The 1996 Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) met at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in the Research Triangle. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by President Larry Ringer.

Announcements: Tom Gerig previewed the schedule of social activities and Larry Ringer discussed the business meeting agenda. (Attachment A).

Committee Assignments: Larry Ringer made committee assignments (Attachment B) including the assignment of Jim Davenport (chair), Don Burdick, and Al Rainosek to the Resolutions Committee.

Minutes of 1995 Meeting: The following changes were made to the minutes of the 1995 business meeting:
- page 2, 5th line of 1996 SRC: "be permanent" should be changed to "be the default position".
- page 2, 2nd line from bottom: "a beach location for 1997" should be changed to "a beach location for 1998".

Ron Randies moved that the minutes be approved subject to the above changes, Bob Taylor seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report (Attachment C) Treasurer Jack Tubbs presented the Treasurer’s Report. The SRC essentially broke even, and additionally, a total of $1000 was given to R.L. Anderson Award winners. Al Rainosek suggested that these awards should not be considered to be an SRC expense but rather should come from our balance which is large enough to cover such expenses. Bob Taylor moved approval of the report with thanks to Jack Tubbs and Al Rainosek seconded. The report was accepted unanimously.

Introduction of Guests
Guests were:
- D’Arcy Mays, Virginia Commonwealth University - visitor with Jim Davenport
- Jim Matys, Texas A&M University - ASA co-program chair for 1997 SRC
- Alan Karr, National Institute for Statistical Sciences (NISS)
Two Minute Reports
Each attendee was asked to introduce himself or herself, identify the institution
represented, and give a report about the department. A listing of attendees and the
SRCOS membership list is given in Attachment D.

Paul Minton Service Award (Attachment E)
It was agreed that the recipient of the Paul Minton Service Award for 1996 would be
named by the Organization & Planning Committee during the committee reports on
Saturday.

1995 SRC
The 1995 SRC was held at Melbourne Beach, Florida immediately following the 1995
SRCOS Business Meeting. No report was made at the meeting, but Attachment F
contains information submitted by Linda Malone and Dick Kryscio for the minutes.

1996 SRC
The report on the 1996 SRC, which was held at DeGray Lake Resort State Park in
Arkansas, was given by Jack Tubbs (local arrangements) and Wayne Woodward (SRCOS
co-program chair). (see Attachment G) The conference was considered a success
although a larger number of attendees would have been desirable.

1997 SRC
Bill Parr, local arrangements and SRCOS program co-chair for the 1997 SRC at
Gatlinburg, Tennessee, was unable to attend because he was recuperating from surgery.
He submitted a report (Attachment H) in absentia. The conference will center around a
central theme of response surface analysis although sessions on other topics will be
included. Jim Matis, ASA program co-chair for the 1997 SRC, was in attendance. He
circulated a sheet asking for input concerning additional session topics for the conference.

Bob Taylor moved that SRCOS award up to 5 student awards from the 1997 SRC at
$300 each with registration and special event fees waived. Second by Al Rainosek. The
motion passed. The students are to be informed that they should try to attend the entire
conference.

1998 SRC
Al Rainosek reported that he had investigated beach locations in the Pensacola to Ft.
Walton Beach area. At the time of the business meeting, the best location seemed to be
the Beachside Resort and Conference Center at Pensacola Beach. (See Attachment I)
The room rates are $99 for 2 people with children under 18 free. The Beachside Resort is
on the beach and is easily accessible via the Pensacola airport. Bob Taylor made a motion
that we authorize Al to commit for the 1998 SRC at a site on Pensacola Beach and report
back to the executive committee if changes need to be made. Richard Bolstein seconded
and the motion passed. The timing of the SRC should be either the second or third week
in June.
After the business meeting, Al further investigated available resorts and recommends the Holiday Inn - The Tropics, Navarre Beach, FL as a location preferable to the Beachside Resort and Conference Center at Pensacola Beach. Information concerning Holiday Inn - The Tropics is included in Attachment J.

Al Rainosek will serve as local arrangements chair and Bob Taylor as the SRCOS co-program chair for the 1998 SRC.

Attendance at SRCs
Al Rainosek expressed an interest in increasing attendance at SRCs. He suggested that we should attempt to have at least one attendee from each member institution. It was mentioned that the traditional intent, for the SRC to function as a vehicle for young faculty to bring families, no longer works as well with working spouses, etc. There are also more meetings to choose from now. Richard Bolstein suggested that attendance could be increased by including speakers who are very well-known and highly respected in their areas.

1997 SRCOS Business Meeting
The 1997 SRCOS Business Meeting is to be held in Gainesville, Florida at Ron Randles’ invitation. The meeting will be October 10-11 and will be held on the University of Florida campus.

1998 SRCOS Business Meeting
Richard Bolstein invited SRCOS to the Washington D.C. area for the 1998 Business Meeting. The invitation was accepted.

Archives
Bob Taylor reported that Mike Kutner gave him the material that previously was in the SREB office. The intent has been to take this material to University of North Carolina for archival. He indicated that a lot of work would still be involved in making decisions about what to archive, although it was indicated that libraries might be able to make such decisions. Dan Naiman suggested that some of the material could be "archived" on Web pages.

