Friday Session

The 1997 Annual Business Meeting of the Southern Regional Council on Statistics (SRCOS) met at the Holiday Inn University Center which is located near the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by President Larry Ringer.

Announcements: Ron Randles previewed the Local Arrangements Schedule (Attachment A) and Larry Ringer discussed the business meeting agenda. (Attachment B).

Committee Assignments: Larry Ringer handed out the committee assignments (Attachment C) and appointed Joe Padgett (chair), Jack Tubbs, and Dick Kryscio to the Resolutions Committee.

Minutes of 1996 Meeting:
Bob Taylor moved that the minutes be approved and Ron Randles seconded. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Attachment D) Treasurer Jack Tubbs presented the Treasurer's Report. The report indicated a balance of $13,033.63. Student awards at the SRC cost $900. It was mentioned that the SRC ended in the red (not counting the student awards) of $3768. Larry Ringer indicated that further recommendations regarding the SRC expenses would be forthcoming during the discussion of the 1997 SRC. Bob Taylor moved approval of the Treasurer's Report and Ron Randles seconded. The report was accepted unanimously.

Introduction of Guests
No visitors were present except for those substituting for official representatives at various member institutions. While it is usual for the ASA Representative for the upcoming SRC to be in attendance, the ASA Representative for the 1998 SRC is Ed Gbur from the University of Arkansas who was not able to attend the meeting.

Two Minute Reports
Each attendee was asked to introduce himself or herself, identify the institution represented, and give a report about the department. Among the topics reported were
several retirements, the fact that two schools (VPI and University of Florida) are requiring that each student have a computer, and the impact of AP Statistics. It was noted that AP Statistics in the high schools is helping recruitment. Some schools are also involved in training AP statistics teachers. A listing of attendees and the SRCOS membership list is given in Attachment E.

Paul Minton Service Award (Attachment F)
Larry asked for nominations for the 1997 Paul Minton Service Award, and urged attendees to give this consideration and make recommendations to the Awards Committee.

SRCOS List Server Update
Bob Taylor handed out subscriber information (Attachment G) for the SRCOS e-mail list server maintained by the Department of Statistics at the University of Georgia. Bob indicated that the list server is designed so that subscribing, unsubscribing, changing addresses, etc. could be performed by users rather than being manually done by a coordinator. However, it is important that each institution's representative have an address on the list server. There would be no problem with subscribers who are not the SRCOS institutions' representatives. It was noted that publicity regarding the 1997 SRCOS Business Meeting was handled entirely via e-mail using the SRCOS network. There was concern that some e-mail addresses may have become obsolete causing some of our members to not receive the information. We are aware of one such case. Bob will work with Wayne Woodward to update our current list of e-mail addresses. (The list of subscribers on the SRCOS list server as of 12/18/97 is given in Appendix H. If your address is not correct, please take corrective action via the instructions in Appendix G.)

Survey of Statistics Programs
Ron Randles distributed a survey (Attachment I) which is to be sent to all Statistics programs in the US. The survey is to be distributed electronically using Joe Padgett's e-mail list of academic representatives (stat-acad-reps@stat.sc.edu)

1997 SRC
Bill Parr served as both the Program Chair and the Local Arrangements Chair for the 1997 SRC held at Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Although Bill was unable to attend the business meeting, he submitted a report concerning the conference (Attachment J). The program for the conference is given in Appendix K. In Bill's report it was noted that expenses were heavy at the conference mainly because of high food expenses for the breaks and for travel expenses for speakers. As a result, the 1997 SRC incurred a deficit of $3768.66. This does not include student awards which are paid by SRCOS and not considered to be an SRC expense. Bill asked that SRCOS pay half of this expense with the University of Tennessee covering the other half. Ron Randles moved that we pay 1/2 of the $3768.66 out of SRCOS funds and Bob Taylor seconded the motion. The motion passed.
In the discussion that followed, the following items were mentioned.

- The Web page advertising for the conference was a good idea and is something we should continue to do.
- The registration fee should have been higher. Tom Gerig suggested that we let the local arrangements chair set the rate.
- Concerning travel expenses for speakers, Bob Taylor indicated that none would be paid for the 1998 SRC.

Committee Meetings
Due to the relatively small number attending the business meeting, it was decided that we would not break up into committees, but would function as a Committee of the Whole for each committee. The committee reports in these minutes are based on these committee-of-the-whole discussions.

