

# ICPSR COUNCIL MINUTES

September 30, 2015

**Council Members:** Christopher H. Achen (Chair), Marilyn Andrews, Tony N. Brown, Robert S. Chen, Colin Elman, John Fox, Philip N. Jefferson, Carl Lagoze, Chandra L. Muller, Ronald Nakao and William Vega

**ICPSR Staff:** JD Alford, George Alter, Rita Bantom, Shuming Bao, Dieter Burrell, Alina Conn, Edward Czilli, Linda Detterman, Peter Granda, Susan Jekielek, Dory Knight-Ingram, John Marcotte, James McNally, Tom Murphy, Harold Neighbors, Asmat Noori, Michelle Overholser, Amy Pienta, David Thomas, Jukka Savolainen, Sandra Schneider, Mary Vardigan and Diane Winter

**Visitor:** Christof Wolf, Acting President, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for Social Research

## *Director's Report*

ICPSR Director George Alter welcomed everyone to the Council meeting and to the 2015 Official Representatives Meeting. June Council meeting minutes were reviewed, voted on with minor corrections, and approved.

Alter introduced Harold Neighbors, Interim Director for the Research Center for Minority Data, and Jukka Savolainen, Director of the National Archive for Criminal Justice, as well as Professor Christof Wolf, Acting President of GESIS.

Alter reported that membership numbers were healthy with a total of 755 member institutions; ICPSR added 26 members for the fiscal year with only 13 drops. FY15 membership dues collections to date totaled \$2,864,429.

Final revenue for the fiscal year that ended June 30 was \$17.2M, with expenses totaling \$17.7M, resulting in a deficit of \$530K. The original budget had forecast a deficit of \$1.04M. This changed because membership revenue was \$120K greater than budget while expenses were down \$311K. ICPSR's year-end fund balance stood at \$4.54 million.

Council had previously approved the FY2016 budget, which included total revenues of \$18.4M and a deficit of \$683K. The forecast was showing a slight improvement compared to the budget, but it was still very early in the fiscal year to give a full forecast.

Alter highlighted some proposals that had been submitted recently: Neighbors had already submitted a proposal on "RWJF Diversity in Health Policy Research" and Susan Jekielek had applied for a grant on "National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect." ICPSR had received four grants since June.

Website activity since the last meeting was robust: 59,505 website visits (non-bounce) and 39,505 unique visitors.

Alter also reviewed the most frequently downloaded studies:

**Top 10 Studies Released in the Previous 6 Months as of September 27, 2015**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Archive</b>
India Human Development Survey-II (IHDS-II), 2011-12	DSDR
Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS), 2013	NACJD
Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race, Summarized Yearly, 2013	NACJD
Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2013	NACJD
Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2013	NACJD
Law Enforcement Agency Identifiers Crosswalk, 2012	NACJD
Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Offenses Known and Clearances by Arrest, 2013	NACJD
National Incident-Based Reporting System, 2013: Extract Files	NACJD
National Crime Victimization Survey, 2014	NACJD
Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Police Employee (LEOKA) Data, 2013	NACJD

**Top 10 Data Downloads in the Previous Six Months as of September 27, 2015**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Archive</b>	<b>Number of downloads</b>
National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2013	ICPSR	1673
National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), 1994-2008 [Public Use]	DSDR	1671
India Human Development Survey (IHDS), 2005	DSDR	789
National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2012	ICPSR	612
India Human Development Survey-II (IHDS-II), 2011-12	DSDR	591
Gender, Mental Illness, and Crime in the United States, 2004	NACJD	546
Chinese Household Income Project, 2002	DSDR	477
National Mental Health Services Survey (N-MHSS), 2010	ICPSR	369
National Crime Victimization Survey, 2013	NACJD	356

Data from the Army STARRS project, a five-year \$50 million research project funded by the US Army and the National Institute of Mental Health, was released through the Virtual Data Enclave (VDE). This was the most extensive study of mental health and risk and resilience among US military personnel ever conducted.

