Minutes

Social Science Research and Instructional Council

Fall Meeting, October 10-11, 1985, CSU Stanislaus, Turlock, CA.

Present: Larry Giventer (Chair, Stanislaus), Dan Graves (Hayward), Jim Ross(Bakersfield), Rich DeLeon (SF), Chuck Wilmot (Chancellor's Office), Jeff Johnson (CO), Don Dixon (Sonoma), John Korey (Pomona), Gene Turner (Northridge), Ted Anagnoson (LA), Carole Barnes (Sacramento), Bruce Haston (Humboldt), Dick Shaffer (SLO), Ed Nelson (Fresno), Jon Ebeling (Chico), Carlene Leonard (San Jose), Jonah Mills (DIS), Elliot Barkan (San Bernardino).

Giventer called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m., October 10, 1985.

1. SSRIC Annual Report. Dixon announced that the annual report from 1984-5 would show the functions and purpose of the SSRIC as well as usage of datasets. The discussion turned to the topic of in-state travel funding to SSRIC meetings, with several campuses reporting problems in obtaining funding, especially from Dean's offices. Wilmot stated that the Chancellor's office probably had no place for funding councils like the SSRIC, and that this had the virtue of leaving control of the council with the SSRIC itself, and not the Chancellor's office.

Members should send annual reports of the council to the President and appropriate Vice Presidents of individual campuses also.

Decision: Wilmot and Giventer will draft appropriate language for the next meeting concerning the expectationthat campuses fund travel to SSRIC meetings.The annual report should state only that travel funding is now done by Vice Presidents and Deans on the various campuses.

1. DIS Report -- Jeff Johnson announced that a PRIME super mini-computer will be installed at DIS this week, and that campus computer centers will be installing their PR1MEs during this academic year (at LA: late fall or early winter quarter). The question arose of support for converting existing software to this new system -- with several members stating that CSU had not supported conversions in the past and should do so.

SAS and SAS-GRAPH have been ordered for the various campus PR1MEs (Secretary's note: SAS GRAPH allows the user

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to produce first quality color plots, charts, maps [including world maps and maps of Canadian provinces, US states, US counties, etc.] with appropriate hardware. Available charts include bar charts, pies, stars and block charts, graphs, plots, contour plots, 3 dimensional plots,and colored slides. The manual mentions that any graphics plotter with a Calcomp-compatible subroutine library can produce plots. Graphics devices (to view plots) include several by Tektronix, HP, ADI, Ramtek, IBM, Zeta, Chromatics and Servogor.)

Anagnoson asked about SYSREG, used to do 2 stage and 3

stage least squares econometric work. DIS will find out whether this procedure is available.

Why not SPSS-X? Several members were quite sure that SPSS-X was among the requirements for the new super-minis. A considerable discussion followed.

Johnson announced that the campuses will now own the 11-70.s and will have the option of retaining them for the future.

Price-Waterhouse report -- dealing with administrative computing -- has been accepted by the system. A long discussion followed of possible actions by the committee. After lunch, a discussion of the Gillespie Folkner consultation, dealing with the future of the State University Data Center, followed. There was general consensus that the SUDC was essential for social science computing, and the chair appointed a committee, consisting of Giventer, Korey, and Dixon with Ebeling as consultant, to recommend appropriate language for the committee concerning the future of SUDC.

Johnson also announced that BITNET was available; this system can be used to communicate with colleagues at other campuses across the nation. Three studies have been ordered from the Roper data archive including the 1980 church membership study and two Virginia Slims polls from 1974 and 1979. A new program to interactively access the SUDCDB was   
available (Find,CSUDB), and Johnson demonstrated the operation of this system on Friday morning. The file "ICPRDOC" on account 7ETPDBA on the central CYBER is a direct access file consisting of an online version of the ICPSR Guide to Resources (ICP8298F). The 1984 American National Election Study is available, but not the 1985 NORC General Social Survey (as yet). The Census Summary Tape Files STF3 now include, in addition to California, New York and Massachusetts. Soon to come are the CBS-New York Times election studies of 1976 and 1980 and the 1980 integrated file (American National Election Study).

SPSS-X is now available on the Central Cyber.