Statistics Requirements
The council briefly discussed statistics requirements at the universities represented. Among the responses regarding requirements were:
- South Alabama - statistics is required of about 70% of the students
- Virginia Commonwealth - beginning in the Fall 1997 all incoming freshmen
  - Humanities and Sciences students will be required to take 3 hours of statistics
- Georgia - a graduate level research skills requirement has a statistics component
- SMU - university-wide math fundamentals requirement has statistics as an option

Committee Meetings
The Friday afternoon session concluded with 30 minute committee meetings.
Saturday Session
The Saturday session convened at 8:30. Committee meetings which began on Friday afternoon were continued at the beginning of this session.

Committee Reports
The remainder of the morning and early afternoon consisted of committee reports. Lunch was brought into the meeting room and the committee worked through lunch.

(a) Organization & Planning (+ Awards) Committee
Bill Wilson gave the following report:
1. The president charged the committee with the Paul Minton Award, and the committee unanimously chose Dick Scheaffer from the University of Florida. The committee will arrange for the award to be presented at the 1997 SRC.
2. The committee acknowledged the fact that times change and the needs of the SRCOS are very diverse and encourages the President of SRCOS, in consultation with the executive committee, to investigate various formats for the business meeting. The format may include special topics and/or guest speakers, or presentations by members.
3. The committee recommends no change in timing of the business meeting -- early October scheduled around home football games.
4. Committee concern was expressed about the recruitment of non-educational members to the SRCOS, with the basic question concerning what we have to offer. Suggestions included (a) have a session at the SRC designated for that company, (b) name student awards for the company.
5. The committee recommends that each of the committees be required to electronically send the president a mid-year report before the SRC.

In discussion following the report, Richard Bolstein suggested that panel discussions at the SRCOS business meetings might be useful. He suggested "The Impact of Technology on Faculty Workload" as a topic. Discussion also took place concerning institutional members. He also suggested lowering the dues for these members to something not to exceed $500. Larry Ringer indicated that this would require a bylaw change and asked the Organization and Planning committee to look into it.

(b) Research Workshops and SRC
Ron Randles presented the following committee report:
1. The committee believes that the SRC does serve a very useful purpose. It is particularly useful for young faculty and graduate students to get to know others in the profession in a smaller more comfortable environment that promotes informal discussion of research topics. We feel that an SRC of size 50-70 is ideal. We don't feel like it should grow into something that is large. The smaller size is an advantage.
2. For 1997 most of the sessions are set. There will be theme sessions on response surface analysis plus one session on statistics education. Two sessions are not yet pinned down. A topic list was circulated at the meeting and participants were asked to indicate their choices.

3. For 1998 program chair Bob Taylor will be constructing a program more in the spirit of the traditional SRC. Possible topics include generalized linear models and methods for quality and productivity.

4. Poster sessions for the student papers was extremely successful and that should become a continuing feature.

Idea for Increasing Attendance:
- Ask each member institution representative to recommend a faculty member (preferably a new faculty member) and a graduate student for invitation to the conference. Each would receive a personal letter from the SRCOS President encouraging them to attend. Registration fees should be waived for all students.
- Invite some distinguished speakers whose presence will enhance attendance -- even if honoraria are necessary.
- Invite emeritus faculty from our member institutions who have contributed to a topic area that is emphasized in the meeting.
- Schedule a session for the local ASA chapter as part of the meeting. Ask the local chapter to promote the meeting.
- Work with local member institutions to be sure that their faculty and students will attend. Make some of them part of the program.
- Contributed papers in poster session format should be advertised as some persons need to be on the program in order to attend. The number of such slots for presenters might need to be limited in the future, but this probably will not be a significant problem. Opportunities for member faculty to chair a session or be a discussant should also be made available.
- At some future date the SRCOS might want to consider doing the conference in the winter when the schedule of competing conferences is much lighter.

Workshops:
The SRCOS should encourage our member institutions to offer workshops on a single specialized research topic. SRCOS should serve as a co-sponsor of this event. Support from the host institution and from federal agencies is essential for success. Nearby member institutions should be contacted to be sure appropriate faculty and graduate students attend. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Bob Taylor at University of Georgia and Andre Khuri at University of Florida who can describe their previous experience with conferences of this type.

