REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

ANNUAL MEETING

Blacksburg, Virginia

October 19-20, 1972

Report

The annual meeting of the Regional Committee on Statistics was held at the Donaldson Brown Continuing Education Center, The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, on October 19-20, 1972. A roster of those attending is appended as Attachment A. Dr. Edgar P. Hickman, Chairman of the Committee, presided. Dr. Boyd Harshbarger welcomed the group on behalf of VPISU.

Subcommittee Assignments

Dr. Hickman announced the following subcommittee assignments for the coming year:

Medical and Biostatistics: Kilpatrick (chairman), Federspiel, Hall, Hurst, Miller, Patterson

Econometrics and Management Science (formerly Subcommittee on Quantitative Methods): Burford (chairman), Clark, Gibbons, Gober, Thigpen

Interdisciplinary Programs: Pegram (chairman), Burdick, Latta, Mason, Cohen, Gray

Guidelines in Teaching Statistics) (These two subcommittees to be Projects combined.) Goode (Chairman), Aucoin, Freund, Gardiner, Testerman, Wearden, Mason, Thrall, Bradley

Summer Session: Bradley (chairman), Cohen, Gray, Wallenius, Thompson, Mendenhall, Testerman

Summer Research Conference: (to be appointed after discussion)

Resolutions: Freund, Burford
Statistics Activities in the Region

Several representatives distributed materials about the current status of their institutions' programs in statistics. Dr. Hickman called attention to the fact that the University of Maryland had signed the Memorandum of Agreement since the last meeting, and asked Ms. Grace Yang to describe that program, a doctoral curriculum in the Department of Mathematics. Dr. Carter, an observer, described the program at Appalachian State University, where an undergraduate major in statistics has been approved in the Department of Mathematics.

Southern Regional Education Board

Dr. William R. O'Connell commented on SREB's renewed emphasis on regional cooperation, stimulated by the interest of educational and governmental leaders in finding ways to maintain educational quality and diversity of offerings in the region during the present period of stringency in budgetary allocations to higher education. Efforts getting under way include the development of an "academic common market," interinstitutional use of specialized educational resources, discipline-by-discipline joint planning for the establishment of new programs or the consolidation of over-expanded specializations, the expansion of SREB's contracts for interstate sharing of programs, provision of information services to assist states and institutions to assess needs for new programs, and the establishing of a Commission on Regional Cooperation. He noted that the history of the Regional Committee on Statistics furnished examples of achievements possible through regional cooperation within a discipline.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Charles Federspiel summarized receipts and expenditures for the year and reported a current balance of $2509.87. (A copy of the Treasurer's Report is appended as Attachment B.) He recommended that, since there is little
checking activity after the Summer Research Conference each year, the checking account should be consolidated with the savings account so as to earn more interest. It was moved, seconded, and passed that this be done.

Summer Research Conference

Dr. Anderson presented a report on the 1972 Summer Research Conference. (See Attachment C.) He commented on the lack of nominations from the Regional Committee and on the fact that those nominated for invitations were too concentrated in a few institutions. Suggestions from the members for remedying this situation included the following:

--- Contacting groups rather than inviting just individuals;
--- Opening up the conference via public announcements, etc.;
--- Getting the program out earlier so those invited could make a decision on the basis of information;
--- Continuing to depend on committee members for nominations, but getting the program worked out so it could be published and announced in soliciting applications;
--- Getting the principal speaker early as a drawing card.

It was noted that a permanent committee structure for the Summer Research Conference was needed.

1972 Regional Summer Session

A mimeographed report on the 1972 Regional Summer Session (Attachment D) was distributed in the absence of a representative from Rice University, host of the session. Members of the Regional Committee expressed admiration of the list of participants and the institutions from which they came, but commented that it was unfortunate that a representative was not present to answer questions and help plan the next session. It was reported that the host institution was disappointed with the small representation from around the
region. The group agreed that this situation had obtained for a long time and raised the question of whether the regional summer session were worth it. Some institutions reported that their students had applied but did not go because they were not funded. The point was made that whatever summer session was designated "regional," the designation did provide residence credit toward the master's degree and was therefore worth it even if not many took advantage of the opportunity. It was suggested that consideration be given to having two summer sessions in different parts of the region; or two in different sub-areas in Statistics. Again, the possibility of shorter and more intensive sessions was mentioned.

