

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION

New York, New York, December 29, 1973

The meeting was opened by Theodore Woolsey, Chairman, at 5:15 p.m. As a result of the recent election, the officers for 1974 are:

Chairman	Charles B. Nam
Chairman-Elect	Joseph Waksberg
Vice Chairman (1973-74)	
(Program Chairman)	Denis F. Johnston
Vice Chairman (1974-75)	
(Asst. Program Chairman)	Mollie Orshansky
Secretary (1974-75)	Mary G. Powers
Representative on the National Board of Directors (1973-75)	Evelyn M. Kitagawa
Representative on the National Council (1974-75)	Eva L. Mueller
Publications Liaison Officer (1973-74)	Monroe Lerner

Edwin D. Goldfield was appointed Editor of the Proceedings for the 1973 meeting.

The representative on the National Council, Eli Marks, gave a report on the recent joint meeting of the Council and the Board. (1) The revised constitution will be submitted to the members about April 1974. The Board will be enlarged and will assume many functions previously done by the Council. Each section will have two representatives to the Council and one or more representatives to the program committee. The second Vice-Chairman will be a member of the program committee. (2) Resolutions on the status of women in the American Statistical Association were passed. (3) The Board approved further work by the ASA Conference on Surveys of Human Populations. A research staff, with support by the National Science Foundation, has been proposed to investigate causes of difficulties in doing surveys and methods to improve them.

The Publications Liaison Officer, Monroe Lerner, distributed and discussed an announcement asking for expository papers for The American Statistician.

The Program Chairman for 1973, Daniel Horvitz, reported that the program had a good balance of topics. He suggested that all papers in the future have some emphasis on methodology rather than reporting only substantive findings. A vote of thanks was given to Dr. Horvitz for doing a fine job and for accepting the position at the last minute.

Some members disagreed with the recommendation that the program should be so heavily methodological. The history of the Section should be studied to determine its purposes. The Section should decide on what it should do. It was agreed that the program for 1974 would be a balance of methodology and subject matter, and that

there should be further discussion of this topic at later meetings.

The Program Chairman for 1974, Denis Johnston, said that the theme for invited papers sessions would be social indicators. Detailed plans for many of the sessions were presented and discussed. It was suggested that a few meetings should be on topics other than indicators. One proposed topic was sources and uses of data; for example, the use of census data by community groups. It was requested that suggestions for additional topics be sent to the program chairman.

Procedures for nominations of Fellows of ASA were called haphazard, resulting in late or no nominations of qualified persons. A committee of the Washington, D. C. Chapter of ASA reviews lists of their members, finds persons who should be but are not Fellows, and arranges for persons to nominate them. It was suggested that the 1974 officers of this Section consider the appointment of a committee to work on nominations of qualified members of the Section.

A motion was passed to include in the Proceedings as an addendum to these minutes the report of the Section for 1973 that was prepared by Mr. Woolsey.

Mr. Woolsey reported on the value of the meeting of the Section's officers in February, and urged that such a meeting be repeated in future years. The problem of travel expenses is difficult but often can be solved by using ingenuity, he believed.

The attached annual report describes the assignment to Monroe Lerner re social indicators. Dr. Lerner said that there is not now a need for an advisory committee of the Section. It had been suggested that the Section might set professional standards with regard to statistics for social indicators. In the discussion it was brought out that many persons are now working on this topic and that the previous need for work by the Section on social indicators no longer exists. The following motion was then made, seconded, and passed:

The Social Statistics Section should report to the American Statistical Association that it does not see a need for an advisory committee on social indicators at this time. This recommendation is based on several years of consideration of Recommendation 40 of "A Study of Future Goals of ASA", 1971.

The letter to ASA about this motion should give reasons for the motion.

A request for a subsection on Survey Research Methodology was received from The Survey Research Interest Group. The following motion was made, seconded, and passed:

The Social Statistics Section supports the establishment of a Subsection on Survey Research Methodology.

This subsection would arrange programs about survey research methodology, and the Social Statistics Section would organize sessions on other topics. The need for a mail ballot of the Section's members about this motion will be determined.

The meeting closed at 7 p.m. after a vote of thanks for the fine work by Theodore Woolsey as chairman in 1973.

1973 Officers of the Social Statistics Section

Chairman	Theodore D. Woolsey
Chairman-Elect	Charles B. Nam
Vice-Chairman (Program Chairman)	Daniel G. Horvitz
Vice-Chairman	Denis F. Johnston
Secretary	Regina Loewenstein
Representative on the National Board of Directors	Evelyn Kitagawa
Representative on the National Council	Eli S. Marks
Publications Liaison Officer	Monroe Lerner
Editor of <u>Proceedings</u>	Edwin D. Goldfield

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL STATISTICS SECTION, ASA, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 1973

First, it should be indicated that the "routine" business of the Section has proceeded reasonably smoothly. In the fall of 1972, the senior Vice-Chairman of the Section, who was to have been in charge of the Program for 1973, resigned the office. With the approval of the Chairman of the Section, the Chairman-Elect found a substitute to complete the 2-year term. This was Dr. Dan Horvitz who was at that time with the Research Triangle Institute and is now on the faculty of the University of North Carolina. He was duly appointed and has worked hard. With the help of others he has produced what appears, at this writing, to be an outstanding program for the meetings in New York City.

A Nominating Committee, consisting of W. Parker Mauldin, Chairman; Thomas Jabine; and Otis Dudley Duncan, was appointed to nominate candidates for the posts of: Chairman-Elect for 1974; Vice-Chairman for 1974-75 to serve as Assistant Program Chairman in 1974 and Program Chairman in 1975; Secretary; and Section Representative on the Council for 1974-75. The nominations were submitted to headquarters on April 20, 1973, and Joseph Waksberg, Mollie Orshansky, Mary Powers, and Eva Mueller, respectively, were elected.

Of a non-routine nature was the holding of a mid-winter, one-day meeting (Feb. 27, 1973) of the officers of the Social Statistics Section. ASA headquarters made the meeting room available, and travel costs were covered by a variety of underhanded stratagems. (One that was not underhanded was to schedule the meeting the day after the meeting of the Board so that our representative on the Board could have her travel paid by ASA).

We feel that the meeting was extremely helpful in providing some continuity to the affairs

of the Section and strongly recommend that some way be found to permit such mid-winter meetings to be held routinely. For example, it gave all the officers an opportunity to comment upon the plans being formulated for the Program, to hear reports from our representatives to the Council, the Board, and the Publications Committee, and to discuss possible committees of the Section. The Annual Business Meeting will also be far more useful because of this opportunity to review the business of the Section. It is the only opportunity for the Officers of the Section to meet face-to-face except at the annual meeting. Dr. Leone met with us a part of the day and Mr. Bisgyer the whole day.

A particular agenda item at the February 27 meeting was a piece of business left over from the previous year, that is, the plan for a Section Committee on Social Indicators. Since the outcome of that discussion has been passed on to Dr. Leone in our Section's report on the status of recommendations from the Future Goals Report, it will not be reported here. Suffice it to say that because of much skepticism from all hands (including people asked to be chairman of such a committee but declining) as to whether the committee could find something to do that wasn't already being done, the Section has asked Dr. Monroe Lerner to make certain specific explorations and report on them at the December business meeting. At that time a final decision should be made about whether to establish a Committee with a limited and well-defined charge or report back to the Board of Directors that the Section is not in favor of the idea.

Theodore D. Woolsey, Chairman