With respect to educational activities, Alter noted that the Summer Program had 983 participants representing 300+ institutions, 34 nations, and 30 disciplines last summer. There were 81 courses, 101 instructors, 40 TAs, and 19 Blalock Lectures. Also, the Summer Program announced a new scholarship: the Dr. Eugene Owen Scholarship for Research on the International Assessment of Student Achievement, which honors Dr. Owen's pioneering work on cross-national comparisons of educational achievement. Recipients of this scholarship will be young scholars who will contribute to research and policy about education and teaching in a cross-national perspective.

The Virtual Data Enclave was being used by a growing number of projects. Alter noted that, in addition to being used for the MET education data, it was now being used by the criminal justice archive, and new deposits were expected from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Food and Drug Administration.

There had also been discussions with a number of departments on campus about the VDE, and ICPSR was now partnering with the UM Medical School to provide access to confidential data through the VDE. Also, ICPSR was working with UM Advanced Research Computing and the UM Medical School on a proposal to fund and build what would be the next generation of the VDE, the "Glove Box" system. This would provide a scalable set of resources for remote analysis, with access through the VDE to high performance computing capabilities.

Alter reported that ICPSR had been active in the Research Data Alliance (RDA), an international initiative to openly share data across technologies, disciplines and countries to address the grand challenges of society. He was leading the Domain Repositories Interest Group and Mary Vardigan was co-chairing the Repository Audit and Certification Working Group. ICPSR had also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the US wing of the RDA to pursue joint projects and activities.

Alter showcased one of the outcomes of another RDA working group, the Data Literature Interlinking Service (DLI). ICPSR was contributing its bibliography to this effort, and major publishers (e.g., Elsevier, Thomson Reuters, Nature Publishing Group) and projects (OpenAire, Dryad) were participating. The DLI leverages two major registries currently in use: DataCite for data and CrossRef for publications. The DLI collects links between data and publications from many different sources and then resolves them. Benefits will accrue to ICPSR as this matures because there will be new ways to discover ICPSR data and linked publications as well as rich networks among data-publications-grants-researchers.

RDA has a notion of the "Data Fabric," which lays out the components of infrastructure necessary for reproducible science. This includes the network of identifiers that provide key linkages. One of the key identifier schemes is ORCID, which provides unique persistent identifiers for researchers and contributors.

Alter reviewed the schedule for the 2015 ICPSR Biennial Meeting of Official Representatives, which had the theme “Delivering Effective Data Stewardship.” There were 114 registered guests, and 17 workshops and sessions were planned.

## ***Budget and Policy Committee***

Council: Christopher H. Achen (Chair), Robert S. Chen, John Fox, Phillip N. Jefferson,  
Chandra L. Muller

Staff: JD Alford, George Alter, Rita Bantom, Diane Winter

### **I. Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan was discussed as part of the Director’s Report. Council asked for further information on special projects that ICPSR was working on, and discussion took place on the following activities.

- *FLAME, the new file-level data management system.* This is of critical importance to ICPSR going forward. The previous infrastructure was built around SSPS files, but new types of data require new approaches. We have a very large video collection and are beginning to ingest GIS data and other non-traditional collections. Our infrastructure needs to change to handle different kinds of digital objects.
- *GIS initiatives.* Kathryn Frania, General Archive Processing Supervisor, worked with Minako Edgar of the Survey Research Center to develop a model for processing GIS data. In addition, working with the Association of American Geographers, ICPSR had recently tested the Virtual Data Enclave (VDE) for use with GIS data. The tests were successful: users can perform statistical analyses of GIS data in the VDE, and they can use most GIS applications with some limitations. The main problem is that a large distance between the user and ICPSR servers creates a delay in responses to the graphical interface. This is not a problem if users are in the US, but it was found to be a problem when the user is in Asia. If user demand is sufficient, we can solve this problem by contracting with data centers or cloud computing providers in other locations.
- *The Michigan Data Science Initiative (MIDAS).* ICPSR had been involved with MIDAS from an early stage, and Alter indicated that he was a member of the MIDAS Management Committee. ICPSR will gain benefits and visibility from networking and new services emerging from this initiative. ISR is developing a response to the MIDAS initiative for the social sciences, which is one of four designated challenges. It may be more difficult for ICPSR and ISR to participate in the MIDAS hiring program, which requires departments to match funding provided by the UM Provost. Forging new links to other places on campus will be the biggest benefit for ICPSR. Alter had been spending a lot of time with UM researchers in the health sciences, and he noted that the Medical School had purchased services in the ICPSR VDE.

