

SORA

Southern Ontario Chapter of the American Statistical Association (ASA) and
the Southern Ontario Regional Association of the Statistical Society (SSC) of Canada

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2009

Held on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at the Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies, Atkinson
Room 222, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON

Present: John Amrhein (Program Coordinator), Angelo Canty (outgoing President, ASA
Chapter), Xin Gao (incoming Representative to the ASA Council of Chapters), Wendy
Lou (outgoing President, SSC Regional Association; outgoing Representative to the ASA
Council of Chapters; incoming Interim President, ASA Chapter; meeting chair), Hugh
McCague (Secretary; taking minutes), Georges Monette (incoming President, SSC
Regional Association), Peggy Ng (Past President)

Regrets: Peter Macdonald (Web Editor), Zilin Wang (Treasurer)

Call to Order: 4:43pm.

1. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Lou, seconded by Ng.

2. Approval of Minutes from AGM (Annual General Meeting) on May 15, 2008

Moved by McCague, seconded by Ng.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Report from the Presidents (Lou/Canty)

1) The SORA/TABA Workshop

i) Lou thanked the main organizers Ng, Gao and Amrhein for their fine work on
the 3rd SORA/TABA Workshop held on May 7, 2009. The workshop went very
well. The speakers, Keyue Ding and Hugh Walker, were pleased.

ii) 45 participants paid online for the 2009 workshop.

iii) There were around 150 participants (118 paid online) for the 2008 workshop.

iv) For next year or later, Andrew (Andy) Willan, University of Toronto and
SickKids, would be a potential speaker. Also, this year's speakers would be good
to have again.

2) Membership

i) Lou mentioned that a cheque for \$500 was received from the SSC Treasurer
based on the SORA membership dues.

ii) The current number of SORA members is around 84.

3) The Halton-Peel Regional Data Fair

i) There was no request this for SORA's involvement this past year. Amy Lin,
Consultant - Mathematics, School Programs Services Department, Halton District
School Board has approached Lou in previous years.

- ii) We could consider how to be involved next year.
- 4) Southern Ontario Statistics Graduate Student Seminar Days (SOSGSSD)
 - i) This event does not appear to have been held this year.
 - ii) Canty mentioned that while this event is student run, a Faculty member at the chosen university is needed to help mentor and guide the students.
 - iii) Lou mentioned that in order to encourage the holding of this seminar day, the SORA/TABA workshop could be held in conjunction with this event the day before or after.

5) ASA and Tax Procedures

Canty mentioned that that ASA contacts SORA each year regarding U.S. tax procedures. However, no action is required because these procedures are not applicable to Canada.

6) ASA Speakers for Workshops

Lou mentioned that the ASA can send speakers for workshops held in conjunction with other local chapters (such as the ASA Chapter in Montreal). SORA has not pursued this option because we have concentrated on the annual SORA/TABA Workshop.

5. Report from the Treasurer

- i) Lou reported that there is a surplus of around \$2000 from the 2008 workshop.
- ii) Lou reported that for this year's SORA/TABA Workshop there were approximately 50 paid registrants (45 paid online).
- ii) The Treasurer Wang will send a formal report for the past year.
- iv) The incoming President needs to be included as one of the signing authorities for the SORA bank account.

6. Report from the Program Coordinator (Amrhein)

SORA/TABA Workshop

- i) Amrhein extended his thanks to Ng and Gao for their fine work as Co-Chairs with him for this year's SORA/TABA Workshop. The graduate student volunteers were very helpful, especially Isabel Gao. Amrhein received many positive comments on the workshop.
- ii) There were approximately 51 participants including 45 paid online.
- iii) Gao will tabulate and summarize the results from this year's evaluation forms, and send these results to the SORA Executive.
- iv) For future SORA/TABA Workshops, in addition to those registered and paid, we need to clearly indicate those registrants whose credit card was declined or who intend to pay on-site.
- v) One event each year is recommended. The Executive present all agreed that the current lecture/computer lab format was best. Speakers need to agree to conduct a computer lab session. This year's lab sessions set the standard.
- vi) It would be good to once again attract business statisticians to these workshops.
- vii) We need to check on locations for next year, once a topic is settled. A bank or health sciences venue with computer labs in downtown Toronto could be suitable.

7. Request for ideas on workshops/seminars

This item was, in effect, discussed in other sections of these minutes.

8. Elect/Affirm the Membership of the Executive Committee

- i) Lou has now completed the final year of her current office as President (SSC Regional Association). Ng nominated and moved that Georges Monette be President (SSC Regional Association). Canty seconded. All were in favour. Thanks were extended to Lou for her service. Monette was welcomed.
- ii) Canty indicated that he needed to step down as President (ASA Chapter). It is good to stagger the terms of the two offices of the Presidents. Lou will kindly serve as the Interim President (ASA Chapter) for one year. Thanks were extended to Canty for his service.
- iii) Lou concluded her appointment as the Representative to the ASA Council of Chapters. Gao was appointed as the new Representative and was welcomed. There is no term limit for this position.
- iv) The Executive intends to have a motion for a Past President (ASA Chapter) position. The Constitution will be consulted for the proper wording and procedure. An electronic (e-mail) vote will be held later.
- v) The SORA Executive Committee, 2009-2010 is:
 - President (SSC Regional Association): Georges Monette (York University, Toronto)
 - Interim President (ASA Chapter): Wendy Lou (University of Toronto)
 - Secretary: Hugh McCague (York University)
 - Treasurer: Zilin Wang (Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo)
 - Past President: Peggy Ng (York University, Toronto)
 - Representative to the ASA Council of Chapters: Xin Gao (York University, Toronto)
 - Web Editor: Peter Macdonald (McMaster University, Hamilton)
 - Program Coordinator: John Amrhein (McDougall Scientific Ltd., Toronto)

9. Location/Date for Next AGM

The 2010 AGM will be held in conjunction with next year's SORA/TABA Workshop (location/date to be determined). The SORA AGM is to be held each year at or before the annual Meeting of the SSC (as per Article VII – Meetings, Constitution). Canty indicated that it is also valuable to hold the AGM before the SSC Meeting in order to assist with the reporting process. Lou will be reporting at this year's SSC Meeting.

10. New Business

None.

Canty moved that the Meeting be adjourned. All accepted. Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.