

AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee Meeting and Conference Call

JSM Boston 2014

Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2014

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Present at JSM: Mary Kehoe Moynihan, Chair; Julie Hanson, Roxy Peck, Brian Kotz, Rebecca Nichols, Mary DeHart, Jeri Metzger Mulrow

Present via conference call: Kate Kozak, Wendy Pagoda

Recorder: Mary DeHart

Mary Moynihan welcomed committee members to the first meeting of the revised Joint Committee at the JSM. The Joint Committee appreciates the generosity of the ASA in providing complimentary JSM registration for the AMATYC representatives currently serving on our committee. AMATYC will provide complimentary registration for the ASA representatives to attend the 40th Annual AMATYC meeting in Nashville.

The Joint Committee will meet again via conference call prior to meeting in Nashville. Mary Moynihan will e-mail potential meeting times to Committee members. Mary DeHart will take the minutes at each meeting, send them to all committee members for review and then post them on the AMATYC website. Rebecca Nichols will post the minutes on the ASA website.

The charge to the AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee is restated here in order to provide context for the topics discussed at this meeting.

Charge:

- To improve the quality of statistics education in two-year colleges by planning workshops, conference presentations, and other effective forms of professional development for two-year college statistics instructors.
- To promote consistency and transferability between statistics courses offered at two-year and four-year colleges.
- To communicate with two and four-year colleges relative to the statistical preparation of elementary and secondary teachers.
- To communicate with K-12 mathematics educators to address the effect of pre-college statistical education on statistics courses taught in two-year colleges.
- To ensure ongoing communication between AMATYC and the ASA with the objective of identifying changing trends in undergraduate statistics education.

Topics for Inclusion in Introductory Statistics Courses

The compilation of a list of suggested topics for inclusion in the ideal introductory statistics course was suggested at the AMATYC Statistics Committee meeting held in Anaheim on November 1, 2013 and discussed at length at subsequent Joint Committee meetings. After much consideration of feedback from members of both committees, it has been determined that the compilation of the list is not a feasible project at this time because the landscape of statistics education is changing so rapidly.

Recommendations to the ASA Working Group on the Revision of the ASA Guidelines for Undergraduate Programs in Statistical Science

The AMATYC Statistics Committee was asked to provide a letter to the ASA group working to revise the *ASA Guidelines for Undergraduate Programs in Statistical Science*. AMATYC Statistics Committee and AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee members were helpful in providing suggestions to be included in the letter, which was compiled by Mary DeHart and sent to Nick Horton, chair of the working group, in June. Nick expressed his appreciation for the letter and forwarded a copy of the July 23rd draft of the revised guidelines for our review.

The portion of the document addressing community colleges acknowledges the increasing popularity of the introductory statistics course and the fact that the course is required for a variety of majors and recommended by many others. It effectively communicates the need for community colleges and four-year colleges to work cooperatively in order to facilitate articulation agreements and provide support for faculty and curricular development.

The revised guidelines strongly emphasize the increasing importance of statistical computing, and of skill in programming and data manipulation.

Changing Trends in Undergraduate Statistics Education

The growing importance of computing in statistics was emphasized at many JSM sessions. The Joint Committee discussed how the increased use of simulation might affect the introductory statistics course. Should simulation truly be used to replace all of inference? Roxy expressed concern that instructors might attempt to teach this approach without first acquiring the level of sophistication and knowledge needed to promote real understanding among students.

The AMATYC Statistics Committee is sponsoring a panel discussion to be held at the AMATYC Meeting in Nashville. Scheduled panelists include Roxy Peck, Michael Sullivan and Marty Triola. Roxy voiced her support of the inclusion of the topic of the increased use of simulation and its potential role in intro courses to the panel discussion. Mary will contact the panelists in order to review the list of topics for discussion; she will add this topic to the list.

Kate suggested that the changing landscape of statistics would be an excellent topic for a MathAMATYC Educator article – perhaps an opinion piece providing the views of instructors

using different approaches. For example, “I am using simulation to replace inference and this is why I am doing so”.

The AMATYC Statistics Resources Page

During the past week, Joint Committee members have had the opportunity to review the updated draft of the *AMATYC Statistics Resources Page*. The group expressed approval for the content and design of the webpage and appreciation to Brian Kotz for his work on this project.

Mary DeHart will contact George Hurlburt, AMATYC Website Coordinator, and request that a link to the new website be posted on the AMATYC website. Rebecca Nichols will request that a Two-Year College option be added to the ASA education resource page and that a link to the *AMATYC Statistics Resources Page* be included in that category.

The policy for changes to the resources page is as follows: the addition or deletion of material will be reviewed by the Joint Committee and then submitted to the AMATYC website coordinator by the chair of the AMATYC Statistics Committee.

ASA/MAA Resources for Teaching an Introductory Statistics Course

Shonda Kuiper, chair of the ASA/MAA Joint Committee asked the AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee to review the draft of a webpage designed for the first time intro stat instructor. It appears that the page includes a wonderful selection of materials. While there is some duplication of content with the AMATYC resources page, we believe that it would be worthwhile to include a link to this additional ASA/MAA material. Mary Moynihan will stay in touch with Shonda to follow up on this topic.

Stat Ed Mentoring Project

Michael Posner of Villanova is recruiting mentors from the stat ed community to mentor new community college statistics instructors. The grant funded program will run for two years, beginning in the fall of 2015. At present, it is centered about the geographical hubs of Los Angeles and Philadelphia; two additional hubs are to be added. Mary Moynihan will contact Michael Posner (michael.posner@villanova.edu) in order to learn more information. If she learns that project needs additional mentors and/or new instructors, Mary DeHart will send information to the members of the AMATYC Statistics Committee.

Kate Kozak pointed out that AMATYC has a grant director. If Michael Posner’s program is full and we feel that there is a need for additional mentors, we might use the resources made available by AMATYC to help us write a new grant.

Progress of Joint Committee Sponsored Webinars

During our most recent meeting held via conference call, Bob delMas agreed to help select and recruit presenters for our first webinar, *Graphical Representations of Data*. Rebecca sent Bob the requested list of graphics and stat ed section members to help with this process. Bob was

unable to attend today's meeting, so this topic will be placed on the agenda for our next conference call.

Announcement from ASA

Rebecca announced that the ASA will be launching a public relations campaign on August 18, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.