There is an educational component to this as well. It could potentially lead to augmenting the instructional base at the UM. There is a Summer Program data mining course, taught by Robert Stein. Also, it is possible that a non-instructional unit like ICPSR could partner in teaching, perhaps with undergraduates. George had discussions with Carl Lagoze and Margaret Hedstrom at the School of Information about ICPSR's adding value in data management and data preservation. This could lead to new revenue and is worth investigating. A "certificate" program might also be possible as ICPSR has the expertise in data management and curation.

## **II. Financial and Administrative Issues**

### **A. Financial Reports**

Staff began the discussion by pointing out that the net deficit for FY 2015 was \$530,246, which was \$506K better than budgeted. Total revenue was down 4.9% while expenses were down 7.3%.

Council was pleased with the new report, the ICPSR Executive Financial Summary. This report enabled Council and ICPSR leadership to better understand the health of the financial reserves.

There was further discussion on the return on investments that ICPSR had made, specifically for infrastructure. Council expressed concern about the infrastructure investments (mostly FLAME) and the multi-year projects with major expenditures. Specifically, they were interested in whether there were benchmarks and regular review to make sure these projects met their goals and what their impact might be on the organization. It was pointed out that there is value in having benchmarks because they encourage accountability. However, the current timeline does not incorporate benchmarks for implementation.

Alter stated that Tom Murphy, Director of CNS, would be providing a presentation for the Preservation and Access Committee in which he would detail the plan. George also stressed that Tom had assured ICPSR that FLAME would reduce costs in the long run. The current infrastructure is homegrown, inefficient, and more expensive than moving to the future design, which utilizes open source software. Staff stated that they would provide more detail on the infrastructure projects at the March meeting.

Staff highlighted the new graphs on pages 47 and 48 of the briefing book, which will become part of the annual financial package each October.

### **B. Personnel Update**

Staff reviewed the personnel reports, specifically discussing the recent hiring of an Interim Director for RCMD, Harold Neighbors, and a Director for NACJD, Jukka Savolainen.

Staff communicated that the University had kicked off a special diversity, inclusion, and equity initiative in which ICPSR would participate. Staff will provide details of the program and ICPSR's goals at the March 2016 Council Meeting.

### **III. Governance Issues**

#### **A. Metadata Sharing**

Staff told Council that ICPSR had been sharing its study-level metadata and doing so had great benefits.

#### **B. ICPSR Partnerships with Data Repositories and Supporting Organizations**

Staff shared with Council the most recent MOU format for creating partnerships between ICPSR and other organizations in which we promise to participate but are not committing to specific deliverables. An example of the MOU with the RDA was provided.

ICPSR was developing a Research Coordination Network proposal to NSF which would provide funding for coordination activities across domain repositories. It would be similar to the grant ICPSR received from the Sloan Foundation for this purpose. There was a great response from the domain repositories at the first Sloan Meeting. RDA is interested in promoting its products among the domain repositories. Repositories should be working together to save costs of preservation, and cooperation can be cheaper in the long run. We expect NSF to see RDA as a great success.

#### **C. Fundraising**

Staff requested that fundraising be added to the agenda. The ICPSR Director had been discussing an initiative with the ISR Development Office to begin a fundraising campaign to establish endowments for Summer Program Scholarships. They had discussed kicking off the campaign with an effort to endow the John A. Garcia Scholarship.

### ***Collection Development Committee***

Council: Marilyn Andrews (Chair), Colin Elman, Carl Lagoze, Ronald Nakao,  
William Vega

Staff: Peter Granda, Amy Pienta

Guests: Kathryn Frania, Harold Neighbors, Jukka Savolainen

#### **I. Strategic Plan Update**

Peter Granda gave a Strategic Plan update. He talked about ICPSR staff serving on the Advisory Board of DataFirst and attending a symposium on the Eurobarometer Series as ICPSR continued to foster international partnerships around the preservation of social science data. With respect to new services, ICPSR began to disseminate Army STARRS through the VDE.

