

Section U (Statistics) Business Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2003
Hotel, Room Denver

Present: Bob Fay, Nancy Flournoy, Mary Foulkes, Aparna Huzurbazar, Snehalata Huzurbazar, Steve Lagakos, Jessica Utts, Jean Taylor

The Business meeting opened at 10 am.

the dates and theme of the 2004 AAAS meeting in Seattle. a discussion of membership issues, including features of the member website (www.aaasmember.org). increase 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..

1. Introductions and Chair's report -- 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.
4. Statistical advising arrangement for *Science* - Julie Shaffer
5. Reports from Affiliated Society Representatives

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

Mary A. Foulkes, Secretary

Introductions & sign-in sheets

Flournoy, Utts, Julie Shaffer, mB Rao, Aperna, Nancy Gordon, Carol Redmond, Karen Bandeen-Roche, Hutzabazar, Lynne Billard, Joleen Jesse (AAAS staff), Bob Fay, Teri Gardenier,, John Gardeneir(L), Steve Lagakos, M Foulkes

Report of the Sec'y: handouts, agenda, who's who list, new section officers

Rob Kass, incoming Chair elect

Joel Greenhouse

Mitch Gail

John Rolf

New Fellows: David Houseler, Rob Kass, Nancy Reid, Wing Wang

Two ways to nominate Fellow.

Sponsored sessions: Julie's session wasn't printed in the book.

Discussion of process for section co-sponsoring. Planning committee sends out whole list for which one's to sponsor, and which one is of interest. Difficult knowing just from the title which sessions to co-sponsor. Need to see the abstracts. Can check on website for abstracts & speakers. If anyone in Section U sponsors, send info to MF. Need abstract, when sec'y sends in the list, co-sponsorship doesn't show up.

Lynne Billard: when she was pgm chair for IMS, she always put together proposals for invited sessions. Does that still happen? Only way that would come in if affiliates rep submit.

Nancy Flournoy – approach each Section of ASA with the idea that they give an award for the best paper at JSM for the best session/paper with wide societal impact. Then that session would get reconfigured and proposed to AAAS by Section U. A way of generating sessions and involving affiliate societies in AAAS.

Steve Lagakos – do we ever contact ASA & IMS & others to put something in their newsletters?

Nancy – request could come from Section U Chair or from ASA Comm of AAAS Reps.

Jessica Utts – discussed putting this on ASA Strategic Plan initiatives

Bob Fay – remember that ASA has a “JSM first, then AAAS”, but means a time delay of 1 ½ , ASA can’t just dictate to AAAS. Even the but initiative has a tight time window

Mike Strauss – Question about Council – can we send a substitute – NO. Retiring chair may be substituted (tell Ruth Campbell).

Made an effort to get more proposals than normal, getting more with statistical implications. Review process will work similar, will be setting up an on-line system for reviews, and people can get hardcopy if they prefer. Review process is in early April. During the review process, can see each of the proposals - **Give Mike Strauss names of at least 4 people to do reviews.** E-mail proposals. On-line reviews sent back. The committee sees everything in their review, who the reviewer is & their section, the authors get only the comments to them and their rank, getting some reviews where the comments above the line were opposite of their ranking. Jessica – is it true that sponsorship & interest is all online. Hope to have time to put all the sponsor & interest stuff on-line. That’s a piece of the puzzle that needs repair. Will get it out earlier, and can send supplements on-line, with periodic updates. Need some thought in the funding process, gets dragged out quite late.

For the check in the summer, organizers have a short turn-around. Responsibility for dealing with speakers to organizers, but Strauss will take back responsibility now. May see greater pressure early on to send AAAS contact info for speakers. In terms of turn around, may be able to change timing. Hardest one is the last chance in November before going to press with the program book. Other stuff (August) are deadlines for marketing, first brochure.

