

**SIGMAA Stat Ed Business Meeting Minutes**  
**January 17, 2020, at the 2020 Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM), Denver, CO**

Alana Unfried (Chair) called meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Alana introduced and acknowledged officers:

**Incoming and continuing officers for 2020:**

Past Chair – Alana Unfried

Chair – Judith Canner

Chair-Elect – Phil Yates

Secretary/Treasurer – Tom Faulkenberry

Program Chair – Lisa Carnell

Webmaster – Kim Roth

**Retiring officers:**

Past Chair – Soma Roy

Secretary/Treasurer – Dianna Spence

Alana encouraged those present to consider running for office. Up for election this year will be Chair-Elect (3 year term as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past-Chair) and Program Chair (2 year term – elected even years)

Kim Roth discussed webmaster position. She mentioned that it is a good opportunity for early-career members to get involved, and if anyone wanted to take over, she would be happy to let them do it.

Old Business

Dianna Spence gave Secretary's report. Minutes from 2019 were accepted and approved by members by unanimous vote.

Dianna also gave Treasurer's report. She explained that per MAA rules, the balance in the SIGMAA account is not rolled over each year. Thus, we should use the dues we earn each year. At the start of 2019, our balance (based on 2018 membership of 329) was \$2961. This money was used for prizes (plaques, monetary awards), business meeting dinner, SIGMAA-Stat Ed hex stickers, etc. Dianna mentioned in closing that the more members we have, the more our SIGMAA can do!

Finally, Dianna recognized Alana for her efforts as Chair; this was followed by a large round of applause.

## New Business

Alana briefly mentioned the new MAA community feature to enhance communication in the SIGMAA. The idea is to replace the old listserv. We will be receiving more information about this soon.

Lisa Carnell (Program Chair) reported on five SIGMAA-Stat Ed-sponsored events at JMM:

- **Panel:** “So You Want to Start an Undergraduate Statistics or Data Science Program?”
  - Thursday, 9-10:20 am, Room 603, Colorado Convention Center
- **Contributed paper session:** Data Across the Curriculum
  - Friday, 8-10:15 am, Room 501, CCC
- **Invited paper session:** Scholarship on Teaching and Learning Statistics
  - Friday, 3-4:55 pm, Room 503, CCC
- **Minicourse:** Teaching Reproducible Statistics with R and RStudio
  - Judith Canner and Ryan Botts
- **Minicourse:** Stats for Data Science
  - Daniel Kaplan

Lisa encouraged members present to suggest any future session ideas to Chair during the upcoming year.

Judith Canner (Chair-Elect) discussed some upcoming events that will be relevant to the SIGMAA-Stat Ed members:

- STATlanta 2020: A one-day workshop for teachers of introductory statistics, to be held in February. Registration and info at <http://bit.ly/statlanta2020>
- RUME Conference Stat/DataSci Ed Working Group – February 27
- Carolinas Sports Analytics Meeting – April 4, Furman University in Greenville SC. More information at <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/csam>
- Electronic Conference on Teaching Statistics (eCOTS 2020) – May 18-22, 2020, online
- JMM 2021: Jan 6-9, 2021 – Washington DC
- MathFest – Philadelphia, 7/29-8/1
  - Math for Data Science
  - Experiences in Teaching Introductory Data Science to Math Majors
  - Supporting Student Success in Introductory Statistics through Evidence-Based Practices
  - The Modern Mathematics Major in the Data Science Era (proposed)
  - Business meeting?

Alana presented our annual SIGMAA-Stat Ed awards:

- The Dexter C. Whittinghill III Award for Outstanding Contributed Paper in Statistics Education at JMM 2019 was awarded to David Taylor and Adam Childers for their paper “GAISEing into the future with fun, flexible mobile data collection and analysis.”

- The Robert V. Hogg Award for Excellence in Teaching Introductory Statistics was awarded to Dr. Talithia Williams from Harvey Mudd College.

Alana presented three new discussion points:

- Incorporating “Data Science” into our name
  - The ASA-MAA Joint Committee on Statistics Education has recently incorporated data science into its name. Currently data science education does not have a home within the SIGMAA structure. We want to be that home. Alana mentioned that we have already started offering programming that is relevant to data science education, so it makes sense to go ahead and claim this niche now.
  - Alana asked for discussion from the members; there was none.
  - Alana called for an Informal vote to gauge the desire of the members present to add “Data Science” to the SIGMAA-Stat Ed name; the suggestion was approved unanimously
  - The Chair and Secretary-Treasurer will take next steps with MAA to begin the process of officially changing our name.
- Topics for future SIGMAA sessions
  - Several session ideas were generated during the Executive Council meeting on Wednesday; these included:
    - Beyond intro stat
    - Speed session on favorite R activities
    - Flavors of intro data science
    - Data science in action (case studies of programs who have started such programs)
    - Stats for teaching social justice issues
    - Dangers/pitfalls when starting data science programs (especially for departments who are being strong-armed into starting such programs)
  - There were also several suggestions from the members present:
    - Engage 2-year college faculty on teaching statistics. MAA and AMATYC already has initiatives on this – most 2-year math faculty not trained in teaching statistics, so such a session would be most welcome.
    - Tips on setting up industry collaborations where statistics classes are used as consultants
    - Speed session on favorite stat textbooks
  - Alana encouraged members to suggest more sessions as well as volunteer to serve as chair/moderator for future sessions
- Separation of MAA from JMM
  - The AMS hosted a breakfast for SIGMAA chairs. Alana reported that the main message from AMS was that they want to be viewed as “organizers”, not content creators. In other words, JMM content should be community driven. Thus, AMS will be accommodating to any SIGMAAs that want to remain involved at the Joint Meetings.

That same afternoon, the MAA hosted an officers meeting and gave a conflicting message. The MAA will not let us use SIGMAA funds at JMM. So, for example, there can be no reception at JMM after 2021. MAA wants SIGMAAs to move to MathFest instead. MAA does not want SIGMAAs to use MAA name on any programming at JMM.

At this point, it is not clear which message is the “true” message. Further clarification is forthcoming.

Next year, we will continue programming at JMM. However, we strongly encouraged members to try MathFest.

- Alana reported that we will be sending a survey to membership to gauge where we see ourselves in the future. An informal poll was taken with the members present – relatively few indicated that they regularly attend MathFest. Many indicated that if SIGMAA Stat Ed sponsored content, they would be more likely to attend. Also, many indicated that they attend JMM primarily for the statistics programming. Kimberly Roth pointed out that the attractive feature may not necessarily be the “stat ed” component, but rather the “ed” component, and currently, that comes primarily from MAA activities. Alana said AMS is trying to become more open to education-related activities. The survey will also gauge which organizations (MAA, AMS, ASA, etc.) that our members participate in.

Finally, Alana solicited additional feedback from members. Several points were noted:

- There was some discussion of whether AMS really intends to include education
- One member noted that our presence at MathFest will be a big benefit for math departments and their students
- There is a big fee difference between MathFest and JSM – MathFest more affordable
- What role can SIGMAA play in sections? – more questions about this will be forthcoming on the survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm, followed immediately by a Guest Lecture on “The importance of statisticians in a development-driven world”, presented by Trevor Patch, Baseball Research and Development with the Colorado Rockies.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Faulkenberry  
Treasurer/Secretary, SIGMAA-Statistics Education