## **II. Introduction of New Topical Directors**

Granda introduced ICPSR's two new topical directors -- Jukka Savolainen (NACJD) and Harold Neighbors (RCMD, Interim Director). Savolainen discussed his recent trip to Washington, DC, to meet with NACJD program officers as well as ideas he had about expanding NACJD's data holdings. Neighbors discussed a recent grant submission to support minority training activities and his vision for expanding RCMD data holdings.

## **III. General Archive Processing**

Granda outlined a new activity of the General Archive (GA) in which GA staff were being supported by sponsored projects; specifically staff were curating data for two of ICPSR's topical archives -- Data Sharing for Demographic Research (DSDR) and the National Archive of Computerized Data on Aging (NACDA). The committee discussed the merits of this activity.

## **IV. New Procedures for Acquiring and Processing Geospatial Data**

Kathryn Frania gave a short presentation about how ICPSR recently evaluated ICPSR workflows for geospatial data through a pilot project and established a base set of procedures for acquiring and processing geospatial data. The Council discussed the value of having ICPSR be able to handle these kind of data.

## ***Membership Services Committee***

Council: Tony N. Brown, Marilyn Andrews (Chair), Philip N. Jefferson, William Vega  
Staff: Linda Detterman, Dory Knight-Ingram  
Guests: Harold Neighbors, Jukka Savolainen

### **I. Strategic Plan Update**

Linda Detterman discussed the two strategic initiatives most closely tied to the Membership Services Committee, the Organizational Insights Team and the Innovations Group. The Organizational Insights Team (OIT) was continuing to assemble and evaluate data already collected about ICPSR data users and was to undertake a survey about use of instructional materials. The Innovations Group was working on an ICPSR Innovator Award and would propose a curriculum to launch ICPSR University, an effort to educate and inspire staff across the organization.

### **II. Membership Status Update**

Detterman reported that 10 new members joined ICPSR in FY 2016 thus far for a total to date of 755 members. Approximately \$3,895,000 in membership fees was billed out in May with the expectation of collecting \$3,800,000. To date, approximately 80% of fees had been collected (\$3,115,000). Collections were running similar to previous years. Detterman noted that ICPSR had been collecting about 98% of what it billed for the past several years but that it was taking

increasingly more resources (staff time) to get the last unpaid invoices resolved.

### **III. Membership Outreach Activities**

#### **A. General Activities Update**

ICPSR exhibited at three conferences since June and had a full schedule of exhibits that included several fall professional meetings. ICPSR continued to share updates via a seasonal newsletter called *DataBytes* and issued its latest *ICPSR Bulletin* in an easy to read online format. Social media fans and followers continued to grow as the ICPSR editor Dory Knight-Ingram had put much time into preparing image- and content-rich posts that engage online audiences.

#### **B. OR Meeting 2015 Update**

ICPSR Official Representatives Meeting attendance stood at approximately 158 total attendees with 114 OR/DR/Guests (core audience) registered. Detterman noted that the 110 to 115 core audience figure was similar to past years. A full report on the 2015 meeting would be included in the Member Services report in March. The report is expected to encourage Council and ICPSR staff to consider options for achieving greater outreach to the membership, perhaps taking on the form of regional meetings in future years.

### **IV. Instructional Resources Update**

Discussion centered on the future of the ICPSR Internship and whether or not the internship would take place during the summer of 2016 with no NSF funding being available. Council advocated for the summer internship, realizing that budget issues must be considered. They suggested that ICPSR actively pursue foundations that would be interested in helping fund interns. Council also questioned whether there might be funds within the University of Michigan and suggested that ICPSR investigate funding for under-resourced students. Detterman suggested that the Internship Team should request a decision about whether any internship would be sponsored by the ICPSR membership as soon as possible for the purposes of promotion, but that the count of intern positions offered needed to be considered in tandem with membership budget discussions that would begin in October.

Council inquired about that status of Instructional Resources since there had been previous discussion of its future. It was suggested that Hoelter put together a group to brainstorm for opportunities and direction as well as to consider sources where funding might be available, such as the Gates Foundation. Also mentioned was instructional content that goes beyond undergraduates and potential virtual training.

