CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

WINTER 1997 MEETING

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 6-7, 1997

MINUTES

February 6

Present: Margaret Blue (Dominguez Hills), Colin Campbell (SSDBA), Nan Chico (Hayward), Jim Gerber (San Diego), Larry Giventer (Stanislaus), Laura Hecht (Bakersfield), John Korey (Pomona), Ted Lascher (Sacramento), Ed Nelson (Fresno), Allen Risley (San Marcos), David Tabb (San Francisco), Rich Taketa (San Jose), Gene Turner (Northridge)

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Nan Chico, at about 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made. Ted Lascher is the new representative from Sacramento. Laura Hecht is substituting for Jim Ross as the Bakersfield representative. Dean Paul Strand, former long-time Council member and past Council Chair, welcomed the Council to the San Diego campus.

1. Minutes. M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Spring 1996 meeting. M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Fall 1996 meeting.

2. Social Science Data Base Archive (SSDBA). Campbell presented the SSDBA report, and

distributed the "SSDBA Annual Report for Calendar Year 1996."

The following campuses have paid $300 each to SPSS for technical support: Chico, Fresno, Fullerton, Hayward, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Marcos, and San Luis Obispo. San Jose is in the process of doing so. Other campuses can FTP the software from the SSDBA, but will not be able to get technical support. The Council requested that Stuart Wugalter copy ORs when announcing to campuses that SPSS version 7.5 is available for distribution (probably next week). Campbell noted that this version will be on a CD-ROM and reminded us that it will be sent to the campus user liaisons, not the ORs.

According to an e-mail message from Frank Young, the Commission on Learning resources and Instructional Technology (CLRIT) is considering discontinuing subsidies for social science databases. These subsidies currently pay for all of the subscription to The Field Institute, most of the subscription to the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), and part of the subscription to the Roper Center.

Don Carder has retired as Director of the Cal State, Los Angeles Academic Technology

Support Center (which houses the SSDBA). His duties have been assigned to Colin Campbell.

Replacement of the jukebox will depend on payments from the seven campuses that have not yet paid their SSDBA subscriptions, and on continuation of subsidies from the Chancellor's Office for the data bases.

Counting these seven campuses, all CSU campuses except for Stanislaus, Monterey Bay, and the Maritime Academy are currently SSDBA members.

Campbell reported that, during the past year, the focus of the SSDBA has been on streamlining and documenting operations and procedures.

Extensive discussion took place regarding ways to make archived data more easily available to faculty. One idea would be for faculty to prepare, and for the Council to coordinate and disseminate, instructional subsets similar to those prepared for the American Political Science Association in the 1970s by Betty Nesvold. Another idea would be for the SSDBA to take on the task of preparing customized subsets on request of faculty. Campbell suggested that the latter alternative would be prohibitively expensive. A partial long-term solution will be achieved through acquisition of a Web-based interface to the archive. This will likely take about two years to purchase, install, and implement.

1. SSRIC Home Page. Chico will check with Ross to determine who is responsible for maintaining our Web home page.
2. Student Research Conference (May 1, San Jose State). Taketa distributed posters for the Conference, and a draft of a flyer describing procedures for submitting papers. He took suggestions for revisions and will distribute a final version. The Council discussed several possibilities for a keynote speaker, and asked Taketa to make the determination.
3. ICPSR Report. Nelson presented the ICPSR report. The Consortium is the closest thing there is to a national archive for the social sciences. It has undergone enormous change in recent years. It used to be funded primarily from membership dues, but these now account for only about 40% of its income, the remainder coming from grants and contracts. The Consortium is currently looking at what its role should be in archiving data from Web sites so that valuable information will not be lost as the contents of these sites continuously undergo change.

There is a new ICPSR Council subcommittee on undergraduate instruction, chaired by Nelson. The subcommittee is trying to push the Consortium to become a repository for customized instructional subsets and other instructional modules.

Attacks that have been made against the concept of federated memberships seem to have been headed off, at least for the time being.

