

Minutes of Nonparametric Statistics Section Business Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Place: Room Granite-B, Hyatt Regency, Denver

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Recorded by: Suzanne Dubnicka, Section Secretary

Section Chair Ron Randles led the meeting. The following items were discussed:

1. Randles announced that minutes for the previous meeting have been posted on the section web site. Minutes for future meetings will be posted there as well.
2. Denis Larocque, Section Treasurer, gave a summary of the section's financial report. The section is in good financial shape. However, the cost of JSM student paper awards and JSM business meetings are greater than dues collected each year.
3. Randles introduced Ed Wegman, Chair of the Committee on Publications, who discussed the section's proposal for a new electronic, open-access journal. Wegman described the process for approving a new ASA journal. The section has been requested to submit a revised proposal. This revision will be presented to the ASA Board in December. Also, the Committee on Publications recommends editors through a journal search committee and would welcome recommendations by the section.
4. Randles and the section thanked Bob Serfling for his work in putting together an excellent program for JSM this year. Any suggestions for next year's program should be directed to Simon Sheather. The section is assured two invited sessions and may submit up to two additional invited sessions in a competition (about half are approved). The section is not limited in the number of Topic Contributed Paper sessions it organizes.
5. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.
6. Awards committee chair, Edsel Peña, reported on the current student paper competition. They have simplified the process this year: students submit papers, committee chooses 5-6 finalists, and committee members attend talks/posters of finalists. Three awards, each \$250, will be given to the winners. There were only 5 valid submissions this year, likely due to short notice. In the future, the award will be publicized before abstracts are due. Lan Wang, University of Minnesota, has agreed to Chair the Award Committee for the 2009 JSM.

A motion passed to make the JSM Student Paper Award Committee a standing committee of the section and to have three awards of \$250 each for the 2009 JSM. This award will be named the JSM Student Paper Award of the Section on Nonparametric Statistics. Randles will announce the results of this year's competition in a section newsletter and in the AmStat News after the meetings. Lan Wang has agreed to chair the JSM Student Paper Award Committee for the 2009 JSM.

7. Thomas Lee, Representative to the Council of Sections, reported that there are two new proposed ASA sections: Statistical Learning and Data Mining and Statistical Programming. ASA wants any input we have regarding these proposed sections. In addition, ASA has funds for recruiting new members.

8. The section co-sponsored the 2007 Current and Future Trends in Nonparametrics conference held at the University of South Carolina in October. A broad range of topics was presented, and the meeting was very successful. Ohio State University will host the next meeting, planned for May 2010. Omer Ozturk of OSU reported that they have selected plenary speakers and organizers for invited sessions, and they have applied for funding.
9. Suojin Wang, the new editor of the Journal of Nonparametric Statistics, was applauded for his work as editor and was asked to give a summary. He thanked the section for their support and cooperation. The journal seems to be going in the right direction. Online manuscript submission has greatly facilitated the review process, including improving review time and handling the backlog of manuscripts. The journal is striving for a 3-month review time for submitted manuscripts.

Randles reported that the section is partnering with the journal to offer personal subscriptions to section members at a discount (\$100 instead of \$290). Furthermore, Taylor and Francis (publisher of the journal) is working with the section and will fund a best paper prize (£500), named the Journal of Nonparametric Statistics Best Paper of the Year, which will be a section award. Papers published in 2008 will be qualified for the first award. The section chair, journal editor, and two section members will make the award designation which will be announced at JSM 2009. For the following year (papers appearing in 2009), there will also be a student paper award. To qualify, the student must be the first author and must have graduated in 2008 or later.

- A motion passed to form a standing committee consisting of the section chair, journal editor, and two section members to evaluate papers and make the award.
 - A motion passed to make these official awards of the section.
10. Doug Wolfe, chair-elect, and Jane-Ling Wang, chair-elect-elect, are accepting nominations for officers: treasurer, program chair and chair.
 11. A newsletter will be sent by Randles this fall to inform members of our activities and plans. At least two newsletters will be sent each year. There are currently problems with distributing materials electronically to section members but, hopefully, this will be resolved soon. Moving the section web site to the ASA server was also discussed.
 12. A recommendation from the executive committee to increase regular member dues from \$3 to \$5 passed. Student dues will remain \$1. It was noted that \$ 1 for each member goes directly to ASA.
 13. Arne Bathke reported that there are very preliminary plans for a workshop in April 2009 at University of Texas-Arlington.

Adjournment: 6:20 p.m.