### **V. RCMD Update**

In a brief report Interim Director Harold “Woody” Neighbors indicated that the search for a permanent director was in the beginning stages, and also noted that RCMD had received many positive mentions in a book chapter, “Secondary Analysis of Datasets in Multicultural Research.”



## ***Preservation and Access Committee***

Council: Carl Lagoze (Chair), Christopher H. Achen, Robert S. Chen, Ronald Nakao  
Staff: Tom Murphy, Asmat Noori, Harshakumar Ummerpillai, Mary Vardigan

### **I. Strategic Plan Update**

This item focused on the growing number of requests for ICPSR's study-level metadata. For several years, ICPSR had made its study-level metadata available freely under a Creative Commons license, and several ICPSR member institutions had harvested the metadata for presentation in their Open Public Access Catalogs (OPACs). In addition, subsets of the metadata had been shared with da|ra, which registers Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for ICPSR data, and also with DataCite, the umbrella organization of which da|ra is a part.

More recently, publishers have become interested in ICPSR metadata. ICPSR began an arrangement with Thomson Reuters in 2012 to contribute to the Data Citation Index, a resource within Thomson Reuters' Web of Knowledge service to facilitate the discovery, use, and attribution of scientific research data. ICPSR was now beginning to share metadata via Elsevier's Science Direct and EBSCO's Discovery Service as well, and was also one of the 56 content providers to the Association for Research Libraries' SHARE Notify service, which informs interested stakeholders when research release events occur, including the publication of articles and the dissemination of research data.

It was reported that to fulfill all of these requests for metadata, ICPSR was developing an OAI-PMH service, which would enable harvesting of the ICPSR metadata in a number of formats. ICPSR also wants to track referrals from all of these different sites to gauge impact. This is difficult because Google Analytics does not currently distinguish the referral sites as they all go through the same DOI resolution service. There is a potential technical solution that ICPSR will investigate.

### **II. FLAME and Technology Update**

Tom Murphy, Computer and Network Services (CNS) Director, provided an overview of recent technology projects. He noted that the main priority was moving to a file-based data management system as the current study-centric system was not sufficiently granular, given the growing complexity of data. Geospatial data and video posed additional challenges. ICPSR had not made changes to the architecture in at least 10 years, so there was a pressing need to make headway in this area. Things CNS needed to consider in moving forward were acquisitions, processing, dissemination, analysis, storage, search/retrieval, sharing, data and systems security, and technology. Also, the new system should address the OAIS reference model components. ICPSR had about 80 percent of this in place previously but it was not coordinated.

Murphy provided a high-level overview of the new architecture, which was being developed using an agile-type approach. The main application and technology stack (the outer layer of the architecture) included things like deposit manager, virus scanner, single sign-on, search, open

API, etc. The next layer in included an RDBMS, data analysis engine, metadata manager, and more.

A sandbox for development and testing was up and running with several applications in it, including the repository engine Fedora. A decision on using Hydra with Fedora had not been made yet as there are benefits and challenges to using Hydra and it may not ultimately be a good fit. CNS was starting to move the 90 or so deposits in openICPSR into Fedora.

Development of the new architecture parallels that of SEAD (Sustainable Environment Actionable Data), providing synergies. Geotagging and thumbnail tagging in the new system were coming from SEAD. CNS was slated to do a demo soon showing openICPSR accepting SEAD input with DOIs provided.

Murphy indicated that in the new architecture everything would be RDF, and Fuseki, a triple store for metadata, would be used. We would still use DDI but would also leverage other standards, like FGDC. The open API would facilitate exports of the metadata in different formats.

The new architecture is all based on a restful interface, and some of the code components will be open source. ICPSR could become a host for other repositories' information once the new architecture is in place. This could bring in revenue.

A question was raised about how the system would control access. Data will be classified in terms of access constraints and, based on the classification, will get appropriate security. ICPSR does a lot of this already because of FISMA compliance requirements. The University of Michigan Risk Assessment Team conducted a recent assessment of the Secure Data Environment and the Virtual Data Enclave and the results were positive.

Murphy detailed the roadmap and milestones for building and launching Archonnex, the successor to the FLAME project. The goal is to have an alpha release at the end of the year, a production release by the end of 2016, and a complete implementation by the end of 2017.

