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Organizational Meeting of the Regional Committee on Statistics, Atlanta, GA. October 5-6, 1955.

Eleven universities have signed the first memorandum of agreement: University of Alabama, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Kentucky, North Carolina State, University of North Carolina, Oklahoma State University, University of Tennessee, University of Texas, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and the University of Virginia. Ten of the eleven signatories attended this first meeting.

Major topics discussed at the meetings are the plans for the 1956 summer session at North Carolina State, preliminary planning for a 1957 summer session, the publication of brochures, and the participation of statisticians at various meetings, including meetings of other scientific societies.

Boyd Harshbarger was elected Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at Raleigh, NC. June 25-26, 1956.

Representatives from nine of the eleven member universities attended this meeting. Reports were presented on the 1956 summer session at Raleigh. Plans for the 1957 summer session at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the retreat at Mountain Lake were discussed. Oklahoma State was designated as the host for the 1958 session and the University of Florida was invited to consider a 1959 session. The Committee also voted to invite Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies and Georgia Tech. to apply for membership on the Committee.

Meeting at New Orleans, LA. October 29, 1956.

Representatives from nine participating universities and observers from Oak Ridge and Georgia Tech. attended this meeting. Boyd Harshbarger presented the plans for the 1957 summer session. There was one question as to whether Oklahoma State would indeed sponsor the 1958 session, however, it later agreed to do so. Boyd Harshbarger also announced the plans for the retreat at Mountain Lake in August 1957. An application for membership by Oak Ridge was approved. Boyd Harshbarger was elected to continue as Chairman.

Meeting of the Committee in Association with the Mountain Lake Retreat. August, 1957.

This meeting was held in conjunction with the retreat at Mountain Lake. Representatives from ten of the signatory members were present.

The concurrent retreat was discussed and several suggestions were made as to the possible improvements for future retreats or conferences. A report was also presented on the summer session which had just been held at
VPI. A basis was established for common terminology of standard courses to be taught at subsequent summer sessions.

Plans were discussed for the 1958 summer session at Oklahoma State. Preliminary discussions were also held with respect to the possible summer session at the University of Florida in 1959. It was voted to table plans for production of a recruitment brochure and a roster of statisticians in the South.

Meeting at Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. June 23-24, 1958.

With the acceptance of Georgia Tech., there are now thirteen signatories to the Memorandum of Agreement; representatives from nine of these institutions attended this meeting.

Reports were presented on the 1957 sessions at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Mountain Lake. Plans were made for the 1968 session at Oklahoma State and preliminary plans were announced for the 1959 summer session at North Carolina State. It was also voted to plan for another retreat at Mountain Lake, possibly in 1959. The University of Florida suggested a possibility of hosting a summer session in 1960. Boyd Harshbarger after of VPI was elected to continue as Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. July 16-17, 1959.

Representatives from ten universities attended this meeting and a subset attended a sub-committee meeting on summer sessions. Reports on the 1959 session at North Carolina State and Oklahoma State were presented. Plans were made for the 1960 session at the University of Florida. Professor Rigney from North Carolina State was elected Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA. April 28, 1960.

Representatives from nine of the thirteen member institutions attended this meeting; Ralph Bradley attended as an observer from Florida State. Brief reports were made on the final plans for the 1960 summer session at Florida and the 1961 summer session at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. With the expiration of the Memorandum Agreement in 1960, a committee was appointed to draft a new memorandum. Another committee was appointed to develop plans for a retreat for the late summer of 1961. Professor Rigney from North Carolina State was elected to continue as Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at the University of Kentucky, Lexington. March 30, 1961.

With the addition of Johns Hopkins University and Florida State University, the membership of the Committee is now at fifteen; thirteen of these sent representatives to this meeting. The University of Tennessee sent an observer.
Plans were presented for the 1961 summer session at VPI. There was considerable discussion on methods of financing the continuation of the summer sessions. There was also considerable discussion on the appropriate content of a curriculum in statistics and a committee was appointed to make reports to the membership on this topic. Dr. Carl Marshall from Oklahoma State was elected as Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. March 22-23, 1962.

Representatives from thirteen of the fifteen member universities were in attendance together with observers from Duke University, Southern Methodist University and the School of Medicine at Tulane University. Each of the representatives gave a brief description of the statistics program at their universities. Information on basic curricula in statistics of nine member universities had been compiled and it was agreed to compile this information for all member universities. There was discussion on the special problems of statistics in medical colleges and business schools. There was also considerable discussion on computing centers at universities.

