

WNAR 2009 Meeting Minutes

WNAR Regional Committee Meeting June 14, 2009

Portland, Oregon.

The Regional Committee convened at 3:45 pm.

Attendance: Todd Alonzo, Tony Lachenbruch, John Neuhaus, Dan Gillen, Weng Kee Wong, Antje Hoering, Roy St. Laurent, Loki Natarajan, Jong Sung Kim, Ying Lu, Walter Piegorsch, Elizabeth Thompson, Gary Chan, Gang Li

AGENDA

1. **Introductions:** Todd Alonzo - president, John Neuhaus - past president and IBS council representative, Tony Lachenbruch – president elect, Antje Hoering – secretary, Elizabeth Thompson – IBS council representative, Dan Gillen – 2007 WNAR local organizer and 2009 RAB chair, Jong Sung Kim – 2009 WNAR local organizer, Loki Natarajan– Regional Committee and RAB, Roy St. Laurent – Regional Committee and RAB, Weng Kee Wong – Program Coordinator, Ying Lu – Regional Committee, Walter Piegorsch – Regional Committee, Gary Chan – 2010 local organizer, Gang Li – 2009 WNAR program chair,
2. **Approval of 2008 minutes:** The 2008 minutes were unanimously approved. Item 5 of the minutes was discussed and it was decided for current and former organizers to send updates to the meeting handbook to Antje Hoering who will then merge the changes.
3. **WNAR/IMS 2008 meeting report (Davis, CA):** Todd reported that the meeting had 143 participants, about the same number as the Irvine and Flagstaff meetings. It was noted that the meeting had a small attendance to its short course. Only 14 people participated. Elizabeth Thompson suggested making sure that the short course is advertised on the meeting poster. Weng Kee Wong expressed disappointment that that meeting brought in a loss, whereas previous meeting brought in profits anywhere from approximately \$7k to over \$15K. The loss is mostly due to the campus services that were used during the meeting. Dan Gillen noted that it was not necessary for WNAR to make a profit and that additional cost can be absorbed in the conference fee if necessary. Dan Gillen mentioned that Jong Sung Kim adapted his web page for the meeting. Roy St. Laurent said that the credit card and billing part of the web page are the most difficult and that this information needs to be adapted to meet the requirements of the local institution. Tony Lachenbruch suggested exploring professional services to develop the web page as well as possibly having a professional company taking over WNAR book-keeping. Elizabeth Thompson voiced that that WNAR had bad experiences in the past with hiring a book keeper and losing a lot of money when that company went bankrupt. Walter suggested exploring the ENAR model for book-keeping. Todd Alonzo pointed out to keep in mind how small WNAR is. John Neuhaus agreed and mentioned how unique WNAR is in that it is somewhat old-style academic, non-corporate and affordable.

4. **WNAR/IMS 2009 meeting report (Portland, OR):** Jong Sung Kim reported that there are approximately 160 people who have registered to this year's meeting. There are a total of 108 presentations; 42 are invited and 49 contributed presentations, 15 student papers. Todd mentioned that Jong Sung Kim had requested funds for personnel to support local arrangements. This initiated a discussion about whether WNAR should give the local organizing department money up-front to cover costs associated with organizing the meeting. It was voted on and unanimously decided that the meeting organizer will receive \$4000 in advance to cover necessary expenses. In addition it was confirmed to continue giving up to \$1000 to the hosting department if there was a net profit from the meeting. This money can be used for travel expenses for their students to travel to a subsequent WNAR meetings or other appropriate purpose (as approved by the board).
5. **WNAR/IMS 2010 meeting report (Seattle, WA):** Gary Chan reported that this meeting will be jointly organized by the University of Washington Biostatistics Department and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center; the meeting will be held at the University of Washington June 20 – June 23, 2010. Tony Lachenbruch will select the program chair for 2010. John Neuhaus mentioned that the local institutions should not be too dominating in selecting a program chair, but that this should be WNAR's decision. Walter Piegorsch suggested that secretary will advertise the meeting in Amstat News and he will provide the contact information. If a cost is involved the WNAR board will need to approve.
6. **Future WNAR/ IMS meetings:** Weng Kee Wong is exploring possibilities. He is in contact with the University of Wyoming for the WNAR meeting 2011. This meeting location was unanimously accepted during the WNAR executive committee meeting on June 16, 2009.
7. **2009 election nominations.** John Neuhaus is assembling names for the 2010 candidates. Any suggestions should go to him.
8. **Comment:** Since we didn't cover all agenda items it was decided to discuss additional agenda items on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 during our Executive Committee Meeting.
9. **Adjournment:** The Regional Committee adjourned at 5:15 PM.

WNAR Executive Committee Meeting June 16, 2009

Portland, Oregon

The WNAR Executive Committee convened at 12:30 pm.

Attendance: Todd Alonzo, Tony Lachenbruch, John Neuhaus, Dan Gillen, Weng Kee Wong, Antje Hoering, Roy St. Laurent, Loki Natarajan, Jong Sung Kim, Ying Lu, Elizabeth Thompson, Gang Li, Gary Chan, Sandra Catlin, Laura Cowen.