The OR meeting will be October 23-26 at Ann Arbor. Nelson will attend as a member of the ICPSR Council. The SSRIC Chair for 1997-98 (see below) will attend. The priority list for the remaining four SSRIC slots is as follows:

1. Chico
2. SLO
3. San Jose
4. Long Beach
5. San Bernardino
6. Pomona
7. Fullerton
8. Bakersfield
9. San Marcos
10. Sacramento
11. Humboldt
12. Fresno
13. San Diego
14. Northridge
15. San Francisco
16. Stanislaus
17. Hayward
18. Los Angeles
19. Dominguez Hills
20. Sonoma

The Consortium has recently been distributing some data bases on CD-ROM. In order to facilitate access, ORs might consider asking their libraries to house them. Nelson and Korey were asked to e-mail research oriented faculty to inform them of the availability of the CD-ROMs.

6. Academic Opportunity Fund (AOF). As of this date, it isn't clear when or whether there will be an AOF RFP this year. If there is, the Council will request funds to create instructional subsets and modules and to put these up on the Web. A task force to prepare this proposal will include Nelson, Chico, Gerber, Korey, and Turner. Nelson will e-mail the Council to see if any representatives not in attendance would like to be added.

7 SPSS for Windows Version 6 Basic Tutorial (Nelson, Nelson, Shaffer, Chico, Korey, and Ross). This work is now available from McGraw-Hill's College Custom Series. Council members will each be sent a complimentary copy. Other faculty may obtain a

complimentary copy by calling 800-338-3987 and asking for ISBN 0-07-047107-X. Nelson will e-mail an announcement about the book to research oriented faculty. Current plans are to make the work available on the Web.

1. Washington Center. Blue distributed handouts for the Washington Center describing its internships and services. Please encourage students to apply.
2. User's Guide. Lascher asked for input for a handout on data resources in the social sciences, in question and answer format, that he is thinking about developing for faculty, especially those new to the CSU.
3. Field Institute Committee Report. Nelson presented the committee's report. Three proposals were received for the faculty fellowship or the question credits. At the committee's recommendation, M/S/P to combine the fellowship and question credit awards and share them between John Allswang (Los Angeles) and Ted Lascher (Sacramento), since each has proposed a similar project dealing with ballot propositions. The Council suggests that they work together in negotiating with The Field Institute regarding question wording. Regarding the third proposal, the committee will provide the applicant with feedback and suggest resubmission next year.

No applications have been received for The Field Institute Penny Crane Student Internship. If you know of any qualified students who might be interested, have them contact Nelson.

1. Mission and Goals of the Council. Extended discussion ensued regarding this topic, especially as to the currently threatened data bases and our relationship with the SSDBA. A consensus emerged that it is critical 1) to maintain the data bases and 2) to make the data more easily accessible to a broader user base.

Toward the first of these goals, Chico (as SSRIC Council Chair) and Nelson (as ICPSR Council member) were asked to talk to Floyd LeCureux, Chair of the AIRC and a member of CLRIT, and to request the opportunity to make a presentation before CLRIT

explaining the importance of maintaining data base subscriptions.

Toward the second goal, the task force appointed earlier in the meeting (see #6 above) was given an expanded charge to investigate sources of funding to improve our ability to serve faculty through such things as assisting SSDBA to move more quickly toward an upgraded GUI interface, developing instructional subsets and other instructional materials, and developing Web-based courseware.

1. Roper Center. Korey reported for a committee appointed at the last meeting (Emenhiser, Korey, and Tabb) to recommend priorities for acquisition of Roper Center data. The committee recommends that we place standing orders for 1) the Voter News Service exit polls (including those from past elections), 2) the LA Times Polls, and 3) other media polls. Some money should be reserved for ad hoc data requests. The committee was asked to continue its work to refine and act on these recommendations.
2. Silver Anniversary. At dinner during the Spring meeting the Council, the CSU's first and finest discipline council, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding. Past and present Council members and Chancellor's Office liaison staff will be invited to attend. Chico will e-mail the Council for names and address of past campus representatives. Chancellor's Office liaison staff who should be invited include, but are not limited to: Frank Young, Penny Crane, Chuck Wilmot, Jim Hightower, Terry Dunn, Jonah Mills, Jeff Johnson, Alicia Wilmot, Mark Hayes, and Ralph Frisbee.
3. Election of Chair for AY 1997-98. Eugene Turner was chosen by acclamation.

The Council adjourned at about 4:15 p.m.

February 7

Nan Chico presented a workshop from 9 a.m. until 12 noon on classroom uses of the World Wide Web.

Recorded by: John L. Korey   
Reviewed by: Nan P. Chico