Reports were given on the 1961 Regional Summer Session at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and plans were made for the 1962 summer session at Oklahoma State, the 1963 summer session to be held at North Carolina State and the 1964 session at the University of Florida. There was considerable discussion on sources of funding for such sessions as well as special courses to be featured at each of these sessions. There was also considerable discussion with respect to broadening the group of host universities for the summer sessions.

The Committee invited Southern Methodist University to apply for membership of the Committee. The Committee also voted to send invitations to Texas A&M University, Tulane University and Duke University to send observers.

Meeting at University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. March 29-30, 1963

Fifteen of the now sixteen member universities were represented at the meeting together with observers from Auburn University, Duke University, Texas A&M University and Tulane University. The representatives reported on activities at their respective universities with particular emphasis on new programs. Reports were presented on a session on the teaching of "biostatistics" which raised a number of questions regarding this important subject, on an SREB Advisory Committee on computers and computing sciences, on duties and responsibilities of agricultural experiment station statisticians, and on statistics and mathematics in business schools.

Reports were presented on the 1962 sessions at Oklahoma State and plans were presented for the 1963 session at North Carolina State College, 1964 session and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the 1965 session at the University of Florida.

There was considerable discussion on the purposes of the Committee on
Statistics in view of the increasing number of graduate programs in statistics in the southern region.

Ralph Bradley of Florida State University was elected as Chairman for the two-year period 1963-1965.

Meeting at the University of Texas, Austin, TX. March 13-14, 1964.

With the addition of Texas A&M University, the Committee consisted of representatives from seventeen universities; fourteen of these attended this meeting together with observers from Duke University, West Virginia University, the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, Tulane University, and Southern Methodist University. The meeting started with review of developments in the programs of statistics at the respective institutions. There was considerable discussion on the focus of the regional summer session and a move was made to try to adopt uniform admissions procedures for these sessions.

A report was made on a 1963 session at North Carolina State and plans were reviewed for the 1964 session at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the 1965 session at the University of Florida. Oklahoma State was invited to explore the possibilities of a session there in 1966. A committee was appointed on cooperative projects to lay plans for a new Memorandum of Agreement starting in 1965. There was considerable discussion as to some new activities that the Committee on Statistics may wish to undertake.

Interim Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA. April 8-9, 1965.

This meeting was called for the specific purpose of reviewing the work of the Committee and formulating plans for a new Memorandum of Agreement for the five year period 1966-1970. Representatives from sixteen of the seventeen participating universities together with observers from eight other universities attended this meeting.

A large number of issues were discussed and the following important features of the new Memorandum of Agreement were formulated.

The establishment of a regional research conference patterned along the lines of the Gordon Research Conferences. The first of these conferences was planned for the summer of 1966.

The sponsoring of a visitation program to smaller institutions, patterned after and possibly coordinated with the National Science Foundation's Visiting Lecturer Program.

The merging of the Committee on Statistics and the Committee of Summer Sessions, which heretofore had been organizationally separate. The summer sessions were to be broadened to include a larger number of institutions, with the tentative hosts for summer sessions as follows: 1966, University of Georgia; 1967, Emory University; 1968, Texas A&M University; 1969, Virginia Polytechnic Institute; 1970, Southern Methodist University.

Further discussions centered around the role of University Computing
Centers, the improvement of teaching of Business Statistics, and the work of the Agricultural Experiment Stations' Statisticians. It was also decided that henceforth annual meetings of the Regional Committee on Statistics would be in the Fall.

Dr. Donald Gardiner of Oak Ridge was elected as Chairman of the Committee.

**Meeting at Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, Oak Ridge, TN.** October 28-29, 1965.

Representatives from fifteen of seventeen participating universities and observers from seven other universities attended this meeting. The meeting began with a review of new developments in statistics in the Region. A report was presented on the 1965 summer session at Oklahoma State and plans were presented for the 1966 session at the University of Georgia.

The major item of business was the recommendation for the new Memorandum of Agreement to be submitted in the Fall. Also discussed were the publication of a regional brochure in 1966, the plans for the Summer Research Conference in August, 1966 at Brevard College and preliminary plans for the 1968 Summer Research Conference. A number of other items were also discussed.

**Meeting on the Campus of Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX.** October 27-28, 1966.

Representatives from seventeen of the now twenty-one signatories to the new Memorandum of Agreement and observers from seven other universities attended this meeting.

The meeting began with reports on statistics programs of participating universities. A report was presented on the 1966 summer session at the University of Georgia and plans were presented for the 1967 summer session at Emory University. A report was also presented on the successful summer research conference at Brevard, N.C., and it was voted that the Committee continue to sponsor an annual summer research conference.

