

AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2018
5:00-6:00 PM Eastern

Present: Julie Hanson, Kate Kozak, Brian Kotz (guest), Donna LaLonde, Mary Moynihan, Rebecca Nichols, Jamis Perrett, Mary DeHart, Chair

Recorder: Mary DeHart

The Committee welcomed Jamis Perrett, ASA Education Vice-Chair and ASA Joint Committee Liaison.

1. Data Science Subcommittee Update – Brian Kotz

The Data Science Subcommittee of the AMATYC Statistics Committee held its inaugural meeting on Saturday, November 11th, at the 2018 AMATYC Conference in San Diego. A Two-Year College Data Science Summit sponsored by an NSF grant will be hosted by the ASA in Washington DC on May 10th and 11th. The Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS) 2018 will be hosted by CAUSE (the Consortium for the Advancement of Undergraduate Statistics Education) May 21st-25th.

Brian has been working with Julie on initiatives related to the placement of data science resources on the AMATYC website. Goals are to encourage new membership, create new alliances, and continue dialogs with external organizations.

Data science programs are housed in computer science, business, math, or statistics departments. An additional goal of the Data Science Subcommittee is to bring these disparate entities together. The Data Science Resource site will include a list of two-year data science programs. Brian noted that 45% of undergraduate statistics education takes place at two-year colleges.

Mary Moynihan described a conference that she and Brian attended in Washington, DC in May of 2017. The first day featured a roundtable addressing “Data Science Education in the Workplace”. It was followed by a two-day workshop on “Envisioning the Data Science Discipline: The Undergraduate Perspective”. Mary believes that over the next ten years the educational focus will be on reskilling and upskilling, and that data science education will be a collaborative effort of the traditional STEM disciplines. Business will become a STEM field. In industry, data science will be housed in service departments, with primary tasks of cleaning and analyzing data. It has been observed that math departments may lose their majors if they do not offer data science; students are opting to take data science courses rather than discrete math.

Jamis leads statistics and data science groups at Monsanto. He noted that many new employees are self-taught; they are being hired based on their knowledge of Python and R programming languages rather than on the disciplines in which they have earned degrees. Python is recognized for its easy to understand syntax and R is recognized for its data visualization capability. Most new employees know Python and find it easy to learn R.

It was observed that many students learn to use R in a superficial way without understanding the foundation of its operation. Kate has been including programming with R in her intro stats courses; requiring her students to program, not just change variables.

2. Proposed Additions to the AMATYC Statistics Resource Page – Julie Hanson

As AMATYC Statistics Committee Chair, Julie submitted the following items for inclusion on the AMATYC Statistics Resource Page. (The AMATYC/ASA Joint Committee reviews items that are to be added or deleted from the resource page.)

For inclusion in the *Classroom Resources* category:

(WGOITG [<https://www.nytimes.com/column/whats-going-on-in-this-graph>]

LOCUS [<https://locus.statisticseducation.org/>])

For inclusion in the *Papers and Publications* category:

SET Report [<http://www.amstat.org/asa/files/pdfs/EDU-SET.pdf>],

For inclusion in the *Other Webinars* category:

NASEM Data Science Webinar Series Recordings
[http://sites.nationalacademies.org/cstb/cstb_181242?_ga=2.156043832.246422214.1520030388-1027747727.1517521658]

All items were approved. Julie will contact George Hurlburt to let him know that the items can be added to the Statistics Resource Page.

3. Joint Committee Sponsored Webinars – General Discussion

The Committee reviewed and approved the abstract for Jennifer Kaplan’s webinar, *HILT Activities: High Impact on Student Learning, Little Time in Class to Implement*. This webinar is being added in response to a request by an AMATYC Statistics Committee member, who asked that a webinar on current research in statistics education be provided. It is most likely that the webinar will be scheduled for June.

Wendy Pogoda learned that Brian Smith is willing to present a webinar on different sampling techniques. Julie will contact Brian to arrange the webinar. Mary Moynihan will explore the possibility of inviting an expert from Google to present a webinar. It is most likely that these webinars will be scheduled for the fall of 2018.

4. Statsketball Competition - Rebecca Nichols and Donna LaLonde

After the meeting, it was requested that the Committee share the following information:

After a successful inaugural Statsketball competition last year where HS and undergrad students could apply their statistical skills to two contests associated with the NCAA men's basketball tournament, the ASA is again sponsoring the contests through *This is Statistics*.

The information pasted below is from <http://thisisstatistics.org/home-2/statsketball/>. Please help spread the word!

6 rounds.

68 teams.

Thousands of possibilities.

One winner.

Statsketball Tournament 2018

Don't leave your NCAA College Basketball Tournament bracket predictions to chance- put your statistics skills to the test!

We already know statistics has the power to best predict a winner, and analytics careers in sports are booming. Whether you enter for fun or to jumpstart your future career as a statistician, you won't want to miss it.

This is Statistics and the [American Statistical Association](#) are challenging high school and undergraduate students to predict the outcome of the 2018 NCAA Basketball Tournament using statistics rather than luck.

Get Started

Statsketball consists of two challenges, open to high school and undergraduate students:

["Pick 'Em": Upset Challenge](#) - Submit a list of 32 winners to the first-round games.

"Build Your Own Bracket": Draft Challenge - You have 224 drafts points to assemble your cohort of teams from the seeded participants.

Get the full details, rules and prizes for the challenges [here](#). All submissions are due by March 14, 2018, at 12:00PM ET.

[Join our email list](#) to be the first to know about news and announcements.