AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee Meeting and Conference Call

AMATYC Denver

Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2016

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Present at the AMATYC Conference: Rob Gould, Chair, Roxy Peck, Wendy Pagoda, Kate Kozak, Julie Hanson, Brian Kotz, Visitor George Hurlburt, AMATYC Website Coordinator

Present via conference call: Rebecca Nichols, Mary DeHart

Recorder: Mary DeHart

General Announcements

Thirty people attended the AMATYC Statistics Preconference Workshop.

The Stat Prep Grant has been funded. Announcements will be made tomorrow morning at the AMATYC Regional Breakfasts. Julie will ask George to put a link on the AMATYC webpage so that users can go to the Stat Prep site as well.

AMATYC Statistics Resource Webpage

Two years ago, the AMATYC Statistics Resources Page was posted on the AMATYC website for the first time with the agreement that the AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee would review and approve any additions to or deletions from the page. Approved changes would be communicated to the AMATYC website coordinator by the AMATYC Statistics Committee chair.

Brian Kotz suggested that the Committee review the Statistics Resources webpage and consider how the page might be improved. George Hurlburt, AMATYC Website Coordinator, was invited to attend this meeting. Prior to the meeting, George provided information from Google Analytics documenting usage of the Statistics Resources page.

George explained that Google Analytics tracks visitors to the page. The data indicate that almost everyone comes directly to the page; visitors tend to spend about 3.5 - 4 minutes there.

The issue is that we do not believe that the Statistics Resource page is helping people as it should. Rob Gould led the group in a discussion of how the site might be improved, posing the following questions:

- Do we want a separate active page for the committee itself?

- Do we want to hire a consultant to improve the page?

- Do we want a section that links to prominent papers in Stat Ed?

- Do we want a blog-like section where we can post musings and such?

- Do we want subscribers to receive notifications and, if so, what would we like to notify them about?

In response to these questions, George commented that he did not believe that it would be possible to provide notifications to subscribers because it is not possible to subscribe to the actual page. He added that it would be more feasible to have links to an external blog than to have a blog be embedded in the site.

It was noted that Julie has asked the members of the AMATYC Statistics Committee for feedback on the Statistics Resource Page; this is on the agenda for the AMATYC Statistics Committee Meeting to be held tomorrow afternoon. Julie also pointed out that math teachers who are inexperienced in teaching statistics are frequently assigned statistics courses and visit the site looking for help and guidance. The group reviewed the main page of the current site and the following suggestions were made:

- The logos should be moved to the bottom of the page.

- User friendly, non-intimidating links should appear at the top of the page.

- Categories should be reorganized.

- The site should provide more explicit direction for first-time teachers.

- A purpose statement should appear at the top of the page.

- Short descriptions of headers should be provided.

- Material addressing the role of technology in teaching stats should be included.

Rob asked whether someone should be appointed to be responsible for seeing that changes are made. Mary suggested that the Joint Committee might resolve to review possible additions to the Statistics Resource Page during our conference calls on a three to six month basis. Rob agreed to a review every three months.

Brian requested a month for our Statistics Resource Page subcommittee to put together suggestions to be forwarded to George via Julie. Brian will make sure that we have a reorganization plan to be presented at our conference call in January. A draft will be presented the day before the meeting.

George said that a day or two of lead time will be needed to make changes. The committee thanked George and he left the meeting.

AMATYC/ASA Webinars

The next AMATYC/ASA webinar is scheduled for December 6, 2016. Robin Lock will be presenting *Bootstraps - an Intuitive Introduction to Confidence Intervals*

In February of 2017, Lara Cleveland will present information about the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (iPUMS) at the University of Minnesota. She will discuss the data sets that they provide and explain how they can be used in Intro Stat courses. Big data, data integrity and over-sampling will also be addressed.

Rob asked the group to consider the following list of possible future topics:

a) Common Core and how and whether it affects two-year college stats offerings
b) Undergraduate degree programs in statistics
c) Multiple regression
d) Using R: should you? And what to expect if you do.
e) A series on each of the six GAISE recommendations
f) Should you use real world data? Where should you find it?
g) What topics in the intro curriculum do statisticians find to be integral?
h) A comparison of different software for teaching purposes
i) Data science update: report on Park City Math Institute guidelines for new undergraduate programs.
j) Establishing a data science program/course at a two-year college.

It was noted that the AMATYC Statistics Committee will be presenting a themed session on data science in San Diego, and that our committee sponsored two webinars on R during the 2015/2016 academic year.

Rebecca announced that the ASA will do a webinar on GAISE with three of the GAISE authors on Tuesday, December 6, 2016, at 4:00 PM Eastern Time. This is the same day as Robin Lock's webinar, but the timing will allow viewers to participate in both webinars live.

Roxy commented that a webinar on the Common Core would be premature. She suggested that we wait a couple of years, when improvements in K-12 statistics education will result in students who are ready for a higher level of intro stats instruction. Roxy predicted that at some point more than half of what we do in the Intro Stats class will not be considered college level.

Julie remarked that she has begun to see students who already know Intro Stats material because they learned it in high school. However, the group noted that pressure from administration often leads to faculty catering to the less successful students in order to keep completion rates high.

After additional discussion, the group decided to add webinars on Multiple Regression (Linear Regression and Beyond) and the Implementation of the New GAISE. The webinar on Multiple Regression will tentatively be scheduled for April. The GAISE webinar will tentatively be scheduled for June. It was suggested that Michelle Everson present the GAISE webinar. Rob will invite her to do so.

Credential for Teaching Undergraduate Statistics

Wendy remarked that there is ambiguity regarding the ideal qualifications for teaching statistics at community colleges. For example, a faculty member with a Ph.D. in pure mathematics with little experience in statistics might be assigned a stat course before another faculty member who holds a master's degree in statistics.

Kate suggested that we might build on the credentials position statement on teaching math courses in general that was recently approved by AMATYC in order to prepare a position statement addressing the ideal credentials for teaching statistics at community colleges.