

**Section U (Statistics) Minutes**  
**February 16, 2002**  
**Marriott Marquis, Brandeis Room, Boston**

Present: Seymour Barcum, Ted Colton, Bob Fay, Nancy Flournoy, Mary Foulkes, Judy Goldberg, Nancy Gordon, Brooks Hanson (AAAS, Partial attendance), Aparna Huzurbazar, Snehalata Huzurbazar, Jon Kettenring, Steve Lagakos, G.H. Miller, Sally Morton, Ingram Olkin, Allan Sampson, Dick Scheaffer, Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Julie Shaffer, Jessica Utts

The meeting opened at 9:35 am.

Before the start of the agenda items, Mike Spinella, AAAS Director of Membership and Meetings, met with the attendees, briefly accompanied by Mike Strauss, AAAS Meetings Program Director. Mike Spinella reviewed the dates and theme of the 2003 AAAS meeting in Denver. He then led a discussion of membership issues, including features of the member website ([www.aaasmember.org](http://www.aaasmember.org)). Nancy Flournoy asked how we could increase Section U membership. Mike said AAAS would be happy to help with this effort, and that they are examining membership options that would cost less, with fewer benefits. It was agreed that Nancy Flournoy (incoming Section U Chair), Bob Fay (incoming Chair of the ASA Committee of AAAS Representatives) and Julie Shaffer (incoming IMS representative to Section U) would work with Mike Spinella to explore options for increasing Section U membership.

Judy Goldberg asked if names of speakers, rather than just titles of symposia, could be provided to the Section officers when they are asked to indicate which symposia the Section will sponsor. Mike Spinella said he would pass this question on to Mike Strauss, but that it seemed like a feasible request.

Mike Spinella left, and the meeting turned to the regular agenda.

1. Introductions and Chair's report -- Judy Goldberg, for John Bailar.  
John Bailar, Chair, was unable to attend the meeting, so Judy Goldberg, Retiring Chair presided. All present introduced themselves. The minutes of the 2001 meeting were circulated; Aparna Huzurbazar moved to accept them, Julie Shaffer seconded the motion, all present were in favor. Judy Goldberg reported on the Section Officers' meeting, held Friday morning, Feb. 15. At that meeting, there was a discussion of the 2003 AAAS meeting, and announcement of a new AAAS-sponsored website on aging. Judy also expressed concern about the process of nominating Section members for AAAS committees. It's a lengthy process and never seems to result in successful appointments from Section U. The required expertise, distributed with the call for nominations, never seems to fit our membership.
2. Secretary's Report -- Jessica Utts
  - a. New Section Officers and Representatives (terms begin February 20, 2002):  
Chair-elect – Steve Lagakos  
Member-at-large – Lynne Billard  
Nominating Committee members – Peter Bickel and Joel Greenhouse  
New representatives to Section U - Nancy Gordon (ASA), Julie Shaffer (IMS)  
Robert Fay will replace Julie Shaffer as Chair of the ASA Committee of AAAS Representatives
  - b. AAAS Fellows  
The 2001 Fellows from Section U include Barry Arnold, Scott Zeger and Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch. They were honored at a breakfast on Saturday, February 16, 2002. Congratulations were extended to the new Fellows with a round of applause.
  - c. Sponsored sessions and sessions of interest  
This year, AAAS instituted a new feature in the Program book, listing symposia designated as "of interest" by each section. Section U's list can be found on page I.10. There are 24 symposia listed, which were identified by the Section officers in the fall, on the basis of titles alone. Jessica Utts distributed a shorter list to Section U officers and affiliates, compiled after speaker names became available.
  - d. Budget  
AAAS policy is to give each section a minimum of \$1000.00 per year. As a small section, we receive this minimum amount. The funds from one year may be rolled over to the next. Section U currently has a

balance of \$6199. Our expenses normally include refreshments at this meeting, and partial funding of speaker travel.

e. Section website

The new Section U website will be hosted at UC Davis by Jessica Utts. The address is:

<http://www.stat.ucdavis.edu/~utts/aaas>. Aparna Huzurbazar has also maintained a website for the ASA Committee of AAAS Representatives, but her term on that committee is ending. The files will be sent to J. Utts for use on the Section U website.

3. Report on the AAAS Council – Judy Goldberg and Jon Kettenring.

The Council will meet on Sunday, Feb 17. Jon Kettenring highlighted some features of interest in the Council meeting agenda and attachments. AAAS membership is down 3%. There was a report from the editor of *Science*, of note is that *Science* receives about 8000 papers a year. Statistics, both the discipline and the Section, does not seem to be much on the radar screen of AAAS. There was some discussion of how to increase our visibility.

4. Statistical advising arrangement for *Science* - Julie Shaffer

The background for this agenda item is in the 2001 minutes; in 2001 several members of Section U had met with *Science* editor Don Kennedy to discuss options for statistical review of *Science* articles. At the conclusion of the 2001 meeting, it had been decided that Julie Shaffer and Bob Fay would draft recommendations for Don Kennedy. Before they could do so, Kennedy asked for names of statisticians to contact. Three names were provided, after which nothing was reported back until January 2002, when Julie Shaffer contacted Don Kennedy. He responded that he had used all three individuals on a trial basis, and that he will probably continue to use a couple of them, but it is too soon to release their names. After discussion, it was decided that Incoming Chair Nancy Flournoy would call Don Kennedy to get more information. An announcement should be placed in *Science* (as well as our affiliates' newsletters, such as *Amstat News*) once a decision is made. There was further discussion of the misuse of statistics in *Science* and the need for statistical advice.

5. Reports from Affiliated Society Representatives

Bob Fay reported on the affiliates meeting, held Friday, February 15. At that meeting there was discussion of the links to affiliated societies from the AAAS website, and a request to provide reciprocal links to the AAAS website. There was a half hour discussion of the Federal R&D budget, a topic of concern to scientists. Alan Leshner, CEO of AAAS, discussed how engineering is underrepresented in AAAS and talked about how to get engineers more involved.

6. Judy Goldberg (Retiring Chair), Janet Wittes (Member at large), Jon Kettenring (Council), Peter McCullagh (Nominating committee) and Julie Shaffer (Nominating committee) were thanked for their service. Their terms expire at the end of this annual meeting. Representatives to AAAS from affiliate societies were also thanked for their service: Julie Shaffer (ASA, and Chair of the ASA Committee of AAAS Representatives), Barbara Bailar (IMS), Ken Bollen (American Sociological Association), Mary Gray (Association for Women in Mathematics), Ron Rosier (CBMS).

NEW BUSINESS – Nancy Flournoy, Chair-Elect

Sessions for the Denver meeting, 2003, and Seattle meeting, 2004 were discussed.

There was discussion of how to fund more sessions. Dick Scheaffer noted that the Math Section pays someone to write press releases and puts them in the Press Room. Also, the math societies help fund speakers. There was discussion about writing a strategic initiative for ASA, to increase the presence of statistics at the Denver or Seattle meeting. Bob Fay announced that he is writing guidelines for ASA representatives for how to organize a session.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Jessica Utts, Secretary