The Committee voted to publish a brochure describing statistics programs in the south.

There was lengthy discussion on financial aid for summer sessions and the National Science Foundation has encouraged members of the Committee to submit a proposal for continued funding for advanced courses in association with summer session.

**Meeting at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.** October 23-24, 1967.

The meeting was attended by representatives from twenty-three of the twenty-four signatory institutions. The meeting began with a review of statistics programs in the southern region. A number of new programs had
begun and several others were undergoing considerable expansion. Reports were presented on the 1967 summer session at Emory University and the 1967 Summer Research Conference at Brevard. Plans were outlined for the 1968 summer session at Texas A&M University which agreed to hold the session even if no outside funding became available. It was also voted to continue the Summer Research Conferences, although specific plans for 1968 remain indefinite. Clemson University was selected as the host for the 1971 summer session.

A large part of the meeting concerned problems of funding for the Regional summer sessions. The NSF was being contacted for support for three consecutive summer sessions as part of their advanced seminars program. Other methods of funding were also discussed, including the possibility of exchanging professors among the signatory universities.

It was voted to defer publication of a new Regional Summer Session brochure but to continue the brochure on traveling lecturers. There was also a report on the teaching of quantitative methods in business schools. Paul Minton of Southern Methodist University was elected at Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at Duke University, Durham, N.C. November 7-8, 1968.

Representatives from twenty-four of twenty-six member universities plus observers from six other attended this meeting.

The meeting began with reports of new programs in the region. The SREB representative noted that the Board itself was questioning whether the Committee on Statistics should be continued. The sense of the Committee was that cooperative work in the southern region was still needed and that the Committee should continue its work.

A report was submitted on the 1968 Summer Research Conference at Montreat and there was considerable discussion as to the location of the 1969 conference. No formal action was taken.

A report was presented on the 1968 summer session at Texas A&M University which was undertaken without any outside funding. Preliminary plans were presented for the 1969 summer session at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the 1970 summer session at Southern Methodist University. It was decided that, since the current Memorandum of Agreement would end in 1970 and that since the need for regional summer sessions seemed to be waning, no formal commitments for regional summer sessions would be undertaken at this time.

It was voted to publish a 1969 brochure on Statistics Program in the South. A number of other important subjects were discussed, all of which tended to reinforce the Committee's decision that cooperative work in Statistics should continue.

Meeting at Knoxville, TN. November 6-7, 1969.

Representatives from twenty-three of twenty-seven member universities
and seven observers attended this meeting.

The successful completion of the Statistics in the South brochure was announced. It was decided to discontinue the publication of the brochure on the visiting lecturers.

A report was presented on the Summer Research Conference in Reddington Beach, Florida and preliminary plans were made for the 1970 and 1971 Summer Research Conferences. A more formal organizational structure for the Summer Research Conferences was established.

A report was presented on the 1969 summer session at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and preliminary plans were reported for the 1970 summer session at Southern Methodist University. The future of summer sessions was discussed again and no specific plans were made.

A number of special projects were discussed. There was considerable discussion on guidelines for the new Memorandum of Agreement including qualification for membership on the Committee, the general format of the Memorandum, and the role of the summer sessions.

Dr. Walker of Georgia State University was elected Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX. October 29-30, 1970.

Representatives from seventeen of the twenty-five member universities plus two whose applications are pending attended, along with observers from six other universities. On a sad note, the State of Oklahoma had withdrawn from the SREB and would no longer be represented on the Committee.

The SREB representative gave a final report on the 1969 brochure on Programs in Statistics noting that the SREB had contributed considerably to the cost of that document. It was voted to continue publication of the brochure but with the member universities paying most, if not all of the cost.

Reports were presented on the 1970 Region summer session at Southern Methodist University and the 1970 Summer Research Conference at Reddington Beach, Florida.

There was considerable discussion on the new Memorandum of Agreement which was different in form and scope from those of the past. After considerable discussion, particularly related to eligibility of membership, the new Memorandum was approved by the Committee.

Although there had in past meetings been considerable discussion on the advisability of continuing the Regional summer sessions, it was decided to make plans for continuation, with the following universities as host for the following five years; 1971 - Clemson University, 1972 - Rice University, 1973 - Florida State University, 1974 - Texas Tech. University, 1975 - University of Georgia.

It was also voted to continue the Summer Research Conference with the
site in 1971 being in a mountainous area.

A major thrust of a new Memorandum of Agreement was a section on "Future Projects and Problems". One such project consisted of a possible "position paper" on the teaching of statistics.

Meeting at Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL. November 11-12, 1971.

