Spring Meeting, 1977

MINUTES

ICPSR/SSRIC COUNCIL

I. Name Change

On an 8 to 6 vote, the Council voted to change its name from ICPSR to the Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC). While it was felt that the name ICPSR Council had served well during acquisition of ICPSR membership, the Council now coordinates a significantly broader scope of activities. SSRIC, while not an "ideal" title, more correctly identifies our function and purpose.

1. Field Institute Report

Chuck Wilmott from the Chancellor's Office noted that the system's contract with the Field Institute is virtually approved, and is being now finalized within the Chancellor's Office. The contract hastaken some 10 months of effort, in part due to difficulties between the Department of Finance and the Chancellor's Office over the "non-subscription" nature of the Field commitment. Unlike ICPSR membership, which is treated as a subscription, Field membership will be contractual, and will be payable in arrears.

Wilmott also detailed the presidential approval process and the funding arrangementsfor Institute membership. Presidents approved with the provisions that the Chancellor's Office finance 1976-77 membership and the costs from 1978-79 forward. Campuses would pay for 1978-79 membership, with fees ranging from $1000 to $3000 depending upon size of institution.

Under current arrangements with the Field Institute, all data sets requested by SUDC from Field after July 1978 will be provided in SPSS format. Those requested before will be provided in their current form -- which might include multi-column punches and unlabeled files.

Martin concluded discussion by urging an educational effort of our individual presidents by SSIRC members. This will help in both explaining the 1977-78 costs, and in further efforts at data acquisition.

1. Questionnaire Committee Report and Elections

Stevens Moved (Dixon second) that Article IV of the SSRIC By-Laws be amended as follows. Article IV shall now read:

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There shall be a Questionnaire Committee for the California Poll which will function in the following way:

1. The Committee will consist of 8 in miner!, and two alternates -- one from the Northern California area and the other from the Southern California area, Terms of office will be two years. One half of the first selected committee members will have one-year term.
2. Any CSUC faculty member is eligible for this committee. Committee membership will be selected by the SSRIC Council.
3. The Committee will have a Chairperson selected by the Council.
4. The Committee will represent the CSUC system and the Council at meetings of the California Pol1 Questionnaire Committee. Directives on CSUC question submittals and other interests will be provided by the Council.
5. The Committee will coordinate Field Data set development with the SSRIC Council and the Division of Information Systems.

Amendment was passed unanimously.

. Elections for membership on the Questionnaire Committee were then opened. The following individuals were nominated:

Jay Stevens

Paul Strand

Mike King (Chico)

Ken Wagner

Ellen Bonaparth

Jim Ross

Jim Fay (Alternate-Northern area)

Don Dixon

Dick Hofstetter

Wayne Martin (Alternate-Southern area)

With the designation of Fay and Martin as alternates, it was moved, seconded and passed to make said list the official CSUC Representatives. (Ebling Moved, Haston Seconded).

On a move by Haston (second Wagner) Jay Stevens by the Council to serve as Chairman of the Field Questionnaire Committee.

Vote 14-0.

Further by-Law Amendment

IV

Ebling moved, McCall seconded, a further amendment to Article IV of

the SSRIC bylaws on a 14-0 vote. Section I of the bylaws will

now read:

 At the Winter meeting, the Council will select a chairperson to serve for the next year beginning on July 1.

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1. ICPSR Summer Program

With. some discussion about "philosophy", the council allocated the $2200 available to support students-faculty at ICPSR Summer Program. Sonoma’s top 6 applicants each received$200, with the faculty applicant receiving $400. It was pointed out a) that the

faculty members with Ph.D's receive free tuition and b) that there should be greater support and publicity for the program. The Council informally agreed to push for more faculty participation and greater support from Michigan.

VI. NSF Grant Proposals and Other Efforts

Several reports on pending projected grant applications were made.

1. Stevens and McCa11 reported on discussions concerning possible summer workshops for High School Seniors and minorities. *the* intent was to have at least one workshop in the North and one in the South. It was felt that early exposure to data analysis projects would encourage bright and able students to enter the CSUC system. At this date, the Southern workshop appears more organized and further along, but Northern OR's were to meet on Friday morning to discuss plans for their area. Probable grant source for all proposals was the NSF, Development in Science Education Program.
2. Stevens and Haston reported on the NSF grant proposal for development of CSUC generated SETUPS. A notification date of late May or June is anticipated. Should the project be funded a quick start-up will be required. Those interested in possible participation were urged to contact either Bruce or Jay.
3. Dixon reported on an NSF, DISE proposal which Sonoma had authored.

The project anticipates the development of a generalized, social science methods curricula will be a Computer Assisted instruction hybrid. All course materials developed during the 18 month project would run on the System's PDP-ll/45's. Several council members expressed interest in serving as development and test sites. The proposal, if funded, would make materials available within the system in Spring, 1978 -­and to ICPSR during the following fall.

1. Dixon also reported on an Innovative Projects proposal entitled DECAP The proposal would seek to index, catalogue, setup and disseminate ICPSR SPSS Save Files throughout the CSUC System. McCall moved, (Stevens seconded) that SSRIC author a resolution of support for the project to be sent to David Provost, Director of the New Programs and Evaluation. Motion was passed unanimously.

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Wayne in consultation with Don will work out a suitable letter.

VII. ICPSR Codebook Supply

McCall voiced concerns, echoed by many others, that many of the ICPSR codebooks were simply not available. Considerable discussion ensued, the Council members were asked to forward to Wayne any lists of missing codebooks they had compiled. It was generally agreed that DIS should reorder both missing codebooks (at DIS expense) and provide the system with some backup system. This letter point was not clarified.

