  
Newly elected officers are recognized: Bill Bell, Census – chair-elect;  
Bonnie Ray, IBM – program chair-elect; Steve Hillmer, U of Kansas – COS rep.
- 5:30 Recognition  
Bob Parker, consultant, discusses the Julius Shiskin Award, as well as past winners.  
Current winner is Helen Tice, Johns Hopkins U. Changes to the nomination procedure are discussed.  
Stuart Scott announces the Zellner Thesis Award, co-sponsored by *JBES*.  
Winner – Amanda Kowalski, MIT, now at NBER;  
Runner-up – Xun Tang, Northwestern U, now at Penn  
The incoming JBES editors are introduced: Jonathan Wright, Johns Hopkins U, and Keisuke Hirano, U of Arizona.  
George McCabe, Purdue U, announces the Student Travel Awards.  
Winners: Irma Hernandez-Magallanes, UC-Berkeley and Eric Aldrich, Duke U.  
A photo is taken. Other committee members are Norm Swanson (chair), Rutgers U, and Torben Andersen, Northwestern U.  
Scott discusses the committee for encouraging nominations for ASA Fellow.  
Three section members were selected in 2009: Sung Ahn, Washington State; Chris Sims, Princeton; and, John Abowd, Cornell. Thanks to committee members Dave Dickey (chair), NC State, John Geweke, Iowa, and Bill Bell.  
Scott recognizes webmaster Brian Monsell, Census, for his service.
- 5:44 Program Chair Barbara Rossi, Duke U, discusses the technical sessions of the conference, and the good attendance.
- 5:45 Incoming Program Chair Graham Elliott, UC-San Diego, discusses Invited Sessions for JSM 2010, is seeking additional proposals.
- 5:46 Incoming Section Chair Richard Davis, Columbia U, discusses finances of the section.  
Noted:
- revenue stream is disconnected from our services to members
  - revenue is needed from short courses and other activities; membership dues do not suffice
  - current budget is pared back to bare essentials
  - historical deficits get us below \$20,000 ASA maximum, but threaten our future
- Brian Monsell moves to approve the budget. Tucker McElroy seconds the motion.  
Budget approved with a majority of those present.

- 5:52 Stuart Scott provides more discussion on financial situation. Noted:
- no longer any revenue from conference proceedings
  - membership has increased from 1100 to 1250, but many are new (no revenue)
  - question: how to retain new members?
  - idea: give more attention to the private sector (business and industry)
  - mention that a short course survey was distributed after Koopman's course, in order to gain insight into what would be popular
  - mention that our core activities (e.g., sessions at JSM) are freely available to non-section members
- 5:57 Bill Wei, Temple U, Council of Sections Representative, gives report. Noted:
- the ASA budget is discussed
  - ASA encourages \$20,000 threshold for sections; if above, you should spend down the surplus
  - issue of one person getting multiple awards from diverse sections
  - change of charter – 2 new sections recently approved, but the process would be changed to allow more time for review of the application
  - approval of ASA accreditation
- 6:02 Keith Ord, Georgetown U, ASA Treasurer, gives further report from ASA. Noted:
- total assets of ASA down from 10 million to 7 million
  - system has been restructured – no more “committee on committees”
  - ASA approved voluntary accreditation. Stressed difference from certification; an advanced degree and 5 years experience and ASA membership and no ethics violations provide accreditation, no test-taking required. Details to follow in AmStat News.
  - ASA accreditation is designed to assist members in government and industry with their careers
  - Publications committee is moving increasingly towards electronic delivery.
- 6:07 Tucker McElroy, Publications Officer, discusses 6 AmStat News articles and the forum that our section has for communicating to members.
- 6:08 Stuart Scott states that Siem Jan Koopman's short course on time series analysis has been successful and thanks Sung Ahn and Tucker McElroy for help in planning/organizing.
- 6:09 Keith Ord discusses the “Statistics in Business Schools” special interest group whose aim is “making statistics instruction more effective.” A well-attended meeting at JSM began making plans for 2010.
- 6:12 John McKenzie gives thanks to the B&E section for sponsoring a roundtable and discusses a November mini-course at another conference.

- 6:14 Stuart Scott opens the floor to questions.  
John McKenzie asks whether officers have had difficulty finding items on the ASA website. Brian Monsell responds that ASA re-organized the entire website, and now access seems more difficult for many. McKenzie responds that it would be beneficial for the section to raise this issue to ASA.
- 6:18 Stuart Scott makes closing remarks and issues an invitation to the joint mixer with the Marketing section. Richard Davis proposes (in jest) to anoint Stuart Scott section chair for life. Meeting disperses.

Attendees (partial list): Eric Aldrich, Duke; Matilde Bini, U of Florence, Italy; Baoline Chen, Bur of Economic Analysis; Richard Davis, Columbia U; Graham Elliott, UC-San Diego; Susie Fortier, Statistics Canada; Leonardo Grilli, U of Florence, Italy; Yesvy Gustasp, Dept of Justice; Irma Hernandez-Magallanes, UC-Berkeley; Steve Hillmer, U of Kansas; Carrie Hughes-Cromwick, EIA; Tammy Jackson, SAS Institute; George McCabe, Purdue U; Kathy McDonald-Johnson, Census; Tucker McElroy, Census; John McKenzie, Bentley U; Brian Monsell, Census; Keith Ord, Georgetown U; Miriam Pardo-Figueroa, Graduate student; Robert Parker, Consultant; Danny Pfeffermann, Hebrew U; Benoit Quenneville, Statistics Canada; Andrea Roofe, Florida International U; Barbara Rossi, Duke; Stuart Scott, BLS; Norean Sharpe, Georgetown U; Michail Sverchkov, BLS; William Wei, Temple U; Guillaume Weisang, Bentley U; Jonathan Wright, Johns Hopkins U; Peter Zadrozny, BLS; Hao Zhang, Purdue U

Prepared by Tucker McElroy, Publications Officer