Bob Taylor and Ron Randles reported on recent workshops held at their institutions.
(c) Publications and Information Systems

The following committee report was given by Dan Naiman:

The committee mainly discussed how to improve the use of the internet to get the word out about SRCOS. We put together a plan to present to the greater committee for approval. This plan is to develop an SRCOS web page which would provide historical information about SRCOS, a mission statement, and links to the departments and institutional members, and perhaps representatives. SRCOS news would be provided as it became available. A link to the SRCOS list-server would be available. The text from the current SRCOS brochure, which is thought to be available in electronic form, would be used to enable easy creation of a web page similar information. Herman Senter volunteered to make a trip to Atlanta to look at the archives and determine if there was any material suitable for scanning and putting on the web page. Dan Naiman offered to create the web page and house it at Johns Hopkins University, and to get help there in maintaining it. There was a lot of discussion in the committee of whether to print a revised brochure. The committee decided unanimously to propose to the greater body that an announcement of the web page be sent out to people who usually receive the brochure with the request for recipients to inform SRCOS whether the web page would satisfy the needs that are currently met by the brochure. Discussion of ending the use of the brochure resulted in a clarification of the issues related to billing the institutions for the printing of the brochure. It was brought to the committee’s attention that there were some difficulties in getting some institutions to pay the bill for the brochure and further discussion of the link between the brochure and financial support from the printing of the brochure ensued. One idea that received some support within the committee, in the event that the brochure should become obsolete, was to bill institutions for membership in SRCOS rather than for the brochure.

The council authorized Dan Naiman to go ahead with the project of setting up a SRCOS web page. It was recommended that a letter be sent to all institutions receiving the brochure to see if a Web page would better suit their needs than the brochure.

Bob Taylor suggested that we ask SREB for the mailing list and that a description of the mailing list be put in the minutes. After the meeting, Dick Kryscio provided the following information about the mailing list:

The primary mailing list of 1800 addresses was purchased from the AMS for $158. The list from AMS would have to be purchased again for future use. An ASA list was also used to identify statistics programs that were not on the AMS list at the time. These were mostly programs in business schools and some medical centers. There are 43 of these, and Dick has the addresses.

Bob Taylor made a motion that we go ahead with the next brochure in the summer of 1997. The motion was seconded by Jim Davenport and approved. It was agreed to call it
the 1997-99 brochure. Some discussion concerned the increased cost of paper since the last brochure which cost $4621. It is hoped that Dick Kryscio will agree to be in charge of preparing the brochure.

(d) Statistical Education
   Mike Symons gave the following report:
   1. Introductory Statistics Requirement
      - Joe Padgett's survey of colleges and universities is available by e-mail to participants and in newsletter for ASA Statistical Education Section.
      - Resources:
         (a) Advanced Placement Exam in Statistics prepared by Educational Testing Service.
            (b) ASA Quantitative Literacy Program, Dick Scheaffer
   2. Suggestions for SRC/SRCOS Business Meeting Session(s)
      - Keep up the tutorials, e.g. Neural-Network
      - "How to" session by Multi-Media experts that use PowerPoint/Minitab type computing live
      - "Coaching" session by a World Wide Web Surfing Pro (e.g. Robin Locke, Chicago '96 ASA presenter)
      - Demonstration session by Quantitative Literary classroom teacher, using 7-12th grade type statistics instruction materials
      - Mentoring experience
      - Post tenure review developments '98 (Survey: Status at each member institution)
   3. Reminder/Encouragement Points
      - Help local chapters of ASA participate in regional science fairs. Offer prizes, help judge.
      - Include in our two minute reports successes and difficulties in teaching statistics courses.

In discussion following the report it was decided that we would have a discussion of post tenure review at the next SRCOS business meeting. Committee members were charged with the responsibility to collect information about post-tenure review at each of our institutions.

(e) Faculty Enhancement
   Tom Gerig gave the following committee report:
   1. Propose that SRCOS sponsor a visiting lecturer program to provide a panel of speakers willing to visit SRCOS institutions to give seminars. SRCOS representatives would screen prospective lecturers at their institutions. Inviting institution might pay local expenses, speaker's institution might pay travel expenses. The latter might be justified if viewed as a recruiting trip for graduate students.
   2. Propose that SRCOS institutions arrange faculty exchanges. Envision one semester visits with each faculty member keeping their salary. Benefits would include
providing junior faculty with exposure to a wider variety of research activities.

3. Propose that SRCOS support departments that are struggling with local problems. Letters to deans or provosts written by SRCOS president in support of departments or visits are a possibility. Case: University of Southwest Louisiana is in danger of being combined with Mathematics and losing their Ph.D. program.

In discussion following the report, Bill Wilson moved that a letter from the president of SRCOS be sent to appropriate individuals at the University of Southwest Louisiana expressing support for retaining a Statistics Department at USL. USL faculty can help draft the letter. The motion was seconded by Bob Taylor and it passed.

Bob Taylor moved that Ron Randles be asked to conduct a survey to collect data from various departments for purposes of providing us with useful information and "ammunition" when we talk to our deans. Al Rainosek seconded the motion which passed. Ron Randles said that he is willing to do this.

A discussion took place about an exchange program within SRCOS member institutions. Questions were asked concerning whether institutions would cooperate. This idea should be pursued.

At the conclusion of the committee reports, Larry Ringer stated that he will add SRCOS representatives not present at this meeting to committees. He stated that committees should be prepared to have a mid-year report, and he will remind chairs about this report.

**Old Business**
Bob Taylor announced that the SRCOS list server is not currently working because of a recent conversion from UNIX to Solaris at Georgia. The problem should be corrected in the next few days.

**New Business**
None

**Resolutions**
Jim Davenport gave the resolutions in Attachment K.