

NOTE: These minutes have not yet been approved. They will be voted on at the business meeting of the Section on Statistical Education at the 2010 Joint Statistical Meetings, and there may be changes.

**ASA Section on Statistical Education
2009 Business Meeting**

Wednesday, August 5, 2009

6:00-7:30 PM

Walter E. Washington Convention Center Room 142

Minutes

Section Chair Bob delMas called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

1. Introductions

Past Chair: Linda Young

Chair-elect: Lori Thombs

Program Chair: Peter Westfall

Program Chair-Elect: Tisha Hooks

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Short

Publications Officer: Jackie Dietz

Council of Sections Representatives: Ann Cannon and Deb Nolan

Members of the Executive Committee: Carmen Acuna, Kim Gilbert, Jo Hardin, Nick Hardin, Mary Parker, and Deb Rumsey

Newsletter Editors: Jackie Dietz and Joan Garfield

The Section officers were recognized with applause.

2. Election Results

Chair-Elect: Rob Gould

Secretary/Treasurer: Katherine Halvorsen

Executive Committee at Large: Mary Parker (2009-2011)

Jackie Miller (2010-2012)

Michael Posner (2010-2012)

An error by ASA was rectified by electing Mary Parker.

The newly-elected officers were recognized with applause.

3. Approval of 2008 Minutes

Tom Short distributed an attendance sheet and copies of the minutes from the 2008 meeting.

Milo Schield asked to have the attendees included with the minutes. Tom Short noted that the attendance list is not included in the minutes posted on the Section's Web site, but that attendance lists could be distributed at future business meetings.

4. Treasurer's Report (Tom Short)

The Section began 2008 with nearly \$12,000 and we were encouraged by ASA to spend down the balance. At the end of 2009 our projected balance will be \$6000. We spent down by holding a strategic planning session in 2008, by paying the increasing costs of JSM food

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functions, and by making more contributions based on requests from Section members and outside organizations.

Each year our primary revenue from dues is essentially balanced by food function costs and contributions in response to requests.

In 2008 the Executive Committee made a perpetual commitment to support an MAA Project NeXT fellow at the \$1000 annual level. Our “Contributions” budget is only \$1000, so a proposed dues increase from \$5 to \$6 for regular members is intended to allow us to continue to make contributions based on the criteria laid out in our strategic plan and to support other strategic objectives.

John McKenzie requested that copies of the Revenue and Expense and Budget reports be distributed. We agreed to post copies of these reports on the Section’s Web site, in addition to a brief description of the report in the minutes.

There were questions about why the Section is raising dues by \$1 per year if we had been encouraged to spend down our balance. Ann Cannon explained the pressure from the ASA, with clarification from Ron Wasserstein.

Bob delMas noted that the Section has 1269 members with 304 non-dues paying members who are mostly students.

5. Best Contributed Paper Award Report (Ron Wasserstein)

Ron Wasserstein volunteered to continue to coordinate the Section’s Best Contributed Paper Award. He presented the 2008 award to Herbert Lee for his presentation titled “Teaching Statistics with Chocolate Chip Cookies.” Bob delMas thanked Ron for his continuing work.

Ron then presented his ASA Executive Director ribbon to Tom Short.

6. ASA Council on Statistics Education

Ron Wasserstein reported on a new structure within ASA to create four councils that will report directly to the ASA Board and that will facilitate communication with other committees. The ASA committees related to education independently requested better pathways for communication. The new Council for Education will be chaired by an ASA Vice-President and will include representatives from education-related constituencies within ASA.

7. Council of Sections Report

Ann Cannon reported on four items for which feedback is requested. Feedback can be sent

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to Ann at acannon@cornellcollege.edu.

- a. Two new sections were proposed last year and now exist. There has been discussion about changing the way new sections are created. The proposal is to lengthen the window after notification to ASA to 90 days. The COS requested that the lead-time to announce to the sections be fixed.
- b. Several sections offer Young Investigator Awards, and sometimes one person wins more than one in the same year and for the same work. Should we place limits and how will this be coordinated among sections?
- c. The COSGB distributes invited sessions. The COSGB will not share its formula, but the issue is what variables should be used. At the present time section membership, the number of section members who attend JSM, the numbers and types of sessions available, and the number of poster sessions will be used in the formula.

It is admittedly difficult to measure session attendance. John McKenzie expressed surprise that the formula isn't being shared and that he felt that we should be able to count attendance. If a chair doesn't report it, the value could be set to zero. Ann noted that the COSGB uses more than one formula. Don Bentley suggested a correction for the day and time of the session. Dex Whittinghill noted that we were assigned inappropriately sized small rooms, in particular for the invited sessions. There was a lot of competition between parallel Statistics Education sessions. Carol Blumberg noted that the Government sessions received larger rooms. Other sessions experienced the same issues. Jessica Utts will be one of the four people who allocates invited sessions in the next cycle.

- d. The COS meets Sunday afternoon and Thursday morning. Should we continue to have a Thursday meeting or extend the deadline for feedback into the Fall. Mary Parker requested that the Section membership receive feedback items early and give the feedback at JSM.

Ann Cannon reported that the COS Treasurer cautioned sections to be wary of deficit spending. A committee will be updating the Section Manual. Ann is now on the nominations committee for COS for Chair-Elect, Board Rep, and Vice-Chair, so please send candidate suggestions to her.

Tim Hesterberg reported that the voluntary accreditation program for which ASA is moving forward. Members will be required to renew the accreditation every five years.

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8. Revision of the Section Charter

Ann Cannon noted that the charter should be revisited every three years. The changes were minor. The Executive Committee will consider them, send them to the COS Vice-Chair, and then to the ballot in Spring 2010 for the membership to vote on. Dex Whittinghill asked if it can be shared with the membership, but this is not clear. John McKenzie suggested that the new Council for Education should be in the charter. Sitting on the Council should be added to the list of responsibilities for the Section Chair.

