

AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee Conference Call
Friday, February 28, 2014
7:00 – 8:10 PM EST

Present: Mary Kehoe Moynihan (Chair), Mary DeHart, Brian Kotz, Julie Hanson, Rebecca Nichols, Wendy Pogoda

Recorder: Mary DeHart

Mary Kehoe Moynihan asked for an introduction from each participant, to be followed by a brief description of the Joint Committee projects that each participant is working on. She has learned that approval from the ASA Board is needed in order for our Joint Committee to post recommendations regarding the ideal content of community college introductory statistics courses.

Rebecca Nichols is new to the group; she is the ASA staff liaison to our Joint Committee. She summarized the work that has been accomplished by the ASA/NCTM Joint Committee in the area of K-12 statistics education.

Mary DeHart is chair of the AMATYC Statistics Committee. She has learned that approval from the AMATYC Board is needed in order for the Joint Committee to post recommendations regarding the ideal content of community college introductory statistics courses. The AMATYC Board will be willing to review recommendations and provide approval via e-mail, if approval is not requested at the time that an AMATYC Board meeting is scheduled.

Mary D. had been asked to communicate with Erin Blankenship of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Chris Franklin of the University of Georgia the training of K-12 stat teachers; she asked for clarification about what should be discussed. Rebecca mentioned that a great deal has been accomplished by the ASA/NCTM Joint Committee and that it might not be necessary for us to contact Erin and Chris for ideas about how to fulfill this portion of the AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee's charge (to communicate with K-12 mathematics educators to address the effect of pre-college statistical education on statistics courses taught in two-year colleges).

Mary D. suggested that one of our proposed webinars might include representatives of the ASA/NCTM Joint Committee in order to discuss cooperation between K-12 and community college stat faculty with the education of future teachers in mind. Rebecca confirmed that this would be a good idea.

The AMATYC Statistics Committee has been asked to provide a letter or white paper to the ASA Working Group addressing revisions to the ASA's Curriculum Guidelines for Undergraduate Statistics Majors. The group briefly discussed the difficulty that has arisen in obtaining suggestions from community college faculty because our colleges do not have statistics majors. Nevertheless, we would like to present the ASA with our input in

this area. Mary KM asked that Joint Committee members e-mail their feedback to Mary D.

Julie Hanson is working on a list of topics for webinars to be sponsored by the AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee. The group has been discussing the idea of “Ask a Statistician” webinars. The following questions were suggested by Mary KM:

- 1) Do research articles tend to use modified boxplots rather than standard boxplots?
- 2) If one should report the median as the measure of center for skewed data, and either the median or the mean for symmetric data, why not simply use the median in either case?

Mary D. suggested an additional question:

- 3) It is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain random samples via phone surveys because many people no longer have landlines. How are professional statisticians obtaining random samples via phone survey?

Brian Kotz is working on updating the ASA Education webpage. Brian shared the following information:

- 1) Brian was at the ASA/MAA’s group meeting at the JSM last August at Roxy Peck’s invitation. Rebecca has recently sent out the ASA/MAA’s Guidelines for Teaching the Introductory Statistics Course. Brian asked that Mary D. distribute the document to the members of the AMATYC Statistics Committee and expressed his hope that the document will be well received.
- 2) Brian has provided a link to the ASA’s posters on practical applications of statistics. The posters are bulletin board or door worthy and have received positive attention from his students.
- 3) Brian recently obtained and shared a link to the CBMS Report, which is a treasure trove of information regarding elementary statistics enrollment in 2-year and 4-year colleges.
- 4) Brian will be working on updating the ASA webpage in order to provide better access to materials and resources for community college faculty.

Having reviewed the work that has been accomplished so far, tasks were assigned to each member of the group:

Mary KM will be leading the work to develop a position statement regarding the ideal content of a community college introductory statistics course.

Mary KM will work with Rebecca to request a room for our meeting at JSM.

Mary KM will write and submit justification for a registration waiver(s) from ASA in order to facilitate attendance of Joint Committee reps at ASA/AMATYC conferences.

Mary KM will set up the next conference call and inform Committee members at least two weeks in advance.

Rebecca will check to see if our conference calls can be recorded in order to facilitate note taking.

Mary D will e-mail the members of the AMATYC Statistics Committee regarding:

- requests for webinar topics
- the link to the ASA/MAA statement
- the link to the ASA posters on statistical significance

Mary D will investigate how to best request registration waiver(s) from AMATYC in order to facilitate attendance of Joint Committee reps at ASA/AMATYC conferences.

Mary D. will contact Kathryn Kozak, our AMATYC Statistics Committee board liaison, and invite her to participate in our conference calls.

Mary D. will continue to collect feedback regarding the AMATYC Stat Committee's letter to the ASA working group regarding revisions to the ASA curriculum guidelines for stat majors.

Julie and Wendy will work together to collect a list of topics for webinars.

Brian will continue to work on updating the ASA webpage. Rebecca will provide assistance from the ASA's perspective. Mary D will provide assistance when information is needed regarding linking the ASA's webpage to the AMATYC website.

As the meeting concluded, Mary KM asked that each person e-mail Mary D with details about their assigned tasks for inclusion in the meeting notes and suggestions regarding the letter to the ASA Working Group on revisions to the ASA's curriculum guidelines for stat majors.