Thirty-three institutions have signed the new Memorandum of Agreement of which twenty-three sent representatives to this meeting; observers from five other universities also attended.

A report was presented on the distribution of the new brochure "Statistics Programs in the South 1971". A report was presented on the 1971 Regional summer session at Clemson University and the 1971 Summer Research Conference at Mountain Lake, Virginia. The University of Florida was added as a tentative host for the 1976 summer session and plans were laid for the 1972 Summer Research Conference at Mountain Lake with a program addressed to four special themes.

There was considerable discussion on various problem areas in statistics. It was voted to continue the publication of the brochure, to activate a sub-committee on biometry, and to develop a brochure on guidelines for the teaching of statistics.

Dr. Hickman of South Carolina was elected Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA. October 19-20, 1972.

Representatives from twenty-four of the thirty-four member institutions attended this meeting; there is no record of observers at this meeting.

Reports were presented on the 1972 Summer Research Conference at Mountain Lake and the 1972 Regional summer session at Rice University. In both of these there was a dearth of attendees from member institutions. Plans were laid for the 1973 Regional summer session at Florida State University and the 1973 Summer Research Conference to be again held in Mountain Lake. A more formal structure for guiding the Summer Research Conference was adopted.

It was reported that the next regional brochure was nearing completion. Reports were also presented by the sub-committees on Biometry, on Econometrics and Management Science, Special Projects, and on Interdisciplinary Programs. No major developments were, however, presented.

Meeting at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC. October 18-19, 1973.

Representatives from twenty-five of the thirty-three member universities, plus observers, attended this meeting.
Reports were presented on the 1973 summer session at Florida State University and the 1973 Summer Research Conference at Mountain Lake. There was considerable discussion on problems encountered at both of these and a considerable number of suggestions were made to aid in the planning of the 1974 Research Conference to be held in a location near the coast. Due to difficulties involved in the Regional summer sessions it was voted that a formal rotation of summer sessions be discontinued, instead the Committee agreed to "give its blessings to anyone who wants to put on a summer session".

There was again considerable discussion on the qualifications for membership on the Committee as well as the inclusiveness of institutions to be listed in the regional brochure. No formal changes in either was voted.

Reports were also provided by the Committee on interdisciplinary programs, biometry, management science, and special projects. No major developments were reported.

Dr. David Mason of North Carolina State University was elected Chairman of the Committee.

Meeting at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. October 10-11, 1974.

Representatives from twenty-seven of the thirty-five member universities attended this meeting plus some observers.

Reports were presented on the 1974 summer session at Texas Tech. University and the Summer Research Conference at Rollins College at Winter Park, Florida. Again the summer session was poorly attended by students from member universities and the policy of simple endorsing "volunteer" summer sessions was reaffirmed. Preliminary plans were discussed for the 1975 Summer Research Conference. A long term plan for the Summer Research Conference was adopted which included alternating dates in June and July and alternating sites in the mountains and the sea coast.

A large portion of this meeting was given over to the discussion of a revised Memorandum of Agreement. No major changes in the Memorandum of Agreement were recommended, however, the discussion brought out a number of important issues.

The Committee on Guidelines in Teaching Statistics and Statistics Programs distributed an outline of a brochure authored by Paul Minton. Other sub-committees did not have much to report.

Vanderbilt University announced it may volunteer for a summer session in 1975.

Meeting at the Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC. October 9-10, 1975.

Representatives from twenty-five of the thirty-three member universities
attended this meeting. Johns Hopkins University, a member since 1961 had dropped out.

Reports were made on the 1975 Summer Research Conference at Gulf Hills and plans were presented for the 1976 Summer Research Conference to be held at Winter Park, Florida. There was considerable discussion on the budget of the Research Conference with particular references to methods of payments to some of the speakers.

A report was presented on the 1975 summer session at Vanderbilt University which was held in conjunction with the 17th summer session of Statistics in the Health Sciences.

A report was presented on the guidelines of teaching in statistics and statistic programs and it was moved to attempt an approval of a revised version of this document by mail ballot during the coming year. A report was presented regarding the possibility of providing for a program review by the Committee on Statistics, however, this was not approved.

The Committee voted to accept the new Memorandum of Agreement with very minor changes. Other items discussed by the Committee included the Information Services sub-committee (publication of the brochure) a compilation of the History of Statistics in the South, the Biometry Committee, the Econometrics and Management Science Committee. No major developments were reported by any of these committees.

A standing ovation was given to Boyd Harshbarger, a charter member and staunch supporter of the Committee, who is retiring in February, 1976.