

The California State University
Social Science Research and
Instructional Council

22nd Annual Report

1993-1994

Organizational Structure

The Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SSRIC) is composed of one representative from each of the CSU campuses. Representatives from the Chancellor's Office and the Social Science Data Base Archive (SSDBA) at CSU, Los Angeles 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

1. The Council serves as an advisory board to the Social Science Data Base Archive (SSDBA) at CSU, Los Angeles.

The SSDBA, under the direction of Don Carder, Director, Academic Technology Support, maintains the social science data bases so essential to the social sciences. These include data from the Inter-University Consortium for Political and

Social Research, Bureau of the Census, The Field Institute, and the Roper Center. These data are used extensively in teaching.

The Council serves as an advisory board to the SSDBA. It suggests new services that can be added to the SSDBA. A bulletin board and services such as Legislate have recently been added. The SSDBA continues to seek to improve its services and the Council provides advice as to how this may be accomplished.

2. The members of the Council serve as the Official Representatives to the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

Official Representatives seek to encourage the use of ICPSR data in the classroom and in research. The members serve as a resource person that faculty can contact for assistance in using and ordering data.

Six council members attended the ICPSR's biannual meeting during October, 1993. Discussions were held on expansion of the ICPSR's data holdings, methods of transfer of data from the ICPSR to the campuses, use of Census data, and other topics. Funds were provided by the ICPSR for travel to the meeting.

Funds are also available from the ICPSR for sending faculty and students to the summer program at the ICPSR. This year funds were awarded to Professor Judith Gonzalez Calvo (Women's Studies, Fresno), Ms. Dona Bailey (SSDBA, CSU, Los Angeles), and Ms. Cenita Kupperbusch (graduate student, San Francisco).

3. The Council serves as a link with The Field Institute.

The Field Institute provides access to the Field Polls within sixty days of the survey. Data are sent to the Social Science Research Laboratory at San Diego State University where the SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) system file is created. This file is then sent to the SSDBA where it is installed on their system. It can then be accessed by faculty for use in their classes and research. These data have been the basis for several instructional computer modules widely used in the CSU.

The CSU may send students to the Field Institute as student interns. The students learn how to collect survey data, how to process and analyze it, and how to prepare reports. Students in the past have indicated that this has been a very valuable experience for them. During the 1993-94 year, two students served as student interns. These were Jason Scribner (San Luis Obispo) and Ricky Samayoa (Chico).

The CSU may also select one faculty member per year as Field Faculty Fellow. The Faculty Fellow is allowed to include at least twelve questions in a Field Poll on a topic to be decided in consultation with The Field Institute. The Field Faculty Fellows for 1993-94 were Professor Jon Ebeling (Political Science, Chico) and Professor Frederica Shockley (Economics, Chico). Their topic was "Californians' Attitudes About Raising Local Revenues". Their report was presented at The Field Institute Workshop in San Francisco in May, 1994. The Council also selected the Field Faculty Fellow for 1994-95 who is Professor Robert Roberts (Sociology, San Marcos). His topic is "Californians' Public Funding Priorities."

The CSU is also allowed to submit six questions per academic year to be included in the Field Poll. Professor Elliott Barkan (History and Ethnic Studies, San Bernardino) included questions on immigration. These include questions asked on previous polls making it possible to trace changes in opinion over time.

Requests for proposals were sent to all campuses for the Student Intern, Faculty Fellow, and Question Credits. Members of the Council served as contact persons for information and advice about applications.

4. The Council sponsors an annual student research conference which is now in its 19th year.

This year the conference was held April 28, 1994 at Dominguez Hills. The keynote address was given by Professor Richard DeLeon (Political Science, San Francisco) who discussed his book, *Left Coast City: Progressive Politics in San Francisco 1957-1991*. Professor DeLeon's book won the best book award in urban politics for 1992 from the American Political Science Association and he is also a former member of the Council.

Approximately fifteen student papers were presented at the conference. Awards were given for best papers.

The Betty Nesvold Award for Best Graduate Paper went to Ms. Dianne Pritle, CSU, Dominguez Hills, for her paper "Changing Prejudice Attitudes through Exposure and Interaction."

The Charles McCall Award for Best Undergraduate Paper went to Mr. Jeffrey Johnson, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, for his paper "Failure of Ideas: The Inconsistent Philosophy of the French Revolution."

The Gloria Rummels Award for Best Paper Using SSDBA Data Bases went to Mr. Olov Liljeborg, CSU, Long Beach, for his paper "Issues and Candidates in the 1992 Election."

Margaret Blue (Political Science, Dominguez Hills) did a superb job in coordinating the student research conference this year. Next year the conference will be held in San Francisco.