Brochure

Dr. Cohen stated that he had received materials for the next brochure from all member institutions except the University of Virginia and Johns Hopkins University. (It was noted that Johns Hopkins intended to withdraw from the Memorandum of Agreement.) Regarding the question of retaining in the brochure the section on the Visiting Lecturer Program, it was moved that the section be left as it is. The motion was seconded and passed. The committee then discussed the format of the brochure, with no special preference emerging as to size, etc. It was moved, seconded and passed that the final selection be left to the subcommittee. Regarding financing the brochure, it was moved, seconded, and passed that the same arrangements be entered into as before: i.e., SREB would advance printing, mailing, and other costs, and assess each member institution on a pro rata basis (not to exceed $100). Dr. Cohen indicated that bids would be requested from several printers in Athens, Atlanta, and Nashville. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the printing be handled in whatever way was most feasible, the matter of feasibility to be left to the subcommittee.
1973 Regional Summer Session

Dr. Bradley presented the plans for the 1973 Regional Summer Session, to be held at Florida State University. The eight-week regular summer session will include an intensive course of three weeks focusing on Reliability Theory and Life Testing, for which funding seems fairly assured from the Air Force. There is a possibility of obtaining stipends for participants from the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Bradley reported that he had also submitted to NSF a proposal for a summer institute for college teachers on Statistical Aspects of Social Science Models, which would be a six weeks course. In addition, one or two visiting faculty will be recruited for the regular summer courses. The Regional Committee congratulated Dr. Bradley on the amount of work that had been done and the excellence of the plans submitted.

In discussion, it was suggested that the group endorse as a continuing policy selecting as hosts for regional summer sessions those institutions having regular summer sessions to which short, concentrated sessions on special areas could be added. It was noted that many departments now offer regular courses in the summer term, and that the Regional Committee ought to decide if the recent practice should continue of having the regional summer session consist of some regular, basic courses plus some specialized, advanced topics. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Regional Committee continue the practice of designating at least one institution to represent the Committee in offering summer courses to graduate students. It was then moved that any institution, including the designated one(s), wishing to carry on a short, concentrated session in a specialized area be encouraged to do so and to submit plans to this Committee for endorsement. However, the motion was tabled without action.
The University of Florida was designated as host for the regional summer session for 1976. The University of Southwestern Louisiana volunteered for 1977, and it was moved, seconded, and passed that USL host the summer session that year.

1973 Summer Research Conference

Dr. Carter of Appalachian State University invited the Regional Committee to hold the 1973 Summer Research Conference at ASU's new Continuing Education Center. The group evinced interest in and appreciation for this invitation. However, after discussion of costs and facilities, it was moved and seconded that the Conference return to Mountain Lake in 1973; that a standing subcommittee be appointed, to have one new member each year; and that a charge to this subcommittee be exploration of possibilities for future (permanent) arrangements for the Conference, with a report on this due at the 1973 annual meeting. The motion passed with one opposed.

Support for Graduate Study

Dr. Miller moved that the Subcommittee on Projects consider having the Regional Committee make a statement, addressed to appropriate government officials, expressing the concern of this organization about the need for support of graduate programs in general and statistics programs in particular. The motion was seconded and passed.

Subcommittee Reports/Action

1. Summer Research Conference. It was moved, seconded, and passed that a six-man committee be appointed to consist of the two retiring co-chairmen, two current co-chairmen, and two up-coming. (It was noted that this structure would allow for both continuity and rotation.) It was understood that one co-chairman
should assume responsibility for arrangements and the other for program.