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions:** John Neuhaus - past president and IBS council representative, Todd Alonzo - president, Tony Lachenbruch – president elect, Antje Hoering – secretary, Elizabeth Thompson – IBS council representative, Dan Gillen – 2007 WNAR local organizer and 2009 RAB chair, Jong Sung Kim – 2009 WNAR local organizer, Rhonda Rosychuk - WNAR Regional Committee and RAB, Loki Natarajan– Regional Committee and RAB, Roy St. Laurent – Regional Committee and RAB, Weng Kee Wong – Program Coordinator, Ying Lu – Regional Committee, Gary Chan – 2010 local organizer, Gang Li – 2009 WNAR program chair, Sandra Catlin – judge in student paper competition, Laura Cowen – WNAR Regional Committee.
- 2. WNAR 2009 Student Paper Competition:** Todd Alonzo reported that there were three judges for the written papers: Sandra Catlin, Joan Hu and Thomas Lumley. There were two judges of the oral presentation: Sandra Catlin and Todd Alonzo. The winners have been determined. There are two winners for the written paper: a best paper and a runner-up and two students share the best oral presentation. Todd Alonzo suggested giving \$100 of travel support to each of the 13 participants. This motion was unanimously accepted.
- 3. Business Office Report:** Todd Alonzo reported that there are currently 239 WNAR members, 40 of which are students; approximately 1/3 of members renewed their membership by credit card. The net balance of WNAR is approximately \$106,500.00.
- 4. New business**
 - a. Board member request for meeting travel support:** Todd Alonzo reported that Antje Hoering had received up to \$500.00 travel support for attending WNAR meetings as her institution does not provide funds for such meetings. Weng Kee Wong had also requested travel funds. Todd Alonzo suggested implementing a policy with regards to travel support. Elizabeth Thompson suggested making travel support available for executive officers. Dan Gillen suggested requiring a written request. It was agreed upon to offer travel support up to \$500 to Executive officers as needed with a formal request voted upon by the WNAR board. This motion was voted on and unanimously accepted.
 - b. Co-sponsor other conferences:** Todd Alonzo was approached by the statistics department of the University of Wisconsin, Madison about

WNAR possibly sponsoring a statistics meeting in June 2010. Todd Alonzo contacted the IBS and their bylaws allow WNAR to sponsor any type of scientific meeting. The motion of WNAR sponsoring their meeting was voted upon and unanimously accepted.

- c. **COPSS affiliate membership:** Todd reported that he will be attending the COPSS meeting at the joint statistical meeting this summer and one of the agenda items was to extend membership to COPSS to other international countries. It was felt that this would be a good idea, though it could possibly diminish the effectiveness of the committee due to its increasing size.
5. **Report of the Regional Advisory Board:** Dan Gillen reported that the main responsibility of the RAB is to increase WNAR membership and to host the Young Investigator luncheon. He reported that 41 young investigators are attending this year's luncheon and that 7 senior faculty are attending the luncheon. This year's topic is securing grant money. Several possible topics are being considered for next year's luncheon: Publishing, collaboration/statistical consulting, job searches.
6. **WNAR/ IMS 2009 meeting:** Todd Alonzo thanked Jong Sung Kim for all his work organizing this year's meeting. He will send his department chair a formal letter acknowledging WNAR's gratitude. There are approximately 70 people who signed up for the WNAR banquet.
7. **Additional Agenda Item:** Meeting profit split with IMS: Weng Kee Wong questioned the fairness of the profit split. Elizabeth Thompson suggested contacting the IMS to ask whether they want to continue participating in our meetings. Several people mentioned that we would like them to be more involved with the organization of the meeting. Roy St. Laurent raised the question whether they shared the loss of last year's meeting at the University of California, Davis. Todd Alonzo will follow-up with Ken Kopecky, the previous WNAR treasurer, to determine how exactly the split is done. Todd Alonzo clarified those issues after the meeting with last year's WNAR treasurer Ken Kopecky. He found out that the IMS share of the net revenue from the meeting is calculated as the percentage of meeting attendees reported to have IMS membership multiplied by the net meeting revenue excluding revenue and expenses from the short course. The distribution on membership is based on what was declared for the meeting registration, with the denominator based on those who declared WNAR and/or IMS (i.e., excluding those who declared neither). Those who declared both were counted for both. For the 2008 WNAR/IMS meeting at Davis, the net revenue excluding the short course was \$2,621.09 and 51.35% of the attendees indicated IMS membership so the IMS share of the net revenue was \$1,345.93. Todd Alonzo also clarified how the net loss of \$728.69 of the Davis meeting was determined. This figure was obtained by subtracting WNAR only expenses (the amount of Student paper competition prizes, short course presenter travel expenses and honorarium, and presidential invited speaker travel expenses and honorarium) from the net revenue including the short course. Therefore, it appears that IMS was provided the correct amount and the reports are consistent.

8. Adjournment: The WNAR Executive Committee adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Antje Hoering