5. The Council sponsored the Social Science Instructional Computing Workshop for CSU faculty.

The Council obtained money from the Academic Opportunities Fund to host a workshop for CSU faculty aimed at increasing the use of social science data and computing in the classroom. The workshop was held on the Fresno campus from June 20 through June 24, 1994. Thirty-one faculty from fifteen campuses participated in the workshop. Instructors in the workshop included Dona Bailey (SSDBA, Los Angeles), John Korey (Political Science, Pomona), Edward Nelson (Sociology, Fresno), Jim Ross (Sociology, Bakersfield), and Gene Turner (Geography, Northridge).

The workshop was divided into three sections. Participants received instruction in how to use the SSDBA, how to use SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences), and how to create computer-based instructional materials. All participants agreed to use such materials in at least one class during the 1994-95 academic year. In this way, use of computer-based instructional material will increase in the social sciences.

A separate report on the workshop has been submitted to the Chancellor's Office. A copy of this report may be obtained from the project director, Edward Nelson, Sociology, Fresno. Evaluations showed that participants perceived the workshop as highly successful in meeting its objectives. Participants will be contacted during the year to determine the actual use of the instructional materials. Members of the Council will act as resource contacts for the participants.

6. The Council continues to be involved in creating computer-based instructional materials.

For a number of years the Council has been involved in the preparation of computer-based instructional modules that can be used in the classroom. In the late 1980's, the Council received a grant from the Academic Computing Enhancement Institute to prepare five modules that could be used to introduce data analysis to students with little or no computer or analytic experience. These modules were called the Social Science Instructional Modules (SSIMS) and have been widely used throughout the CSU and in some community colleges. Two of these modules have been revised. Elizabeth Nelson and Edward Nelson (Fresno) have completed the revision of their module which has been retitled *California Opinions on Women's Issues 1985-1991*. Jim Ross (Bakersfield) is currently revising Bruce Haston's module, *Opinions and Behavioral Characteristics of College Students*. The Council has also discussed adding additional modules to the series.

7. The Chair of the Council (or the chair's designee) serves on the Academic Information Resources Council (AIRC) and on the Academic Council and Committee on Educational Services and Systems (ACCESS).

Both of these committees serve an important coordinating function for computing within the CSU. The council decided to appoint a permanent representative to these groups. Edward Nelson will serve as the representative.

8. The Council revised its by-laws to reflect the addition of new campuses and organizational changes within the CSU..

Chair's Comments

Members of the Council provide important services to their respective campuses. They provide the link between the campus and the Social Science Data Base Archive (SSDBA) and important sources of data for the social sciences (ICPSR, The Field Institute, Roper Center, Census data).

The Council has also played an important role in faculty development. The Social Sciences Instructional Computing Workshop held this year on the Fresno campus is the fourth workshop of its kind to be held in the last eleven years.

Chuck Wilmot has been our representative from the Chancellor's Office for many years. This year Chuck retired and will be greatly missed. The Council passed a resolution honoring Chuck for his long years of service to the SSRIC.

Penny Crane will now represent the Chancellor's Office on the SSRIC. Penny's contributions to the SSRIC have been many over the years and we are pleased to be able to continue our work with her.

Dan Graves, representative from Hayward, died this year. Dan was an original member of the Council, a past chair of the Council, and has made many contributions to the work of the Council. He was also a very good friend to all of us. We will miss him greatly. The Undergraduate Research Conference at Dominguez Hills was dedicated to the memory of Dan Graves.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Nelson
Department of Sociology
CSU, Fresno
Chair, 1993-94, SSRIC

Attachment: Roster of Campus
Representatives to SSRIC

Roster of Campus Representatives
to SSRIC for 1993-94

Bakersfield	Jim Ross (Sociology)
Chico	Jon Ebeling (Political Science)
Dominguez Hills	Margaret Blue (Political Science)
Fresno	Edward Nelson (Sociology)
Fullerton	Rae Newton (Sociology)
Hayward	Nan Chico (Sociology)
Humboldt	JeDon Emenhiser (Political Science)
Long Beach	Frank Gossette (Geography)
Los Angeles	Nadine Koch (Political Science)
Northridge	Gene Turner (Geography)
Pomona	John Korey (Political Science)
Sacramento	Carole Barnes (Sociology)
San Bernardino	Elliot Barkan (History)
San Diego	Doug Coe (Social Science Research Lab)
San Francisco	David Tabb (Political Science)
San Jose	Richard Taketa (Geography)
San Marcos	Richard Serpe (Sociology)
San Luis Obispo	Bob Clover (Academic Computing Service)
Sonoma	Don Dixon (Political Science)
Stanislaus	Larry Giventer (Politics and Public Adm.)
SSDBA	Don Carder (Academic Technology Support)
Chancellor's Office	Chuck Wilmot (Academic Resources)
Chancellor's Office	Penny Crane (Library and Academic Information Services)