Minutes of the Social Science Research

and Instructional Council

CSU, Dominguez Hills

February 21-22, 1991

Attending: McCall (Bakersfield), Blue (Dominguez Hills), Nelson (Fresno), Graves (Hayward), Haston (Humboldt), Gossett (Long Beach), Anagnoson (Los Angeles), Turner (Northridge), Korey (Pomona), Barkan (San Bernardino), Haas (San Jose), Shaffer (San Luis Obispo), Dixon (Sonoma), Johnson (IRT), Crane (IRT), Hightower (IRT), Dunn (Chancellor's Office)

1. MSC to approve the minutes from the fall, 1990 meeting at Fresno
2. MSC to send a letter to Professor Barbara Mori (San Luis Obispo) regarding her use of material from the Nelson and Nelson module in her module on ethnocentrism and to establish a committee consisting of Elliot Barkan and John Korey to prepare guidelines for the creation of new modules. These guidelines would be presented to the council at a future date.
3. IRT/NAS report -- Penny Crane

Proposals for specialty centers are due February 21, 1991. Proposals are expected from Los Angeles, Chico, Sonoma, CAPE, and San Luis Obispo. The Steering Committee will meet on February 26 to review the proposals. There will be a teleconference on March 6 (1:00 pm) to discuss the proposals.

IRT/NAS will provide liaison with the specialty centers and with the discipline councils.

If no specialty centers are approved, IRT/NAS will provide the central point of contact for ICPSR, Field, Roper, etc.

There is a possibility that the money that is to be returned to the campuses might be used at the system level or the campus level for other pressing budgetary needs.

1. Consideration of proposals to become specialty centers -­Don Carder, CSU, Los Angeles

CSU, Los Angeles is proposing becoming the social science specialty center. They will house the social science data bases and will provide a front end to the data bases to allow searching, subsetting, and downloading of data bases. There will be an initial start-up fee to join the center and yearly subscription fees based on FTEF. There will be two levels of service. Level one will provide access to the data bases with no consulting and/or processing of data.

Level two will provide consulting and processing of data.

The discussion focused on the following issues: campus hardware necessary, off-the-top funding, access for faculty at campuses not joining center, consultation with ICPSR, governance issues including the role of the SSRIC.

1. Consideration of proposals to become specialty centers -­Mark Resmer, Sonoma

Sonoma is proposing become the census specialty center. They will provide access to census data. They will also provide consultation, training, documentation, and on-site visits to campuses. They will assist in the transfer of data and data extraction. They are requesting off-the-top funding for the first year. During the second year they will be requesting a combination of off-the-top funding and campus subscriptions ($1,000 per campus). During the subsequent years there will be no off-the-top funding and campus subscriptions will be $2,500 per campus. Initial data sets will be available September, 1991. By spring, 1991, on-site campus workshops will be available (cost is travel cost for presenter). The center will be governed by an advisory board of which SSRIC will be a member.

One of the questions raised was access for faculty at campuses not subscribing.

1. Consideration of proposals to become specialty centers -­Don Zier, Chico

Chico is proposing becoming the social science specialty center. They plan to house the social science data bases including Field, Roper, and ICPSR. Basically, they plan to continue the same support provided by IRT. This includes processing with SPSS, BMDP, and Minitab. They are also asking to take the CYBER 960. Funding will be a combination of off-the-top funding and subscriptions. Subscriptions will be $5,500 per year plus $0.67 per hit. After a two year evaluation period, procedures will be reevaluated. Eventually they plan to move to an IBM environment. Governance will be through the discipline councils.

The basic question raised was the lack of specificity in the proposal.

1. Committees were appointed to review these proposals and report on Friday morning. Committees were as follows:

LA proposal: Dick Shaffer, Ed Nelson

Sonoma proposal: Frank Gossett, Gene Turner

Chico proposal: Margaret Blue, Dan Graves, Jeff Johnson

1. The question was raised as to who will house the specialized data sets such as INS data. Discussion also centered around how we will continue to acquire such data.
2. Student Research Conference -- Dan Graves

Financial support has been arranged through the Dean at Hayward. Flyers were distributed and a letter describing the conference is forthcoming. Deadline for papers is middle of April. After discussion, it was decided to ask Mervin Field to be the speaker.

1. Election of chairperson for 1991-92.

MSC to elect Margaret Blue as chairperson for 1991-92.

Ted Anagnoson and Ed Nelson agreed to continue working on the computer reorganization and to attend necessary meetings.

1. Meetings for 1991-92

Fall Oct. 17-18 Sonoma

Winter Feb 20-21 San Luis Obispo

Spring May 7-8 Long Beach

1. Field Committee report

The Field Committee met over lunch to discuss the Field Faculty Fellowship and the question credits. John Korey replaced Ed Nelson on the Committee for this discussion. The Field Committee recommended by a vote of 2 to 1 to recommend Barbara Mori for the Field Faculty Fellowship.

MSC that the competition for the Field Faculty Fellowship and question credits be reopened to all CSU faculty. Letters are to be sent to Barbara Mori and Richard Caves indicating our reservations about their proposals and indicating that the competition has been reopened.

Decisions to be made at May meeting.

Flyers will be distributed to ORs for the Field Faculty Fellow, Question Credits, and the Student Intern. The due date for applications will be April 25. The flyer for the Field Faculty Fellow will be expanded slightly to request a more detailed proposal. Decisions will be made at the May meeting.

1. Database/computing report -- Jeff Johnson

Codebooks for the General Social Survey will be distributed

soon. Documentation for processing data bases and the Guide to Resources for the ICPSR are also available. The 1990 General Social Survey and the 1990 Census data for Stanislaus county are now available. Immigration data has been converted to SPSS format.

1. ICPSR summer program

Faculty and graduate students need to be recruited for the 1991 summer program at ICPSR. Ted will contact Jon Ebeling to see if he will continue to coordinate this for the council. We should be receiving a mailing from the ICPSR describing the program with application forms. Please distribute to your faculty and graduate students.

1. Report of committees on proposals to become specialty centers

Sonoma proposal

The proposal is limited to census data and requires other centers for other types of data. The 1% PUMS file is not sufficient; we need the 5% PUMS file. We need clarification of accessibility of data on CD-ROM and off-the-top funding. We also need to address the question of access for faculty on campuses not joining the center.

LA proposal

The problems with the proposal include the lack of off-the-top funding, the governance structure, the lack of training for level one, and the high cost of joining the center. It is also not clear why large campuses get fewer hours of consulting time than smaller campuses (see Table 3 of proposal). Tape drives will also be needed. There is the problem of transfer of large files over the network.

Chico proposal

The proposal is not specific on a number of issues. Further information is needed on funding. A statistical consultant is included in the budget. This is an item that might be omitted.

1. MSC to adopt the following resolution:

All specialty centers must include the concept of off-the-top funding (or mandatory subscriptions) to maintain stability and to ensure that all faculty have access to the data bases. The SSRIC must be the advisory body for the center.

17. Bruce Haston announced that he will be repeating the Student Survey during the 1991-92 academic year and that Bruce and Dick Shaffer will be revising their module. Ed Nelson announced that Ed and Elizabeth Nelson will be revising their module based on a new Field Poll on the status and roles of women.