DRSG telemeeting minutes: August 04, 2015

Present: Kan Shao (Chair), Allen Davis (Chair-elect), Weihsueh Chiu (Trustee-at-Large), Julie Fitzpatrick, Patty Toccalino, Sarah Kobylewski (Vice-Chair), Paul Schlosser, Peg Coleman, Michelle Deveau, Sara Henry, Jeff Gift, Julia Pletz (Secretary/Treasurer)

Amend the title of symposium a. to “Peg Coleman: Joint DRSG and MRASG Round Table Symposium”. After the change has been made, the minutes are approved.

2. Update on Student Award evaluation (Sarah)
9 students submitted abstracts.
Paul, Allen, Weihsueh and Sarah convene on 9 August to conclude on the winner. The outcome will be communicated to Kan. Kan added that a 2nd place may also be assigned. The winner of the 1st place will receive a $500 check and a registration waiver, 2nd place winner will receive $350 plus a registration waiver. It was discussed whether a wood-made plaque is provided this year as it is very expensive ($150). SRA will provide a certificate to the winners. It may be discussed if the monetary award may be increased as money is saved for the plaque. The $500 award will not come out of the DRSG budget, SRA will provide support for it. DRSG will pay for the 2nd prize.
Patty recommended re-checking the wording of the student award advertisement to see whether a plaque was mentioned. Sarah added that if no plaque is provided the saving could be reflected in an increase in funding for the award winners or an extra frame could be provided. Michelle who won the award previously did not receive a plaque but from her point of view an extra frame would be acceptable.

3. Review on the remaining teleseminars (Allen)
September: Rosalind Wright on dose-response of psychosocial stressors.
October: Dan Krewski on joint model for excess and deficiency, u-shaped dose response. Currently copper paper is being reviewed so his presentation may be based on copper.

4. Discuss the sustainability of DRSG budget (Kan and all)
Kan requested a detailed transaction report covering January 2012 until now. Looking at the transactions:
In 2012: income of $1815 as 121 members paid their dues and $1900 from workshops (e.g. BMDS workshop), in total $3715.
In 2013: income of $1440 from membership dues (96 members) and $1246 from workshops, in total $2686.
In 2014: income of $1395 from membership dues (93 members) and $2597 from workshops, in total approx. $4000.

210 members are currently on the DRSG members’ list so about 50% of members pay their dues. Paul said that DRSG has been very open about granting membership but it would be interesting to know how many on the list are members of the national SRA and how many just joined the list for one or two specific seminars. Kan added that the opportunity to learn through teleseminars is very valuable and should be acknowledged, as well as the communication of job opportunities. Kan will send out an email to DRSG members to remind them to pay their dues. When Peg asked if students also had to pay 15$ or if they get a waiver, Kan commented that students are asked to pay the DRSG dues.
Kan asked Allen and Jeff if they intended to run fewer workshops as they developed more online training material. Allen said that their intention was to cover new topics (less continuous or dichotomous modelling).
Kan added that one way to make the income and with it the budget more sustainable could be to encourage members to give workshops at SRA. According to Paul, the group is lucky to have Jeff and Allen whose job at EPA is to promote the use of these models but getting single contributions may be difficult to achieve.
When Sarah Henry asked if the DRSG budget will be sustainable if the group keeps up its workshops Kan replied that workshop income cannot cover all expenses and therefore, membership dues are
needed. Kan will provide detailed budget information. Paul added that if the group has an understanding of cash flow we should be able to support the mixer and in particular the student award. Please email Kan if you have any suggestions on how to make the budget sustainable. Weihsueh inquired if the specialty group fees are automatically added when a member pays online. According to Kan and Michelle, the box needs to be checked every year, even for those groups which do not impose a membership fee. Weihsueh noted that the group could check with SRA whether they can save these details for every member and make the process automatic.

5. Discuss DRSG officer election (Kan and all)
Three positions are to be filled: Chair-elect will be open. Sarah Kobylewski will step down as Vice-Chair. Rick Hertzberg will step down as Trustee-at-Large. Kan will accept nominations for these positions and encouraged nominations and self-nominations. The election outcome should be reached by mid November. Patty nominated Michelle Deveau for any position. Michelle will check what the time requirements would be.

6. Discuss the second DRSG communication channel (Kan and all)
Not discussed.

7. Update on the SRA Annual Meeting Program planning (Kan)
Kan reported that there were a couple of organizational issues at the meeting. It was announced that the final confirmation of the program will be sent out after the meeting but so far, the final confirmation of the program was not communicated. Michelle had received a confirmation of her role as session Chair. Weihsueh only received a confirmation for an oral presentation. Jeff received acceptance of the poster. Jeff received confirmation on one symposium that he is organizing with Allen. Sarah Henry recommended following up with SRA. Kan suggested to contact Jennifer Rosenberg to say that they are supposed to chair. He will ask for a copy of the program that was submitted. Unfortunately, one of the presenters of Peg’s symposium did not submit the abstract before the deadline. Luckily, Kan was able to schedule the presentation somewhere else with the MRASG. Kan will follow-up with MRASG to see where presentations have been scheduled. Sarah Henry noted that the rules were not as strict in previous years as they were this year.

8. Update on the SRA World Congress (Kan)
Kan reported that participants of the SRA World Congress came from all over the world, particularly Europe and Asia. It was a good opportunity to connect. He once again thanked DRSG for $776 to support his travel.

9. Other items?
Not discussed.