Billard – take over responsibility fr organizers. For any speaker, they think that they’ve been invited by AAAS, but don’t leave the organizer out of it. Cc on everything. Where there are standard things, let organizer know in advance. Only person who can make decisions about structure, content, speakers is the organizer. Pgm comm. & Strauss do not make these decisions. Take control of the information, and let organizers know what’s been sent to speakers.

Julie – can’t print abstracts. Try right click on Explorer. Newer versions should work.

Bob Fay – We have four Section U reviews in April. Could they keep notes, and then say we’d like to co-sponsor sessions. This is confidential material, but if you find that info useful in Section U process. Use this info to identify selected sessions for co-sponsorship. Database driven system would allow viewing everything on the session from the original proposal

Nancy Flournoy – Science magazine now has statistical reviews. Section U should monitor to ensure that is successful. For future meetings, get a report from Science to Section U. Could select a AAAS staff, or **invite Don Kennedy.**

Steve Lagakos will attend Council meeting, in place of John Bailar. Can substitute for Retiring Chair, but can’t substitute for Mary Ellen Bock.

Jessica – Need to expand the number of people involved in this process. Currently, section can say who our reviewers should be. Need extra reviewers. And extra people to express interest.

Nancy F – generating proposals using ASA. Thinking that Section U chair or Bob Fay as ASA Comm Chair.

Bob Fay – Was a competiti for this year’s JSM, AAAS Reps

Lynne Billard – proposes that Bob Fay go back to ASA and IMS rep go back, and ENAR/WNAR too. But timeline is really off for ENAR.

Julie – have to change their talk for a non-statistical audience.

Aparna – have organizers done press releases? Lynne – we make the mistake of thinking that the press think the way we think – and they don’t. In Lynne’s Amstat (Amer Stat) article, she addresses stat issues. Nancy Flournoy encourages organizers to write press release. Nancy Gordon says – better to send key paragraph out of proposal to get noticed, and grab their attention. Press release due in early January.

Jessica – last year’s minutes. Approved. sion budget. Consider funding New Fellows to attend AAAS.

Section U website. Nancy suggests a section officer – webmaster. If AAAS provide a template. Section U website – to Jessica to take on webmaster job.

Nancy Gordon at the Education section. Mike Strauss talked about the turn around in his staff, with more staff technically trained an alert.

No new resolutions for Council consideration, no new affiliates. Section X has a new resolution to put forward tomorrow.

Report from affiliates – Julie (IMS) most of the meeting was on info restrictions, Patriot Act, etc. First talk on “Scientific openness in the new age of bioterrorism”. Huge increase in NIH bioterrorism, Patriots Shield, increased restrictions on exchange of information on transport of agents, etc. Atmosphere of openness, gone. Visitors, names of visitors to the labs containing these agents, all packages entering and leaving must be inspected. Also rule, if you accept money to do research on these agents, grad students from certain countries cannot work on these agents. Also, foreign student visas (F,J, M) have to send all sorts of info about them, aliens in certain fields very much restricted, visa officers and consulates can be held responsible if they admit a terrorist. By August 1, all the data on each student must be entered. Reviewed intensively.

Nat’l Postdoc Assoc. just starting. Linking existing organizations at various schools.

Lynne Billard suggests talking to Nat’l Academy about restrictions on foreign student visas.

AAAS resolution on intelligent design, AAAS **want the affiliated societies to endorse**. Approved by AAAS Board of Directors in August, and put **on AAAS website**. Intelligent design = creation science. Nancy Gordon & Bob Fay take this to ASA board. IBS and IMS, too.

Nancy Flournoy thanked retiring officers, John Bailar, Sallie Keller-McNulty, Barbara Bailar, Dave Hoaglin. Jessica Utts retiring after 2 terms, 8 years.

New Business

Publicity & recruitment – using free publicity – committees of the ASA get space in AMStat . Also, IBS is available. IMS bulletin, too. Make sure that AAAS meetings are posted wherever possible.

Discussed proposed sessions.

Nancy Gordon’s session

Women’s Health Initiative

Jessica Utt’s session

Mathematics of Marriage – Bob Fay – how people stay married – conflict resolution