We should see better performance as the components of the new system will be integrated in a more efficient way. In terms of testing for scalability, such work is currently under way at the University level.

## **Resource Utilization**

CNS staffing for FY2016 was reviewed:

- 13 total FTE members in CNS
- 6.24 FTE on infrastructure and support
- 6.76 sponsored/billable projects (every FTE has a billable component for CNS)
- Recharge now tracked more granularly
- Professional development (doing more this year)

Every project had at least two people associated with it so there was backup for all activities. Staff were tracking their time more granularly. Murphy mentioned that ICPSR needed to look at the recharge annually to make sure it was still accurate.

Murphy detailed the number of FTEs on specific projects and described a set of new projects that would need CNS support. A question was posed regarding whether CNS had enough staff with the right skills, given the key need for technology at ICPSR. The response was that CNS was at a tight capacity right now but that having a new, more robust architecture that allowed CNS to do more things with fewer people would help. CNS was currently migrating people to new skill sets. It was noted that everyone on the team currently had value and was working on things that had to get done.

It was pointed out that, if the organization takes on additional projects, it may not be possible to complete the new architecture in the two-year time frame given the current size of the team and its list of projects. In that case, Council noted that it would be appropriate to draw from reserves to ensure that Archonnex continues on pace as it is a priority for ICPSR.

### ***Summer Program Committee***

Council: John Fox (Chair), Christopher H. Achen, Colin Elman, Chandra L. Muller  
Staff: Dieter Burrell, Edward Czilli, Sandy Schneider, Fillippo Stargell

#### **I. Strategic Plan Update: Inclusion and Diversity Efforts**

Summer Program Director Sandy Schneider reviewed the Summer Program's accomplishments with respect to increasing diversity among the instructional staff, participants, and course offerings. The 2015 Summer Program had 38 instructors (37.6% of the total) from under-represented groups and 420 minority participants (48% of the total who reported their racial/ethnic background). In addition, the 2015 Summer Program curriculum offered a four-week workshop on "Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methodology" (previously titled "Methodological Issues in Quantitative Research on Race and Ethnicity"); a short (five-day) substantive workshop on "Immigration, Immigrants and Health Conditions, and Policies: Examining Multilevel and Multidimensional Models and Approaches" (sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ICPSR's Health and Medical Care Archive, and the Resource Center for Minority Data); and a series of presentations in the Hubert M. Blalock Lecture Series on "Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Issues in Social Science Research." All of these workshops and lectures were well received, attracting a sizable number of participants at each event.

Schneider reported that the Summer Program had plans to further enhance diversity in the Program, particularly in the 2016 course offerings. These included: continuing the four-week workshop on "Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methodology" and expanding the Hubert M. Blalock Lecture Series to include presentations/discussions by prominent scholars, such as Janet Box-Steffensmeier and John Garcia. The Program would also undertake activities aimed at increasing diversity among its participant population by attending graduate school recruitment fairs, promoting scholarships, and providing fee waivers for graduate students and young

scholars to attend the Summer Program's four-week sessions. Council members remarked on the strong (even described as "enviable") record of the Summer Program to promote inclusion and diversion.

## **II. ICPSR Summer Program Scholarships**

Summer Program Director Sandy Schneider reiterated the decision of the ICPSR Council at the March 2015 Council Meeting to approve a budget of \$101,500 to fund Summer Program scholarship awards in 2015. For the 2015 Summer Program, a total of 39 ICPSR scholarships were awarded totaling \$99,300. The exact breakdown of these awards were as follows:

The Summer Program received 97 applications and made a total of 31 awards for the Miller, Clogg, Clubb, Development, Child and Family Psychology, Education Research, and Public Administration/Policy scholarships; The Society for Political Methodology received 18 applications for the Garcia/Box-Steffensmeier awards (which are administered by the Society for Political Methodology), and made a total of 6 awards for these two scholarships; and the Summer Program working with the National Council of Black Political Scientists/NCOBPS made two awards in honor of Hanes Walton.

Fifty University of Michigan graduate students submitted applications for the 2015 Rackham Summer Training Awards; seven students were selected to cover their participation in the four-week session(s) of the 2015 ICPSR Summer Program. Five students received EITM scholarships to participate in Summer Program workshops in 2015. Funds for the Rackham Summer Training Awards and the EITM scholarship came from the Rackham Graduate School/UM Departments and the EITM Program (funded by the National Science Foundation).