9. Workshop on Statistics Education Graduate Programs and Support for Associated Faculty

Bob delMas reported for Joan Garfield and Dennis Pearl. An ASA Member Initiative grant funded a workshop to look at the feasibility for a set of standards for developing and maintaining Statistics Education graduate programs. This may lead to more PhD programs in Statistics Education around the country.

10. Funding Requests to the Section on Statistical Education

There were four requests for funding sent to the Section. A funding request committee consisting of Linda Young, Tom Short, Deb Nolan, and Nick Horton reviewed the requests in light of the Section's Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives. Two requests were funded:

\$500 to StatFest, which is a conference for minority undergraduates with the objective of developing an interest in pursuing a career in Statistics. It will be held this fall at the University of Iowa.

\$500 to the International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP) of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) to fund the travel of one of four students who were selected to represent the United States in the final phase of the International Statistical Literacy Competition that will take place in Durban, South Africa, on August 20, 2009 during the 57th Session of the ISI.

11. Awards

Jessica Utts, June Morita, and Bob Stephenson received ASA Founders Awards last night.

New ASA Fellows who are Section members include:

David M. Umbach, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle

Nandini Kannan, University of Texas at San Antonio

Christopher J. Wild, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Nick Horton won the Waller Education Award

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The Section membership congratulated the award winners with applause.

12. Thank you to volunteers during 2009

Newsletter: Jackie Dietz and Joan Garfield

Contributed Paper award: Ron Wasserstein

Web page editor: Jackie Dietz

Stat Ed Booth Coordinator: Deb Rumsey

Volunteers for the Statistical Education booth: Carmen Acuna, Jerry Arnold, Dan Brick, Stephanie Cano, Rob Carver, Sandra Clarkson, Don Edwards, Chris Franklin, John Gabrosek, Kim Gilbert, Katherine Halvorsen, Nick Horton, Pat Humphrey, Wei-Ting Hwang, Gary Kader, Hyun (Grace) Kim, Suhwon Lee, David Loewen, Chris Malone, John McGready, John McKenzie, Weiwen Miao, Megan Mocko, Roxy Peck, Julia Sharp, Norean Sharpe, Tom Short, Pradeep Singh, Mary Sullivan, Cindy Weng, Dave Zeitler, and Andy Zieffler.

The Section membership thanked the volunteers with applause.

13. Retiring Officers

Past Chair: Linda Young

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Short

Executive Committee Members: Jo Hardin and Deb Rumsey

Program Chair: Peter Westfall

The Section membership thanked the retiring officers with applause.

14. New Business

- a. Jackie Dietz reported on ASA Communities, which serves as a social networking site for statisticians. It replaces the old Stat Ed listserv, for example. There are two communities, one for official postings and another for open communication. Sections can host Web sites through the Communities site. Jackie asked if our Section should fold ours into the new site.
- b. Robin Lock reported that the ASA/MAA Joint Committee is working on a Web site to post profiles and to eventually hold a session. for undergraduates about careers in Statistics See last year's minutes for more information.
- c. Don Bentley reported that the new ASA accreditation program might limit opportunities for statistics educators to be creative. He also noted that STATCOM is an example of how students and statisticians can be involved in pro bono consulting. Don thinks we should have a session on getting isolated statisticians involved in such programs. We

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need more exciting projects than what we can find on campus. Carol Blumberg noted that the government is hiring more interns, year-round. Her office hired 54 undergraduates this summer.

- d. Rich Heiberger reported on a new book, *R through Excel*. There is pressure to teach introductory statistics with Excel. The R add-in provides better statistical support. He distributed a handout.
- e. Michael Posner thanked the Section for the opportunities it provides. The 2010 Joint Mathematical Meetings will include at least four relevant events: Sessions on the Second Course, on how Statistics does not equal Mathematics, and on Where is the Department of Statistics Education? CAUSE will have a one-day workshop for new teachers of statistics. Also, the new Web site *sigmaasted.org* should be up.
- f. Tim Hesterberg asked who should be sent nominations for Section officers. Nominations should be sent to Lori Thombs.
- g. Section Program Chair Elect Tisha Hooks reported that the deadline for submitting contributed paper abstracts is February 1, 2010. The Section will need volunteers to chair sessions.
- h. John McKenzie asked who the new Section Program Chair Elect is, but Lori Thombs has not yet announced this. John also reported that the New England area isolated statisticians will meet on November 7, 2009.
- i. The initial deadline for sending contributed abstracts for the 2010 ICOTS meeting is September 1, 2009, but there are four tiers of contributed papers. ICOTS-8 will be held in Slovenia in July 2010.
- j. Shonda Kuiper reported on the Section's mentorship program. Would anyone like to take it on? There is no funding left, and not a lot of activity. Perhaps someone with new ideas could reinvigorate the program.
- k. Jessica Utts reported that ASA President-Elect Sastry Pantula has four initiatives for next year. One is to create an education work group. The work group will make recommendations or develop a process for making recommendations so that ASA might endorse what undergraduate and graduate programs in Statistics should look like. The work group will seek input from industry and government. Pat Humphrey recommends that the ASA/MAA joint committee should be involved.
- l. Dex Whittinghill reported that the Isolated Statisticians group is now an official subgroup of the ASA.

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- m. There was a request for advice about how to earn a masters degree in Statistics. Members volunteered to speak with the requestor.

15. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Moved by Ann Cannon, seconded by Robin Lock. The Section membership acted appropriately.
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The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas H. Short
Secretary/Treasurer