Dr. Hickman appointed Drs. Harshbarger and Anderson (1972), Drane and Hall (1973), Miller and Thigpen (1974). This committee was instructed to report at the annual meeting next year on possible sites other than Mountain Lake. For the 1973 Conference, Dr. Harshbarger proposed either June 10-15 or the week following. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the earlier dates be set. It was suggested that the invitations be worded so as to solicit additional nominations from the invitees.

2. **Biometry.** Dr. Kilpatrick presented the following recommendations from the Subcommittee on Biometry:

   a. That the designation **Biometry** be adopted for this subcommittee.

   b. That exchange of trainees and of professors between departments of Statistics and departments of Biometry would be beneficial.

   c. That service courses in Statistics should be taught by statisticians, but that the teacher should have some expertise in the students' subject area and should be able to communicate some enthusiasm for Statistics.

   d. That the Regional Committee endorse the addition of Biometry courses to the Vanderbilt summer session, and that the subcommittee help Dr. Federspiel get them together.

(The full report of the Biometry Subcommittee is appended as Attachment E.)

3. **Econometrics and Management Science.** Dr. Burford presented the following recommendations from the Subcommittee on Econometrics and Management Science:

   a. That some of the Regional Summer Sessions focus on management; perhaps hold some double summer sessions with work offered in management science.

   b. That the programs of Summer Research Conference offer some lectures or concurrent sessions in management science.

   c. That the Regional Committee hold some special sessions with colleges of business to discuss the lack of standardization in terminology and in breadth and levels of instruction in Statistics.
It was moved and seconded that the subcommittee be urged to plan a conference on the teaching of basic statistics in colleges of business, and that the Regional Committee support this effort. In discussion it was suggested that the conference consider how basic business statistics courses do or should differ from basic statistics courses; that the conference be sponsored under SREB auspices; and that the conference might form the nucleus of a continuing study group. The motion passed.

4. Projects. Dr. Goode reported that the Projects subcommittee had expressed uncertainty about the nature of the "Guidelines for Instruction in Statistics" project. Plenary discussion brought out the fact that the original intent of this project arose from a concern over the proliferation of statistics instruction in various departments. The Guidelines document had been proposed to suggest some viable alternatives and to define the issues involved. It was reported that Dr. Minton wished to be retained on the Projects subcommittee, although no longer on the Regional Committee itself, so as to keep a connection with the Guidelines effort. Dr. Hickman agreed to get in touch with Dr. Minton to find out whether he has prepared a draft. The Projects subcommittee then presented the following recommendations:

a. That a special subcommittee be appointed to gather evidence of the need for Statistics input in government-supported projects, and therefore the need for federal support for Statistics graduate study; and to work toward a resolution addressed to the federal government.

b. That the concern be communicated to the National Committee on Statistics, along with concern about the need for balance between theory and application in training programs and the need for statistics training for those already trained in such fields as Chemistry and Engineering.

5. Interdisciplinary Programs. The Subcommittee on Interdisciplinary Programs was unable to present a report since insufficient members were present. The Regional Committee agreed that this subcommittee should be asked to prepare
for next year’s annual meeting a summary of the interdisciplinary programs now on-going.

Other Business

Dr. Kilpatrick raised the question of appointing a subcommittee to explore the desirability of computer networking among the member departments, pointing out that an opportunity for such cooperative endeavor was inherent in the existing organization. In discussion it became apparent that interest in such a possibility was chiefly limited to departments of Biometry. The Biometry subcommittee therefore agreed to study the matter further. Dr. Smith agreed to convey their interest to SREB and to other disciplinary groups considering computer networking possibilities.

Several members requested that the issue of membership criteria and the question of including undergraduate programs on the Regional Committee be placed on the agenda for re-discussion at the next annual meeting. Dr. Hickman requested that this and other items for next year’s agenda be sent to him well in advance.

Subcommittee on Resolutions

Dr. Burford presented the report of the Subcommittee on Resolutions, extending a vote of thanks to Drs. Harshbarger, Anderson, Thrall, and Hickman, and to VPISU and SREB, for their services to the Regional Committee during the past year. The motion for approval was seconded and passed.