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Secretary's note concerning SPSS-X: The Secretary's files include a document entitled "SPSS-X, Getting Started With SPSS-X," including chapters on defining and listing variables, expanding the data definition, making the transition to SPSS-X, working with a system file in SPSS-X, defining and grouped file, merging non-parallel files, matching files with table lookup, defining an hierarchical file, and getting information from the system. 42 pp. I am willing to share this with anyone who is interested or make it available to DIS or someone else for duplication purposes. Possibly more useful might be the SPSS-X   
Introductory Statistics Guide, by Maria J. Norusis (McGraw-Hill, 1983), found in the CSULA library, which includes Chapter 13: "SPSSX Command Reference," pp. 175-246. SPSS also has available, through Mc-Graw-Hill, SPSS-X BASICS, SPSSX USER'S GUIDE, SPSSX REFERENCE HANDBOOK, SPSS ADVANCED STATISTICS GUIDE, SPSSX GRAPHICS.

3. Ebeling has requested that DIS investigate the acquisition of a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing system from Merrill Shanks of the UC Berkeley Survey Research Center. The committee decided to recommend that DIS study the acquisition of a CATI system and report on the costs and alternatives at the next meeting.

4. Ebeling announced that he had attended a 1 week workshop on the Survey of Income and Program Participation at the University of Michigan last summer. The study includes 15,000 respondents, surveyed over eight time periods on their participation in federal programs. The SSRIC recommended that DIS explore the acquisition of these data, reporting back to the group at the winter, 1986 meeting.

5. Future meetings. February 13-14, 1986 at CSU San Bernardino; May 1-2, 1986 at San Diego State University.

6. Field Institute Committee Report -- Barkan announced that Field is particularly interested in the following topics for upcoming\_surveys: confidence in institutions, taxes, government spending, public health and AIDS, transportation, energy, crime, water issues.

The Field Student Internships will now pay $5 per hour, with the possibility of arranging housing.

The question arose of whether questions for the polls should focus more on attitudes or experience. Consensus: both are acceptable, but the institute tends to shyaway from extremely controversial or potentially embarrassing topics, as do other survey organizations.

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The 1985-86 Field Institute liaison subcommittee of the SSRIC will continue to be Barkan (chair), Palmer (?), and Nelson.

7. ICPSR Meeting, Ann Arbor, November 15-17„\_ 1985.

WHO WILL GO? The SSRIC decided to send 5 representatives   
at full subsidy. Priority order:

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

Humboldt and Los Angeles indicated that they are not interested in attending this year. They retain their rankings for two years from now.

8. Summer Workshop. Wilmot relayed some criticisms of the proposal from Frank Carelli of DIS, formerly with the NSF. In general, these focused on the notions of transportable courseware and the possibility of running a workshop on how to run a workshop on your campus. After some discussion of these, the SSRIC decided to keep seeking money, perhaps amending the proposal to incorporate a microcomputer orientation. Shaffer would appreciate the suggestions of SSRIC members. (The secretary sent the suggestion that the proposal focus more on the establishment of a PROGRAM to increase the use of computers in social science classes, and less on the holding of a 2 week

workshop in SLO. Also, the ideas and suggestions of workshop attendees could be edited and published as a short booklet for the social science departments in the system, thus increasing dissemination of good ideas.)

9. ICPSR Summer Institute Coordinator Anagnoson volunteered.

10. Spring Student Research Conference -- Advice for the conference ranged from using lottery tickets for prizes

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and scheduling Roger Hedgecock as speaker to more relevant factors such as a clear set of deadlines on the papers, sending out notices this fall and winter, and hanging posters early.

11. Miscellaneous Information.

SPSS-X -- to run this software, CM must be set at the maximum available.

SPSSCAI is not oriented toward SPSS-X. Should it be converted? Not clear as yet.

The SSRIC account on the central Cyber\_ will be set for maximum memory so that large jobs may be executed on it. SSRIC members should not store files on it. SSRIC,password: DONDIX. Use this command to make your files available from the SSRIC account: CHANGE,filename/CT=S,M=R.

To find out who has accessed your files, use the expanded CATLIST command:CATLIST,LO=F,filename or CATLIST,LO=FP,filename.

Microfiche codebooks will continue to be distributed as available, to be used as appropriate by each campus.

Mistakes in the minutes should be sent to the secretary, Department of Political Science, CSULA, Los Angeles, CA 90032.

Ted Anagnoson   
Scribe

For inexpensive IBM software ($6 per disk, with a wide variety of programs available), write PC Software Interest Group, 1030 E Duane, Suite 3, Sunnyvale, CA 94084. Includes word processors, database programs, spreadsheets, financial programs, communications, math and statistics, languages, utilities, games.