

Minutes of Accreditation Committes at the 2007 SSC Annual Meeting St. Johns.

This document contains the

- **Minutes of the Accreditation Appeals Committee Meeting**
- **Minutes of the Accreditation Annual General Meeting**
- **Minutes of the Accreditation Committee Meeting**

At the end of the document is a summary of items for consideration about the P.Stat./A.Stat. program.

Minutes of the **Accreditation Appeals Committee** held on Monday 11 June 2007 at 12:15-13:15 in the Dining Room of R. Gushue Hall as part of the SSC Annual Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland.

List of attendees:
Carl Schwarz

As there were no appeals filed, there was no business to transact.

Minutes of the **Accreditation Annual General Meeting** held on Monday 11 June 2007 at 13:30-15:00 in the Junior Common Room of R. Gushue Hall as part of the SSC Annual Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland.

List of attendees:
Angers, Jean-Francois
Farrell, Patrick
Mandal, Saumen
McRae, Ken
Pond, Gregory
Rosychuk, Rhonda
Schwarz, Carl

1. Approval of agenda
2. Report from Chair of Accreditation Committee:
 - New P.Stat. and A.Stat. approved by the SSC Board.
 - JAC has kindly agreed to look after mentoring for the A.Stat. These were matched very quickly.
 - JAC is serving on the ASA Committee to look at individual accreditation.
3. Services to Members
 - There was a general discussion about improving service to members. A summary of this is attached at the end of this document.
4. Adjournment

Minutes of the **Accreditation Committee** held on Tuesday 12 June 2007 at 7:00-8:00 in the Dining Room of R. Gushue Hall as part of the SSC Annual Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland.

List of attendees:

Angers, Jean-Francois

Chen, Gemai

Lesperance, Mary

McRae, Ken

Rubin-Bleuer, Susana

Schwarz, Carl

1. Approval of agenda

2. Report from Chair of Accreditation Committee:

- New P.Stat. and A.Stat. approved by the SSC Board.
- JAC has kindly agreed to look after mentoring for the A.Stat. These were matched very quickly.
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4. Adjournment

Services to Accredited Members

The start-up phase of Accreditation is now essentially complete with over 100 P.Stat. and over 10 A.Stat. designations awarded. It is now time to consider how to best serve the needs of our Accredited Members. Ideas for services to members were discussed at meetings during the SSC Annual Meeting in St. John's. The following is a list of potential ideas.

Schwarz will investigate some of these over the summer.

1. Professional Development

- **Centralized vs Regionalized vs. Isolated Individuals.** There is a tension between offering professional development at the annual meeting and at a more regional basis. Professional development at the annual meeting is relative “easy” in the sense that there is a large base of members coming together to a single location so even a small “uptake” by members will ensure that sufficient numbers are enrolled in the development.

However, there are a many members who cannot make it to the Annual Meeting and so more regional professional development is needed. The key issues are “who” (presumably sponsored by the Regional Associations), and “what” (see below for some ideas).

Lastly, there are many individuals who are somewhat isolated. In many cases, these members are not even on the standard mailing lists so are unaware of regional and institutional seminars being offered. Perhaps some centralized email-group could be set up (such as google groups) for members to enroll whose address can be added to standard mailing lists. These individuals may also profit greatly from on-line possibilities (see below).

- **Web-inars?** Many institutions (e.g. universities) offer seminars on a regular basis. How feasible is it to “web” cast these seminars. This web-casting would only be one-way and so would not need sophisticated technology – something as simple as a web-cam may be suitable.

Is it possible to do this at the SSC Annual Meetings as well? For example, a webinar for certain addresses? Should a fee be charged?

Is it possible to do this for the Workshops at the SSC Annual Meeting? This may require more sophisticated set-up so that interaction is possible. A fee should be charged with a discount for P.Stat./A.Stat. members.

How can members know about such seminars? A central site, e.g. a google group, where institution simply add an email to their distribution list may be a suitable option.

- **Offline Workshops.** Is it possible to tape our workshops at the SSC meetings for sale afterwards?
- **Other on-line courses.** There are many other on-line courses, e.g. (<http://www.statistics.com/> - no endorsement made by the SSC here). The quality of these courses is unknown. Perhaps P.Stat./A.Stat. members could receive a discount for registering at these courses in exchange for access to our email list for advertising these courses?
- **Other professional-development opportunities.**
The ASA offers continuing education courses (e.g. LearnStat). (<http://www.amstat.org/education/index.cfm?fuseaction=learnstat>). These appear to be offered at regional centers. Can P.Stat./A.Stat. obtain discounts?
- **Print material.** Do individuals have access to print material? Or is the problem that individual don't even know what is recently being published? Are facilities such as Uncover/Reveal available to non-academic users?
- **What is needed?** What do our P.Stat./A.Stat. want? We need to conduct a poll of our members.

2. Increasing Visibility of P.Stat./A.Stat. designation.

- **Public Service.** Are public service agencies (Canada and provinces) aware of the P.Stat./A.Stat. program in their recruitment drives? Can the SSC write these institutions an "annual" letter.

Some agencies are:

- Public Service of Canada and all provinces and territories
- Independent agencies such as Stat Canada, Health Canada, CCRA, Nuclear Commission etc.

- **Canadian Granting Councils.** Many of the subject matter committees (particularly in health research) require consideration of power/sample size for study design and analysis plans. Can their guidelines be improved to recommend that such plans be reviewed by people at the P.Stat. level?
- **Canadian Subject Journals?** Many subject matter journals rely heavily on the use of statistics. Are they aware of the P.Stat./A.Stat. designation? Can the SSC suggest that articles with a heavily statistical flavour have some author affiliations that are P.Stat. caliber?
- **Statistics Graduates.** Are graduates of our own programmes aware of P.Stat./A.Stat. How can recent graduates be encouraged to consider the designation?

- **Annual Meeting.** If a presenting member is a P.Stat./A.Stat. can this be indicated in the program (e.g. a special symbol beside their name?).

Can a “ad” be placed in the program advertising the designation.

Should the committee sponsor an session at the Annual Meeting? A mixer?

- **CJS.** If an author is a P.Stat./A.Stat. can this be indicated in the article (e.g. a special symbol beside their name?).

- **Liaison.** Can more use of Liaison be made to increase visibility of P.Stat./A.Stat.?

3. Creating Community.

- **Website improvement.** Use something like google-groups to allow members to post activities, announcements etc.

Improve the list of accredited members to allow individual photos, searches by expertise, etc. This should be “user” modifiable (after initial seeding) (such as done on Facebook or MySpace) to reduce burden on the main office.

- **Social Events.** Can events be sponsored at the SSC annual meetings such a pub-night, mixer, post-BBQ pub-night, or luncheon?

- **Newsletter.** More regular communication among P.Stat./A.Stat. is needed. Rather than a formal newsletter, make more use of Liaison or the web tools such a google groups.

4. Other member benefits.

- **Discounts at Annual Meeting?** Should P.Stat./A.Stat. receive additional discounts at the Annual Meetings?