The 1993 Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) met at the Student Center on the campus of USL. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by President Dan Solomon. Larry Ringer was elected interim secretary due to the absence of Secretary Mike Kutner.

Welcome. Peter Dickinson introduced Duane Blumberg, Dean of the College of Science, USL. Dean Blumberg reviewed the development of the statistics program at USL and told us it is the only degree program entitled 'PHD in Statistics' in the state. He welcomed SRCOS to the campus and wished us success in our deliberations.

Announcements. Peter Dickinson, host for the 1993 meeting, announced that transportation back to the hotel would be available and that we would meet at 6:30 to go to dinner.

Modified Agenda. Dan Solomon reminded the Council that at last year’s meeting we had decided to forego the usual committee meetings and to devote the time to strategic planning.

Resolution Committee. Dan Solomon appointed the Resolution Committee. Members are Jim Gentle (Chairperson), Bob Small, Jill Hampton, and Robert Elston.

Minutes of 1992 Meeting. The minutes of the 1992 business meeting were presented. Corrections noted were (1) asterisks denoting attendees on the list of members were missing, (2) the report by the Committee on Teaching was given by Bob Serfing, (3) the second from the last paragraph reading "Dan Solomon voted . . ." should read "Dan Solomon noted . . .," and (4) Jane Pendergast's name is misspelled in the second paragraph on page 2. Taylor moved the minutes be approved as corrected. Second by Randles. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report (Attachment C). Treasurer Al Rainosek gave the Treasurer's report. The 1993 Summer Research Conference would have lost money but the Dean of The University of Texas Medical Branch contributed the difference. Elston moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. Second by Taylor. Motion passed unanimously.

Two Minute Reports. The list of members was circulated by Dan Solomon and attendees were asked to make corrections. Each attendee was asked to introduce himself or herself and identify the institution represented as part of the two minute report. The general theme of the reports was that departments and programs are doing well except for flat or decreased budgets.

1993 SRC (Attachment D). Sonny Whorton's written report of the local arrangements and finances of the 1993 SRC was distributed. Lynn LaMotte summarized the program. Discussion of the lack of attendance and how to attract attendees followed.

Future SRC's. Jim Davenport reported on the local arrangements for the 1994 SRC to be held in Williamsburg. He is negotiating with three potential facilities. The suggested dates are June 4-12. (Modified to June 8-11 by later motion.)
Possible sites for the 1995 SRC were discussed. Bill Wilson reported that Pensacola was a possibility with the University of West Florida handling local arrangements. Rates for the Holiday Inn are $90-$100/room and $8.50/person for the banquet. Dan Solomon described the facilities at Hickory Knob State Park on the South Carolina/Georgia border. Cabins require a one week minimum, sleeping six for $50/night. The Lodge has rooms for four at $36/night. The Convention Center is within walking distance and costs $75/day. Santee State Park, South Carolina, was suggested as a site. One possibility would be to stay at the park. Cabins sleep six at $55/night with a one week minimum. The meeting room costs $150. Another possibility would be to stay at a nearby hotel in Santee. The Ramada costs are $40/night single, $44/night double. Discussion followed. Bob Taylor offered to visit Hickory Knob, Bill Wilson will pursue Florida beach sites, and Herman Senter and Joe Padgett will visit Santee.

Discussion of a 1996 site was deferred until later in the meeting.

SRC Program Committee.
'93-'94 ('93 SRC) Lynn LaMotte (SRCOS), Jane Pendergast (ASA)
'94-'95 ('94 SRC) Joe Padgett (SRCOS), Mark Johnson (ASA)
'95-'96 ('95 SRC) Dick Kryscio (SRCOS), Barry Margolin (ASA)
94 SRC Local Arrangements, Jim Davenport

Joe Padgett and Mark Johnson distributed a list of suggested speakers and topics (Attachment E). They asked for suggestions for additional topics, speakers, etc.

Rainosek moved that the '94 SRC student awards have a maximum of $3000 with the program chairs to decide on amounts for each award. Second by Elston. Ringer moved an amendment that the paper award be a greater amount than the travel award. Second by Burdick. Amendment passed. Taylor moved an amendment that the program committee, by use of the funds, encourage attendance for the full meeting. Second by Rainosek. Amendment passed. The motion, as amended, passed.

