

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH AND INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL
1983-84 ACADEMIC YEAR

Organizational Structure

The Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC) is composed of one representative from each of the California State Universities (CSU) 19 campus. Representatives from the Division of Information Systems (DIS) and the Chancellor's Office meet with the Council to assist in carrying out the Council's 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

The 1983-84 academic year was highlighted by a number of SSRIC activities and programs. These are briefly summarized below.

1. The SSRIC Summer Workshop in Quantitative Analysis and Computing was held at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Twenty-eight social sciences faculty from the CSU system participated in the two week workshop. The SSRIC received funds for the workshop from the Office of Faculty and Staff Affairs, Office of the Chancellor. Five SSRIC members were the instructors for the workshop: Terry Dunn (DIS), John Korey (Pomona), Ed Nelson (Fresno), Jim Ross (Bakersfield), and Dick Shaffer (San Luis Obispo), who was also the Project Director. The workshop covered such topics as SPSS and basic data analysis, statistics, classroom uses of micro-computers, and computer aided instruction. A copy of the final workshop report can be obtained from Dick Shaffer (Department of Social Sciences, CPSU, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407).
2. The campus representatives from seven CSU campuses attended the Inter-University Consortium for Social and Political Research (ICPSR) meeting in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The

Council members who attended (and who had some of their expenses paid using the established formula) were Dan Graves (Hayward), Charlene Leonard (San Jose), Betty Moulds (Sacramento), Edward Nelson (Fresno), and Dick Shaffer (San Luis Obispo). In addition, ICPSR paid for the attendance of former ICPSR Committee Chairpersons Charles McCall (Bakersfield) and Betty Nesvold (San Diego).

All participants found the special information sections and the business session useful. ICPSR organized information sections based on such topics as the use of very large data bases, micro-computer purchases and the use of micro-computers in the classroom, and international data sets and analysis. The business meeting was dominated by a discussion of possible ICPSR membership fee increases (perhaps 10%).

3. As in previous years, CSU faculty and students participated in the ICPSR Summer Program. Professor Denith W. Hirich (Sacramento) and students Jose A. Carrasco and Chuck Lee attended during the summer of 1983. Professors Foraya Coley (Fullerton) and Louis Green (San Diego) and students Cynthia Brown and Lucille McCoy (both Chico) will attend the 1984 Summer Program, with some financial assistance.
4. The 1984 Student Research Conference sponsored by the SSRIC was held this Spring at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The student research papers presented were outstanding. This year, for the first time, the best undergraduate and best graduate student papers were awarded the Betty Nesvold Founders Award (including \$50 each).

John Korey did an outstanding job organizing the Student Research Conference and securing funds for the Betty Nesvold Founders Award. Professor Korey also arranged for Professor Herbert Alexander to give a keynote presentation on political financing.

5. SSRIC participation in the Field Institute continued at an increased pace. It appears that greater numbers of faculty are using the Field Poll data. As a result of the involvement of CSU, San Diego in the Field Poll data delivery process, even higher levels of usage can be expected.

As in past years, the SSRIC has placed both Faculty Fellows and Student Interns with the Field Institute. The Faculty Fellow for 1983-84 was Professor Don Dixon (Sonoma). The Student Intern for 1983-84 was Barbara O'Neal (Humbolt). In addition, a CSU faculty, Betty Moulds (Sacramento) included questions on attitudes about criminal justice sentencing in this year's Field Poll.

Professor Theodore Anagnoson (Los Angeles) is to be the 1984-85 Faculty Fellow, and Tim Ranuio (Chico) is to be the Student Intern for Fall, 1984.

6. In its information dissemination and advisory roles, the SSRIC also met on three occasions during AY 1983-84. Meetings were held on the CSU campuses of San Diego, San Jose, and Pomona. While the vast majority of time during the SSRIC business meetings were devoted to the items noted above, some of the other topics covered included:

a) Division of Information Systems (DIS) updated the campus representatives on the installation of NOS 2.2, SPSS updates, CDC remote micro facilities software, the Faculty Personnel Development Proposal, the installation of new computer equipment on the campuses, and the new electronic mail system. DIS will also work with Don Dixon (Sonoma) to update the SPSS on-line tutorial (SPSSCAI).

b) Informational workshops were held for the campus representatives. In Fall, Paul Strand (San Diego) hosted a workshop on SPSSx. During the Winter meeting, Charlene Leonard (San Jose) arranged for a micro-computer graphics demonstration. Both workshops were very useful.

Chair's Comments. Members of the SSRIC provide important services to their respective campuses. They provide a conduit for social science faculty to inform the CSU-DIS of needs unique to the social sciences, and, conversely, for DIS to inform interested social science faculty of important developments.

One of the major highlights of the year was the Summer Workshop on Quantitative Analysis and Computing for Social Science Faculty in the CSU System (Item 1 above). Workshops such as these are at the heart of the SSRIC's attempt to implement the goals of encouraging the use of quantitative methods in teaching social science students. As of this writing, the Summer Workshop has resulted in over 600 CSU students being exposed to quantitative techniques.

In its attempt to encourage more faculty to integrate quantitative analysis and computer techniques into their coursework, the SSRIC has contacted the CPSU, San Luis Obispo and the CSU Foundation Research and Development Offices for assistance in obtaining funding for two workshops to be held during the Summer of 1985. A copy of the proposal can be obtained from Dick Shaffer, Social Sciences Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.