The ICPSR Council put the Under-Resourced Institution Awards "on hold" at the March 2015 Council Meeting because of the difficulties encountered in implementing them. Hence, no Under-Resourced Institution Awards were made for the 2015 ICPSR Summer Program.

## **III. Overview of the 2015 ICPSR Summer Program**

Schneider provided a summary of the 2015 Summer Program. The first four-week session of the Program consisted of a total of 26 courses and lectures. Eleven of these were statistical workshops, seven were lecture classes (on computing software, mathematics for social scientists, statistical graphics, and data analysis), three were presentations/roundtable discussions on professionalization topics (academic publishing in journals and books, teaching statistics, data access and transparency issues), four were presentations on diversity issues, and one was a substantive workshop on race and ethnicity. The second four-week session contained 16 statistical workshops, ten lectures (on computing software, matrix algebra, calculus, multivariate statistics, missing data, semi- and nonparametric methods in social science research, data science and high performance computing), five lectures/discussions on professionalization topics (academic publishing in journals, data access and transparency issues in the social sciences), and one presentation on a substantive research topic for a total of 32 courses.

The 2015 ICPSR Summer Program also offered 42 shorter courses (two to five days), both in Ann Arbor and at several other locations. These classes are intensive workshops, covering advanced or specialized topics in quantitative research methods. Most of these workshops met for seven to eight hours each day, with time divided between classroom instruction and laboratory sessions. One of the short workshops met for four hours a day across a four-day period, comprising a two-day class.

Thirty-five of the short workshops covered topics in statistics and methodology. Of these, 16 were offered in Ann Arbor, with the remaining 17 workshops offered off-site: Seven at the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, on the University of North Carolina campus in Chapel Hill, NC; three at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA; three at the University of Colorado in Boulder, CO; three at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, Canada; two at the University of California in Berkeley, CA; one at Fordham University in New York City; and one on the campus of the Uniformed Health Services of the United States in Bethesda, MD. Seven more short workshops covered substantive topics. Six of the substantive workshops were offered in Ann Arbor; one was offered at the University of California at Berkeley.

The Summer Program staff and Council members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of offering ICPSR Summer Program short courses in remote locations. The courses serve as important “feeders” to promote participation in the regular four-week sessions at Ann Arbor, and they enable the Program to offer courses in more convenient locations for ICPSR member organizations. But they can be difficult to organize and monitor.

The Summer Program staff and ICPSR Council members also discussed some of the issues confronting the Summer Program and the plans to address these issues. These included: maintaining and increasing the ability to offer a comprehensive set of courses in statistical analysis and research methodology, from introductory-level classes to workshops on advanced, innovative, and “cutting-edge” topics; expanding the reach of the Summer Program into academic disciplines and fields that had not been well-represented in the past through more targeted marketing initiatives; assessing the impact of the ever-growing number of methodological training programs, summer “boot camps,” intensive learning workshops, and online instructional modules; and re-assessing the Program’s off-site course offerings to determine the best locations and the right mix of courses across the sites. In addition, Council also discussed the financial and organizational challenges facing the Summer Program. The Summer Program had made concerted efforts to keep the Program’s budget in check even though there had been substantial increases in Program expenses and charges. The Program planned to update and reconfigure its administrative operations so they would be better positioned to conduct promotional activities, compete with other training programs, and attract a broader, more diverse set of participants.

#### **IV. Proposed Fee Structure for the 2016 ICPSR Summer Program**

Schneider proposed the fee structure for the 2016 ICPSR Summer Program, recommending a \$200 increase in the fees for all courses. Subcommittee members discussed this recommendation at some length and considered other possibilities (e.g., increasing all course fees by the same

percentage amount, increasing the four-week workshops and the short courses at different amounts or percentages). In the end, Summer Program staff and Council members all agreed that it was simpler and more straightforward to raise all course fees by the same amount of \$200. The Committee's Council members unanimously approved a fee increase across all courses of \$200 for the 2016 Summer Program and moved to present this recommendation to the full Council membership, which accepted the recommendation.