Future Business Meeting Sites. The 1994 Annual Business Meeting was scheduled for Emory University. Because Mike Kutner is leaving Emory, Bob Taylor extended an invitation from University of Georgia for September 30-October 1, 1994. Rainosek moved to accept. Second by Hampton. Motion passed.

Tentative sites for future meetings are the University of Central Florida in 1995 and North Carolina State University in 1996.

After a coffee break, Donice McCune distributed a call for papers for the Texas Journal of Science (Attachment F).

Strategic Planning Session I (Attachment G), Dan Solomon introduced the topic by listing the concerns raised at last year's business meeting. These concerns included the purpose of the organization, should we still have the SRC, should we publish the brochure, etc. He asked us to consider if, supposing there was no SRCOS, would we try to establish the organization. (See Attachment H for a summary of the Council members' comments.)

The Friday meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

The Saturday session was called to order by Dan Solomon at 8:34 a.m.
Announcements. Peter Dickinson announced that lunch would be at noon and that there would be a courtesy van for trips to the airport.

Election of Officers. Joe Padgett, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers.

President - Bob Taylor
President elect - Larry Ringer
Secretary - Bill Wilson
Treasurer - Al Rainosek

The slate was elected unanimously. If Dan Solomon is replaced as the representative from North Carolina State University, Linda Malone will fill the position of Past President on the Executive Committee.

Brochure. Piotr Mikulski requested submission of department materials for the brochure. He announced that SREB will no longer be responsible for publication of the brochure.

Discussion of how to print and distribute the brochure was held. Dan Solomon, Dick Kryscio and Herman Senter offered to investigate publishing arrangements. Kwok-Leung Tsui volunteered to aid in working with the printer. It was indicated that SREB would be willing to pay for the printing and assess the members for the cost. The suggestion to delay publication pending possible reorganization of SRCOS was discussed. It was decided to publish the brochure on time. The Executive Committee will revise and approve the introductory material.

Paul Minton Service Award. Kwok-Leung Tsui, substituting for Awards Chairperson Kutner, reviewed the background and criteria for this award. He announced Richard Anderson as the winner of the 1993 Paul Minton Service Award. Unfortunately, Dr. Anderson was unable to attend the meeting. Dick Kryscio accepted the award on his behalf and will present it to him at a ceremony at the University of Kentucky.

Dan Solomon appointed the Paul Minton Service Awards Committee as:

Dick Kryscio - Chairperson
Herman Senter
Larry Ringer

Archives. Mike Symons announced that the archivists are ready and anxious to aid. Mike Kutner has much of the material from SREB (minutes, etc.) but there is additional material at SREB.

Randis moved to accept the offer of the library at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill to serve as the archive for SRCOS material. (Appendix J of 1992 minutes.) Second by Gentle. Motion passed.

Dan Solomon asked Mike Symons to make a list of items that are not included in the list of materials to be saved. Davenport moved that Bob Taylor be authorized to get materials from SREB and to forward them to UNC-CH. Second by Wilson. Motion passed.

It was suggested that someone or some group be urged to write a history of the organization to celebrate the 40th anniversary in 1995. Bob Taylor and Jim Davenport will approach Paul Minton.
Liability. Dan Solomon reported that ASA has no liability insurance except for the Annual Joint Statistics Meeting. Hence there is no insurance for the SRCOS-ASA SRC. Further action was postponed pending the possible reorganization of SRCOS.

Statistics Chairs Survey. Ron Rundles and Bob Taylor reported responses from 15 of the 40 departments surveyed. Ron has received requests for the data and suggested similar surveys be conducted in the future.

ABET (Attachment I). Dan Solomon reviewed ABET's inclusion of probability and statistics in accreditation criteria. He distributed a draft letter to ABET's Executive Director. He will send the letter on October 15. Any corrections and suggestions should be submitted prior to that date.

Careers Flyer. Mike Symons reported that a flyer is being published by ASA.

Computing Survey/e-network. There had been a proposal to establish a query list. There was some favorable response to this proposal, but it was not fully developed. Because an e-mail clearing house for members as been established at Rice University (SRCOS@STAT.RICE.EDU) there is no reason to revisit this proposal.

There has not been a compilation of the returns from the computing survey. Bob Taylor will ask Bob Serfling to summarize the results and distribute the report.

Other Business. Dan Solomon was asked to send a letter of appreciation to the Dean and Department Head at the University of Texas Medical Branch for their financial support of the 1993 SRC.

Bob Taylor reminded the members that changing the official representative from a member institution required a letter of appointment from the chief executive officer of the institution.

