SSRIC Minutes: Spring Meeting and Student Research Conference April 27-28, 1978

Wayne Martin
May 1, 1979

Members present for Business Meeting

Harry Hall (Los Angeles)

Bruce Haston (Humboldt)

Dan Graves (Hayward)

Don Dixon (Sonoma)

Richard Hofstetter (San Diego)

Jon Ebeling (Chico)

Wayne Martin (Dominguez Hills)

Ed Nelson (Fresno)

John Korey (Pomona)

Roger Harrell (Northridge)

Phil Gianos (Fullerton)

Jay Stevens (Long teach)

Jim Ross (Bakersfield)

Chuck Wilmot (Chancellor's Office)

Penny Crane (Division of Information

Systems)

Campuses not represented.at Business Meeting:

Sacramento San Jose

San Berardino San Luis Obispo.

San Francisco Stanislaus

1. Elections:

Elections were held for the 1970-1 Chairperson position, and John Korey was elected.

1. ICPSR Summer Program: Three faculty members and six students have indicated an interest in attending the ICPSR Summer Program, One faculty member has declined funding assistance. Dispersion of funds will be (approximately1 34% of the total for each faculty member ($725 – if we get $2200) and 6.8% of the total for each student ($150 - $2200).
2. Chairperson Travel Funding and Release Time: Chuck Wilmot: noted thz.t he would investigate the possibility of Central assistance for the Chairperson but he explained that sq.ch aid is unlikely.

Field Membership: Bruce Haston wrote a letter (which we have received) t0 Mervin Field noting SSRIC questions on several different issues. Field has responded in good faith. Field explained that it is his opinion that the Field survey data should be formatted as closely as possible to our instructional needs.

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Nevertheless several OR's commented on their concerns about eur associa­tion with Field. Data for Richard Hofstetter's questions, for example, were not included in the tape given to us by Field. A suggestion was made that the SSRIC explore the possibility of asking Field to suhcontract to San Diego the creation of all *original SPSS Save-.Fifes in a format compat­ible* with both CSUC and Field needs. The Council urged Holstetter and Paul Stand to prepare a technical report on Field/CSUC-5PSS formatting. The question of a CSUC-Field internship program was raised again. Larry Giventer—who was unable to attend the meeting--did send his promisad outline "Guidelines for Public Opinion Research internships" (April 1979). We did not discuss this, but everyone—especially those individuals meeting with Field this month—should review this document.

On May 26-27 a meeting will be held in Field's San Francisco Office with members of the SSRIC Questionnaire Committee to discuss CSUC/Field goals, achievements, and problems. Strand and Hefstetter among others will attend the meeting.

Chuck Wilmot noted his opinion that most of our problems with the Field organization. are adjustment problems" that can be worked out to our satisfaction.

VI. Proposed SSRIC/CSUC Faculty Summer Training Project ("Instructional Development Workshop”): A proposal will be submitted this month from

Sonoma. (Don Dixon) to the Chancellor's Office requesting funds for a June 1979 two-week (with a mid-year follow up) faculty instructional Development Workshop,

The goal is to provide approximately 25 CSUC faculty members—without previous quantitative analysis experience—beginning level and intensive instruction in Social Science date handling and analysis for teaching. Specific details of the program are to be worked out if the proposal is funded.

Each Council member is committed to act as a resource and contact person on his/her campus before, during, and after the completion of the training session. The council is committed to assist in designing and operating ­the workshop sessions,

Letters of support for the grant proposal are encouraged from the appropriate campus Deans, Vice Presidents, and Presidents, Letters should be addressed

to David N. Provost, State University Dean, NewProgram Development and

Evaluation, •

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VII. Division of Information Systems:
A. ICPSR Codebooks:

Class I - If you have missing Class I Codebooks, Penny Crane will order new ones for you, All requests must be in to Penny by May 15. Penny will try to provide a master list before then.

All codebooks are going on microfiche. They will be coded according to "Green Book" numerical notations. OR's, Computer. Centers, and perhaps the Libraries will receive approximately 500 fiche. Cost for duplicates – $0.10 each or $50 per set of 500.

B. Local Cyber Output: A program is being written to permit Cyber output at remote stations on each campus. This may be in operation by Summer, 1978,

C Cyber Centrally Maintained Data. Bases: Write Bruce Haston by May 15 and tell him which data sets You want maintained by DIS on the Cyber. He will forward requests to DIS.

D A new DIS Committee now "examines and judges" all new CSUC software requests. Ail new software—whatever it costs—requires a feasibility study. The new Budget Act requires, official "Software Request Forms." These are available from DIS.

E. CYBER/SPSS Manual, by On-Line Request:

1. SPSS Version 7 Manual
-D0C(PN=SPSSON7)
2. SPSS Version 7 implementation Bulletin
* D0C(FN=SPSS7IB)

3. SPSS Version 7 Update Manual

* DOC (FN=SPSS7UM)
1. Some work is being done on Software (DIS) and Data (Sonoma) Keyword and History indexes—RIQWS. More on this in the future.
2. Cyber upgrade: 50 new CSOC campus ports will be in place between April-June l978. A Feasibility study is in the works to upgrade the Cyber.
3. Batch Replacement: The feasibility study for the batch replacement was discussed with considerable uncertainty. Most OR's were not yet familiar with the report and discussed the replacement question with deep-felt concern reflecting past experience with system hardware, software, decision, and personnel failures. Penny explained that three alternatives have been explored and one of these is viewed as the recommended solution.

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1. Alternative Versions:

Total Centralization - not considered (by DIS) to be cost efective for CSUC%

Distributive System with separate machine hardware for Administration and Instruction - not recommended.

Distributive System similar to existing one, but wits major improvnment in hardware, Most jobs would be done on local

machines with especially big or time consuming jobs handled

centrally. This system would nave both batch and terminal capabilities; probably. not initially interfaced with existing Cyber.

2. Concerns of OR members included:

1. Conversion of software
2. Decision-making process -which will determine how individual machines as well as the entire system will operate with regard to large data bases and the maintenance of the many SSRIC monitored data 'bases. Especially important for small campuses where the concern is for equal computing for all CSUC students.

c, PersonneI--°viz. the operation procedures for the CYBER.'

3, Another concern was how the SSRIC could inform DIS local campus

decision-makers of the importance of these questions to CSUC social scientists. Some-members urged Bruce Hasten or John Korey to make DIS explicitly aware of these concerns.

VIII. Several matters on the Agenda were not discussed. Haston/Korey will advise and inform the OR's as required. Hasten will send OR's copies of the Chair's Annual Report for your distribution.

IX> Student Perspectives on Social and .Political Research - Student Conference, April ',25, 1976.

1. Number of student papers listed in program - 24
2. Quality of papers (judgmental) - very good to fair, but in almost all cases considerable interest and enthusiasm among students and audience.

C. Panel attendance – fair

D. Attendance at. Plenary Session with invited guest - very poor

E. Facilities, program, arrangements - good, but some OR's discussed the problem of Friday afternoon conferences, A better idea may be to have the Conference on Thursday to insure attendance. Recommendations for next year's conference should be forwarded to John Korey and Gene Geisler.