The Regional Committee then adjourned.
REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS

Annual Meeting - October, 1972

Roster

R. L. Anderson
University of Kentucky
Lexington, Kentucky

Ralph Bradley
Florida State University
Tallahassee, Florida

Roger Burford
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

M. C. Carter
Appalachian State University
Boone, North Carolina

Clifford Cohen
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

James Davenport
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas

Peter Dickinson
University of Southwestern Louisiana
Lafayette, Louisiana

Wanzer Drane
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas

Charles Federspiel
Vanderbilt Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

R. J. Freund
Texas A & M University
College Station, Texas

Jean Gibbons
University of Alabama
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

J. J. Goode
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia

E. C. Hall
Emory University
Atlanta, Georgia

Boyd Harshbarger
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University
Blacksburg, Virginia

Edgar Hickman
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

David Hurst
University of Alabama
Birmingham, Alabama

S. J. Kilpatrick
Medical College of Virginia
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

David D. Mason
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina

Clinton Miller
Medical University of South Carolina
Charleston, South Carolina

Jim Neade
University of Arkansas Medical Center
Little Rock, Arkansas

William Mendenhall
University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida

William O'Connell
Southern Regional Education Board
Atlanta, Georgia

Richard M. Patterson
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama
Phillip Rice  
Louisiana Tech University  
Ruston, Louisiana

Mary Howard Smith  
Southern Regional Education Board  
Atlanta, Georgia

Charles Thigpen  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, Tennessee

Grace Yang  
University of Maryland  
College Park, Maryland
SREB Committee on Statistics  
TREASURER'S REPORT 1972

Balance on hand as of Annual Meeting, October 1971  
Savings Account (South Carolina National Bank)  
$2504.06

Receipts and Expenditures since 1971 Annual Meeting

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Net for year  
$ 5.81

Current balance on hand as of 1972 Annual Meeting  
First American National Bank, Nashville, Tennessee

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PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE SUMMER RESEARCH CONFERENCE
Conducted by the
COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS, SOUTHERN REGIONAL EDUCATION BOARD
June 11, 1972 through June 16, 1972

PROGRAMS AND ATTENDEES:
The 1972 Summer Research Conference was again held at the Mountain Lake Hotel, Mountain Lake, Virginia. In addition to the 9 speakers and the Conference Chairman, there were 30 paid registrants. Families accompanied most of the attendees. The Program Chairman invited all attendees, after nomination by members of the Committee. Unfortunately only a few members of the Committee made any nominations. Some Committee members had many more than two nominees. Since there were so few nominees, the Program Chairman sent invitations to all those nominated. This matter deserves some discussion at the annual meeting. It is suggested that each Committee member select at least two nominees for future conferences.

Several letters and many personal messages of appreciation have been tendered to the Program Chairman. On the whole, it appeared that the Program was quite successful. Certainly the weather was delightful and discussion was spirited. Special appreciation is tendered to the other members of the Program Committee, Elmer Hall, Boyd Harshbarger and William Mendenhall for providing two speakers each and to Ralph Bradley, who suggested one. We were pleased to secure Ram Gnanadesikan for the Guest Speaker. It is suggested that the Program Chairman for 1973 might wish to contact George Box, who would also provide the proper spirit for the Conference.

A copy of the program is appended.

PROCEDURE:
The SRE2 Committee on Statistics was solicited on February 10, 1972 to nominate possible attendees. Based on the nominations, I extended 57 invitations in addition to those for speakers and session chairmen, 18 of these accepted. These 18 plus 7 Session Chairmen and 5 other members of the Regional Committee who attended constituted the 30 paid attendees.

If an invitee accepted an invitation, a registration form was sent. A list of speakers and titles was sent to all prospective attendees on May 2.

FINANCES

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EXPENSES

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RLA/ehm
Attach.