

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTION COUNCIL  
1982-83 ACADEMIC YEAR

Organizational Structure.

The Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC), is composed of one representative from each campus. Representatives from the Division of Information Systems (DIS) and the Chancellor's office meet with the council to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities.

Objectives.

The by-laws of the council cite the following objectives:

1. To encourage the use of quantitative methods in the teaching of social sciences to undergraduate and graduate students,
2. to support and implement the collection and distribution of social science data and computer-aided instructional materials, and to disseminate information related to them,
3. to support and implement the use of computerized projects in the curriculum, and
4. to support and implement the quantitative skills of students and faculty.

Activities and Programs.

During the 1982-83 academic year, the council undertook a number of major activities and programs. These are briefly summarized below.

1. **Business meetings.** Business meetings were held during the year on the Chico, Bakersfield, and Hayward campuses. During these meetings, decisions were made in the following areas:
  - a. Coordination and supervision of CSUC membership in the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR). Five faculty were partially funded to attend the summer program in Ann Arbor presented by the ICPSR.
  - b. Coordination and supervision of CSUC membership in the California Opinion Research Consortium (CORC). As part of our membership in CORC, the council selects a faculty member each year to serve as a Faculty Fellow. During their fellowship, the faculty member takes part in a research project on a topic approved by the Field Institute. The 1982-83 Faculty Fellow was Professor Frederica Shockley, CSU, Chico. Her project was

"Proposition 13 Five Years Later." In addition, the council selects two students to serve as student interns. The internship provides the students with the opportunity to acquire first-hand experience in survey research. Questions are also solicited from faculty for inclusion in the Field Institute's California Poll. Finally, the council supervises the acquisition and distribution of the current California Polls. These surveys are made available to faculty and students within a reasonable period of time after the completion of the survey by the Field Institute.

- c. Coordination with the Division of Information Systems (DIS). At each meeting representatives from DIS report on developments of interest to the council. These include the acquisition of new data sets (e.g., Census data) and statistical programs (e.g., LISREL), the decision as to which data sets should be interactive on the central Cyber, and the installation of new versions of SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences).
  - d. Development of instructional modules. The council has encouraged the development of short instructional modules dealing with various statistical and methodological topics (e.g., chi square, survey research, hypotheses). Council members have authored these modules for use by various faculty. Many of the modules are available on the central Cyber.
  - e. Planning for Spring Student Research Conference (see point 2 below)
  - f. Planning for the 1983 Summer Workshop in Quantitative Analysis and Computing (see point 3 below).
2. Spring Student Research Conference. Each spring the council sponsors a student research conference for undergraduates and graduates. This spring the conference was held at CSU, Hayward. Professor Dan Graves did an excellent job of organizing and running the conference. Twenty-nine student papers were selected for presentation at the conference. The featured guest speaker was Mervin Field of the Field Institute. Planning the Student Research Conference takes up considerable time at the fall and winter meetings.

3. 1983 Summer Workshop in Quantitative Analysis and Computing. The council received funds from the Office of Faculty and Staff Affairs, Office of the Chancellor, to train faculty in the areas of computing and quantitative analysis. During the period from June 20 through July 1, twenty-eight faculty participated in the workshop. Instructors in the workshop included the following members of the council: Terry Dunn, John Korey, Edward Nelson, Jim Ross, Dick Shaffer. Dick Shaffer was the Project Director and deserves special recognition for the work he did in organizing and supervising the workshop. Participants were pre-and post-tested and were also asked to evaluate the workshop. Analysis of the data indicated that participants improved in their knowledge regarding SPSS, computing, and statistics over the course of the workshop. They also were quite positive in their evaluations. A copy of the final report for the workshop can be obtained from Dick Shaffer (Department of Social Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo).
4. Workshops. During the fall and winter meetings of the council, workshops are held dealing with specialized topics in the areas of computing and analysis. At the fall meeting in Chico, Terry Dunn led a workshop on the use of Census tapes focusing on CENSPAC -- a computer program used in conjunction with the Census tapes. At the winter meeting in Bakersfield, Jim Ross demonstrated the use of SCSS (Conversational SPSS) and Visicalc. These workshops are necessary to keep council members up-to-date on recent developments.

Chair's Comments. Members of the council provide important services to the university. They coordinate the system's membership in two important consortiums -- the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research and the California Opinion Research Consortium. These consortiums provide important sources of data for the social sciences (e.g., Census data, election surveys, quality of life and employment surveys, general social surveys, recent California poll data). These data are used by students and faculty in both their teaching and research. Council members also provide important sources of support for faculty who want to use these resources.

One of the major accomplishments this year was the Summer Workshop on Quantitative Analysis and Computing held in San Luis Obispo. Twenty-eight faculty were introduced to the use of computers in the classroom. Each participant was expected to develop a module for use in their classes and to use that module during the 1983-84 academic year. Council members will provide the support necessary to help faculty use these materials in their classes.

Based on an analysis of pre- and post-tests of participants, evaluations of the workshop by participants, and informal conversations with participants I feel that the workshop was an enormous success. We have applied for funds to repeat the workshop during the summer of 1984.

I want to thank all council members for their support this year. Members of the council freely give their own time to perform their many duties. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals.

Edward Nelson  
Chair, SSRIC, 1982-83  
Attachment: SSRIC Membership

1982-83 SSRIC REPRESENTATIVES

Jim Ross  
Sociology  
CS Bakersfield

Jon Ebeling  
Political Science  
CSU Chico

Richard Palmer  
Political Science  
CSU Dominguez Hills

Edward Nelson  
Sociology  
CSU Fresno

Phil Gianos  
Political Science  
CSU Fullerton

Don Graves  
Political Science  
CSU Hayward

Bruce Haston  
Political Science  
Humboldt State University

Glenn Walker  
Sociology  
CSU Long Beach

Ben Smith  
Political Science  
CSU Los Angeles

Jack Crowther  
Sociology  
CSU Northridge

John L. Korey  
Political Science  
CSPU Pomona

Betty Moulds  
Government  
CSU Sacramento

Dave Lutz  
Psychology  
CSU San Bernardino

Paul Strand  
Social Science Research Lab  
San Diego State University

Gene Geisler  
Political Science  
San Francisco State University

Charlene Leonard  
History  
San Jose State University

Dick Shaffer  
Social Sciences  
CPSU San Luis Obispo

Don Dixon  
Political Science  
Sonoma State University

Lawrence Giventer  
Politics & Public Administration  
CSU Stanislaus