VIII. ICPSR Undergraduate Teaching Commitment

McCall reported on several developments relevant to undergraduate instruction.

1. The 1976 election study, in a complete unrestricted form will be available in June.
2. Nesvold's subsets of instructional databases have been made generally available. A seventh set, the 1976 election results, will be made available by Fall Semester**.** Charles and Debbie Dunkle suggested that we contact Betty to make suggestions about further writeups or additional materials. General appreciation was voiced **by** the entire council for the work Betty has undertaken in this area.
3. The teaching panel of the November OR's meeting in Ann Arbor will have as its primary topic "Beyond SETUPS". The orientation will be toward stimulating thoughton what should be made available within the next three to four years. Charles urged active participation of any interested Council members in suggesting ideas or directions of development.
4. McCall also noted that the Committee on Teaching of ICPSR is being reorganized. Various sources noted that Charles is rumored as the likely chairnr ; a development which McCall "tentatively" confirmed.

IX. Other ICPSR Developments

Stevens and McCall reported on several developments regarding the National Election Studies. These have been ( or are about to be) designated as a 'National Resource'. As such, there is a

guaranteed 10 year funding (possibly more) with a significantly greater level of support. This makes possible some "almost undreamed of" projects -- such as a 50 state sample, and greater survey detail. Moreover, the funding from NSF will be in advance --

allowing greater certainty in research design and administration.

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1. SETUPS Availability

Haston noted difficulty in obtaining certain SETUPS materials -­especially the 1972 Election Study. Most others had not experienced this difficulty, and Haston volunteered to report on the problem at the Fall meeting.

1. Election of Chairman and Scheduling of Meeting

McCall moved, Wagner seconded, the election of Bruce Haston as 1977-78 SSRIC Chairman. Motion carried by acclamation.

McCall also moved, seconded by Dixon and Ebling, that the Council accord Wayne a commendation on his outstanding service as Chairman. Passed by acclamation

Meeting schedules for the 1977-78 year are as follows:

Fall - Los Angeles October 13/14

Winter - Hayward February 16/17

Spring - Long Beach April 27/28

The research conference will be held during the Spring meeting on April 28, 1978.

1. Concern over Support Levels Given by Division of Information Systems

Harry Coffey spoke at some length on DIS plans and problems re­garding instructional support -- both on the CYBER and on the 3300's. CYBER is starting to reach "impact stage" between peak hours of 11-3 on weekdays. SPSS is seen as the most popular program, but one which has a significant impact on the system. The solution, in Harry's view, is the "probable" upgrade of the 179 to a 174 --possibly.as early as July, 1977.

Considerable council concern was voiced over the DIS policy of discouraging ICPSR data sets from being used on the CYBER. Harry denied that this was DIS policy, and noted that there had much misinformation disseminated from SUDC regarding the issue. His view was that ICPSR data bases should migrate to the CYBER -­although at a relatively slow rate.

In response to the questions about the impact of the library auto­mation project, "an administratively exempt project running on a dedicated instructional machine," Harry noted that the project has its own storage disks. Time and total percentage of storage were not discussed.

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Martin noted that "Social Sciences took a back seat on several issues" and during the procurement stage, Ross noted that there was considerable support for this view -- that instruction and particu­larly instruction in the Social Sciences had been "sold out for the hardware". Several others commented on the lack of commitment to Instruction by DIS and pointed to the problems with boty CYBER and the 3300's as examples. Geisler defended procurement of the 173 on the grounds that Online SPSS was in fact included in bid specifi­cations, and that other tradeoffs were necessary.

Stevens responded by noting that DIS has a lack of clear policy, and has not yet come to the view that "Instructional users have a legitimate right to use the machine." This view, echoed by others, stressed the need for some definite instructional commitment by DIS, in lieu of its administrative orientation.

Jim Ross also noted that policy procedures, as distinct from policy itself, were "muddy" at DIS. He proposed that a major shake-up of the policy formation bodies be recommended -- to give actual instructional types a chance tobecome involved in making instructional policy.

Coffey responded that there are currently two bodies which make policy -- the EDP Managers Group an.' the Management Advisory Group. McCall objected to theorientation of the first group (Data Center Directors who report to DIS) and to the selection and composition of the second (only two Instructional Representatives chosen by Presidents, in turn chosen by DIS). General dissatisfaction was voiced over these arrangements

Stevens noted that the lack of faculty led to the current situation wherein DIS is discouraging the use of the 3300's and isadopting policy to discouragethe use ofCYBR. Coffey repeated that this discouragement is not official policy, "regardless of what you have heard from individuals at DIS."

After much heated discussion, McCall moved and Ebeling seconded an "interim" resolution dealing with the lack of instructional support. The following resolution passed unanimously and will be readdressed at the Fall meeting.

The Council resolves to request the incoming andoutgoing council chairs to consult with the OR's, representatives of other systemwide data councils and whatever other persons they see fit regarding the need to call for the establishment of a systemwide Automatic Data Processing Advisory Committee with substantial faculty representation from each campus to review proposals for policy changes made or implemented by DIS and to report to the Fall meeting.

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XIII. Migration of ICPSRData Bases to CYBER

As a result lf the discussion concerning DIS's instructional role Harry suggested that one way to help DB was to make up a list of data bases which the Council wanted moved to the CYBER. Council members made the following "wish" list, and each member is to contact Wayne to rank their first 10 choices.

These items concluded the business meeting and the council was adjourned to the Fall meeting.