Publications and Information Systems Discussion

(1) Thanks to Dan Naiman we now have a SRCOS Web Page. The URL is http://brutus.mts.jhu.edu/~dan/Srcos.html. The council expressed appreciation to Dan for setting this up.

(2) Several boxes of historical material concerning SRCOS and the SREB Committee on Statistics is being given to Herman Senter who will have the material scanned and put on our Web page.

(3) Discussion about the brochure concerned whether we wanted to use a brochure as usual, use a Web Site, or some combination of these types of media to advertise our programs. Larry Ringer asked Dick Kryscio to chair a subcommittee to discuss these issues and bring back a recommendation on Saturday.

Saturday Morning

1998 SRC

Al Rainosek discussed the local arrangements for the 1998 SRC to be held June 7-11, 1998 at the Holiday Inn - The Tropics, in Navarre Beach, Florida. He also submitted a report (Attachment I). Al mentioned that the accommodations are very nice and are much nicer than those he tentatively mentioned to us at the 1996 SRCOS business meeting. Bob Taylor moved that there be a fixed fee of $60 ($70 after May 24) instead of the three choices (based on number of days attended) listed in Al's report. Jack Tubbs seconded the motion which was approved. Al assured us that every effort would be made to keep food costs down this year.

Bob distributed a tentative program and asked for suggestions for speakers and discussants. (The program as of 12/4/97 is given in Appendix M.) Information concerning
the conference and the program will again be available on a Web page this year. The address is http://www.stat.uga.edu/conference/program.html.

Bob Taylor made a motion that up to 6 student scholarships be given at a maximum of $400 per student. His motion also included the provision that these students would not have to pay a registration fee but would have to pay for the Seafood Buffet. The motion was seconded by Jack Tubbs and was approved by the council.

1999 SRC

Locations discussed for the 1999 SRC included Central Florida, Williamsburg, and Baton Rouge. Jack Tubbs suggested a location in Arkansas and offered to serve as local arrangements chair. Al Rainosek moved that we accept Jack’s offer and Bob Taylor seconded the motion which was approved. Kathy Ensor is the ASA program co-chair, and at the writing of these minutes, a SRCOS co-chair has not been appointed.

Statistical Education

(a) Discussion concerning post-tenure review and tenure included the following:
   - Georgia and Texas A&M are among the schools that have already implemented post tenure review
   - Bob Taylor indicated that it would actually be difficult to “flunk” the post-tenure review at Georgia, but it does give administrators a chance to go after an “enemy.”
   - It was reported that tenure itself is being questioned over the Florida State University System. One of the end products of this questioning is the establishment of the Gulf Coast University with no tenure positions.

(b) Discussion followed concerning an apparent preference for industrial positions by some of our top graduates. Bob Taylor suggested that one reason for such a preference is the fear of the tenure process. Herman Senter indicated that there are also good job offers for good MS students and this may keep some students for going on for the Ph.D.

(c) We discussed the need for information about what industrial jobs are paying.

(d) George Mason and other universities are making major changes in their curriculum based on the industrial market.
(e) Clemson has a joint program with a school in Germany in which the thesis is required to be industry related. The program is the result of the fact that there are several German-based industries in their area.

Faculty Enhancement

(a) It was noted that the Statistics Department at the University of Southwestern Louisiana has now combined with the Mathematics Department.

(b) Faculty exchanges were discussed
   - in general they are difficult to work out from a logistics standpoint
   - a Georgia/Georgia State exchange was successful since the faculty members could stay at home
   - the Big 10 has an active exchange program to allow faculty to exchange positions for a year. Some faculty have even exchanged houses as part of this process.
   - industrial/faculty swaps would be ideal
   - information could be put on the SRCOS Web Site if a member institution has a faculty member who would like to “exchange”

Computer Demo

Dennis Wackerly of the Department of Statistics at the University of Florida gave a very interesting demo of ExploreStat. This is software developed at the University of Florida, and it does an excellent job of demonstrating statistical concepts such as sampling distributions, confidence intervals, etc. The program is written for the Macintosh using HyperCard.