Larry Ringer was asked to work on the mailing list to distinguish (1) official representatives, (2) substitutes, (3) visitors, and (4) observers.

Strategic Planning II. Dan Solomon reported the results of the deliberation of the committee attempting to write a mission statement and distributed copies of a draft mission statement (Attachment J). The statement should include:

- focus
  - founded under SREB, an educational organization
  - collection of institutions, not individuals, makes us unique

- original purpose of forming the organization
  - common problems of forming statistics programs in southern states
  - ease of travel

- present advantages
  - size allows us to get together easily
  - size allows us to have manageable discussions

Suggestions by members included:

Jean Gibbons suggested adding the date of founding in the first sentence. She also suggested the third paragraph does not say enough. She suggested adding some example items, e.g., communications, networking, etc.
Lynn LaMotte asked if it is the intent to include non-member institutions in the third paragraph.

Robert Elston stated the second paragraph should include a reference to the region.

Members were asked to suggest programs to pursue. Programs mentioned were:

- Effective business meetings
- Teaching workshops - exchange of educational ideas
- Networking
- Standards for statistics curricula
- Tutorials/shortcourses/workshops
- Aid to developing programs
- Getting probability & statistics in school (K-12) curricula
- Brochures
- Faculty Exchanges
- Traveling graduate short courses
- Tracts on statistical education
- Faculty enhancement
- Electronic information collection (& exchange speaker information)
- Recruiting students (brochures, visitors, etc.)
- Educate VP's and CEO's (industry)
- Student competitions
- Science Fairs
- Faculty leaves in industry

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:50 a.m.

The afternoon session was called to order at 1:04 p.m. The strategic planning session continued with discussion of how to organize.

One suggestion was to be organized under another umbrella organization, i.e., ASA. Not much support.

There was discussion of the effect of the loss of the connection with SREB. It was believed it will be harder to justify SRCOS to university administrations. There was a suggestion we pursue the conditions under which SREB would retain the relationship. Would SREB be willing to be a signatory of letters, etc., without any obligations? The consensus was we would like the support of SREB, even if only in name. Bob Taylor will talk to SREB. (See Attachments K and L.)

Another topic was "What happens if SRCOS is no longer associated with SREB?" We could organize as a not-for-profit corporation. The cost would be approximately $1500 plus annual expenses for filing reports, etc.

It was decided members should be institutions, not departments.

1994 SRC - Williamsburg. Joe Padgett described a modified program reflecting the earlier discussion:

- a. Keep some of the proposed research sessions (e.g., computing topics, longitudinal data)
- b. Incorporate tutorial (e.g., Gibbs sampler)
- c. Session with annual report from NISS
- d. Session on industrial relations
e. Session on creative approaches to statistical education
f. Keynote speaker from ASA (Iman or Bailer)
g. Student papers

This concept for the SRC was approved.

Taylor moved the SRC begin at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday (June 8) and go through Saturday (June 11) afternoon (about 5:00 p.m.). Second by Randles. Motion passed.

The Council discussed how to increase advertising and awareness of the SRC.

The Program Committee will set the registration fee at a level similar to that of past years.

Committees for reports at 1994 Annual Business Meeting. Dan Solomon appointed committees to report at next year's meeting. The committees are to take initiative and consult with the executive committee if necessary. The committee are (convener designated by *):

Organization (pending Taylor's report).
*Taylor, Ringer, Wilson, Rainosek, Solomon, Davenport

Business meeting timing & agenda (& name)
*LaMotte, Burdick

Multiple workshops model (1995 SRC program)
*Kryscio, Margolin, Randles, Small

Information systems
*Woodward, Wegman, Scott

Publications (Programs brochure, Careers brochure)
*Symons, Mikulski, Padgett/Spurrier

Planning, priorities
*Solomon, Meeter, Executive Committee

Tracts in Statistical Education
*Hampton, Solomon, Wilson, Spurrier

New Business. Bob Taylor announced the current hotel rate for next year's business meeting is $38/single, $40/double. There will be spouse activities and a demonstration of an electronic classroom.

Taylor asked that SRCOS express appreciation to Dan Solomon for two years of fine leadership, for conducting the strategic planning sessions, and when the question "Should SRCOS exist?" was raised, for coming up with the answer "Probably."

Resolutions. Jim Gentle presented the report from the Resolutions Committee (Attachment M).

The meeting adjourned.