Nominations Committee Report

The nominations committee moved acceptance of the following slate of officers for 1998-99:

   President - Ron Randles
   Vice President - Tom Gerig
   Secretary - Kathy Ensor
   Treasurer - Jack Tubbs

This slate was elected by the council.
Publications Committee Report

The Publications Committee reported on their recommendations concerning a replacement for the brochure. They recommended publishing a single glossy sheet containing the following information for each member institution:
- name of institution
- degrees offered
- telephone numbers
- web site address

The recommendation was that the document be dated "1998-99". It is anticipated that the cost will be about $1,000 and SRCOS will pay for it this year instead of asking member institutions for support. The information sheet will be sent to addresses obtained from ASA and AMS lists, and the work will be done in January. Request for information will be sent over SRCOS e-mail. If no response is received, the most recent brochure information will be used.

1998 Business Meeting

Richard Bolstein announced that the 1998 business meeting would be held at George Mason University on October 1-2. The meeting Friday afternoon will be held at a hotel to be announced later while the Saturday meeting will be held at George Mason.

1999 Business Meeting

Larry Ringer invited the council to Texas A&M for the 1999 meeting. His invitation was accepted.

Resolutions Committee

Joe Padgett, chair of the Resolutions Committee, read the following resolutions:

WHEREAS Larry Ringer, as President, Bob Taylor, as Past-President, Wayne Woodward, as Secretary, and Jack Tubbs, as Treasurer, have ably and steadfastly served this august body for the past two years, be it RESOLVED that we offer a round of applause for jobs well done! Thanks also go to Ron Randles as President-Elect, having served the group for two whole years.

WHEREAS Larry Ringer, who needs no introduction and refuses to break before it's time (ignoring Jack Tubb's pleas), used his vast experience in presiding over city council meetings to push through the entire agenda before 3 p.m. on Friday afternoon, be it RESOLVED we express our sincere appreciation for having Saturday free to watch the games.
WHEREAS this SRCOS Business Meeting has been very enjoyable and pleasant, be it RESOLVED that we extend our heartfelt thanks to Ron Randles and the entire Department of Statistics at the University of Florida for the outstanding local arrangements, hospitality, and especially sunny Florida weather!

WHEREAS Bill Parr and Jim Mathis developed a very successful program and made excellent local arrangements for the 1997 SRC in Gatlinburg, be it RESOLVED that we express our sincere gratitude for their hard work. Be it also RESOLVED that the SRCOS Treasurer include with the check to the University of Tennessee a letter to the Department Chair requesting restoration of Bill Parr’s travel privileges.

WHEREAS a number of individuals have distinguished themselves in various ways during this Business Meeting, it is RESOLVED that the following awards are presented in recognition:

To Ron Randles, the “Dedicated Reader Award” for actually reading the minutes before attending the meeting to determine exactly what it was he was supposed to do.

To Bob Taylor, the “Sneaky Thief Award” for admitting that he uses the Annual Business Meetings to “rob ideas from the host institution while on campus”.

To Jesse Arnold, the “Unabomber Award” for planning to retire before computer technology invades his classroom!

To Herman Senter, the “Greenpeace Award” for driving 500 miles, rather than 100, to obtain recycled material for campfire use on the return 500-mile trip.

To Jim Thompson, the “Grumpier Old Man Award” for finally admitting that there was something he really liked---the 1997 SRC!

To Kathy Ensor, the “Rice Broken-Mold Award” for not requesting to have the SRCOS Business Meetings at airport hotels rather than host institution campuses.

To Bill Wilson, the “Slick Willie Award” for his meticulous planning in arranging for the attendance of an assistant at this Business Meeting so he could be absent for the presentation of the slate of nominations.

To Al Rainosek, the “Frugal Gourmet Award” for strenuous negotiations with the Holiday Inn to allow him to provide his own “Mobile’s finest” refreshments for the 1998 SRC on the beach.

To Bob Taylor, the “List Serve-for-Dummies Award” for offering a short course on the topic “A list server is not an alias” (or is it the other way around?), and the
“Hugh Hefner Award” for continuing to discuss the fact that we were mailing out a glossy centerfold rather than the traditional brochure.

To Richard Bolstein, the “Maximal Research Award” for now being able to explain to his dean that the research/teaching/service ratio can be changed from 40/40/20 to 47/53/0.

To Jack Tubbs, the “Buried Coffee Can Award” for successfully hiding the SRCOS Treasury in an obscure Arkansas Credit Union instead of Madison Guaranty (“Whitewater”) Savings and Loan.

Respectfully submitted,

Resolutions Committee
Dick Kryscio
Joe Padgett
Jack Tubbs