

October 2019 Council meeting minutes

Council attendees: Bobray Bordelon, Lisa Cook, Jon Cawthorne, Michael Jones-Correa, Jane Fry, Elizabeth Groff, Verna Keith, Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux, Esther Wilder, and Katherine Wallman

Council members absent: Christine Borgman, Robert Stine

Guest: Matthew Woollard, Director, UKDA

Staff attendees: Dharma Akmon, JD Alford, Trent Alexander, Johanna Bleckman, Sara Burchart, Scott Campbell, Stephanie Carpenter, Linda Detterman, Ren Dickson, Allyson Flaster, Chelsea Goforth, Lynette Hoelter, Dory Knight-Ingram, Abay Israel, Lisa Kelley, Susan Jekielek, Kilsang Kim, John Lemmer, Margaret Levenstein, James McNally, John Marcotte, Trisha Martinez, A.J. Million, Elizabeth Moss, Michelle Overholser, Eszter Palvolgyi-Polyak, Vanessa Unkeless-Perez Michael Shove, and Rujuta Umarji

Michael Jones-Correa called the meeting to order with the approval of the March 2019 Council minutes. Elizabeth Groff motioned for approval; Jane Fry seconded the motion. The March 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

ICPSR Council welcomes Jon Cawthorne, Wayne State University, as a new Council member replacing Keith Whitfield, Wayne State University.

Director's Report

Margaret (Maggie) Levenstein highlighted areas of ICPSR including our membership growth. We have grown consistently since 2004 and have currently 786 members. Our newest members include Ancestry.com, MacArthur Foundation, a number of high schools, and a number of statistical agencies.

We have received more sponsored funding and renewals of funding for several archives: Criminal Justice, National Endowment for the Arts, and Child and Family Data Archive (CFDA). We are hosting the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers portal for applications for restricted data. Two projects were funded, by one National Science Foundation and one by IMLS, to support research on the impact of data archiving.

ICPSR has more than 2500 new data sets from American Economic Association for the AEA journal archive. Maggie introduced new faculty and staff: Allyson Flaster, Research Manager, College and Beyond II Study, John Lemmer, Assistant Director, Trisha Martinez, Computing Network Services Director, A.J. Million, Director, National Archive for Criminal Justice Data.

We are currently hiring more staff members in Curation, Computer Network Services, and Project Management and User Support.

Maggie mentioned a number of projects on which we are actively working. Trent Alexander's work on the American Opportunity Study is a collaborative project with Raj Chetty (Harvard) and the Census Bureau. We have a number of proposals we are working on: Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Bureau of Labor Statistics for dissemination of their restricted version of National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, the DSDR renewal, and the COA3D NSF infrastructure proposal.

We continue to focus on our high priority Strategic Goals. These goals were reviewed with the Council members. They are: 1. improving culture and communication, 2. improving financial reporting, and 3. modernizing curation tools and platform. Maggie reviewed the budget summary for 2020. We have 6.9 million in total reserves and 3.3 million excess unrestricted reserves.

Maggie Levenstein and Michael Jones-Correa thanked the Council members whose terms have expired by presenting them with a certificate of completion. ICPSR extends our sincere appreciation to Christine Borgman, Jane Fry, Elizabeth Groff, Verna Keith, and Robert Stine. Maggie presented Michael Jones-Correa with a gift from ICPSR and extended our appreciation for his leadership and commitment as the Chair of the ICPSR Council 2017 – 2019.

Budget Session

Council attendees: Bobray Bordelon, Jon Cawthorne, Lisa Cook, Michael Jones-Correa, Jane Fry, Elizabeth Groff, Verna Keith, Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux, Esther Wilder, and Katherine Wallman

Guest: Matthew Woollard, Director, UKDA

Staff attendees: Dharma Akmon, JD Alford, Trent Alexander, Ren Dickson, Allyson Flaster, Susan Jekielek, John Lemmer, Margaret Levenstein, James McNally, John Marcotte, Trisha Martinez, A.J. Million, Michael Shove, and Rujuta Umarji

John Lemmer, Assistant Director, introduce himself to Council. John indicated that we want to be able to make better predictions on budget. We want to be able to know where we stand financially on a monthly basis. We are not there yet, but there is improvement over where we were 1-2 years ago. Maggie reviewed the financial reports in the Council binder. Michael Jones-Correa complimented the Financial Team for clearer budget statements.

Council asked how, if ICPSR were awarded the \$32 million NSF grant, it would impact ICPSR. Maggie explained that not all of it will go to ICPSR (some to other units at ISR, as well as the School of Information and Computer Science), but it will definitely mean additional hiring at ICPSR. We have some space available, but we would probably need a little more; there is more space in the Perry Building we could potentially acquire.

Very generally, sponsored funds affect the ICPSR bottom line in multiple ways. When ICPSR is awarded new funds, especially in the short run, we may shift people who would otherwise be on non-sponsored funds to the sponsored funds. This directly improves our bottom line. If an award comes with Indirect Costs (IDC), it improves our bottom line even more (assuming we are not hiring new people). Often we have to hire new people. Then the direct funding does not change ICPSR's bottom line. A project that has full IDC, will still improve ICPSR's bottom line. Sponsored projects funded by foundations at less than full IDC that require new hiring can actually hurt the bottom line, as our indirect expenses (including the provost tax, our share of ISR expenses, and our rent) increase when we hire additional people. This can get a little tricky because many projects want fractions of people, not whole full-time equivalents. There was further discussion of the "Mid-scale RI-2: COA3D, a National Resource for Reproducible, Robust, and Transparent Social Science Research in the 21st Century" submission to the National Science Foundation and its implications for ICPSR's budget and strategic vision.

Education Committee

Council Attendees: Lisa Cook, Jon Cawthorne, Michael Jones-Correa, Elizabeth Groff, and Katherine Wallman

Staff: JD Alford, Scott Campbell, Stephanie Carpenter, Linda Detterman, Lynette Hoelter, Dory Knight-Ingram, John Lemmer, and Margaret Levenstein

I. Summer Program

Stephanie Carpenter and Scott Campbell summarized the Summer Program attendance and discussed the Gates diversity scholarships. There were 190 applicants with 30 awarded (15 for each session). Sandy Schneider, Director of the Summer Program, is preparing a report for the Gates Foundation and plans to share that with the Council. Sandy's plan is to ask Gates Foundation to support additional scholarships in the future. In total, there were 500 scholarship applicants and 140 scholarships given. Maggie Levenstein suggests randomizing the people that are awarded, and Elizabeth Groff liked this idea.

Some Council members suggested that ICPSR reach out to students in between college graduation and attending graduate school for potential summer program attendees. Although not a great problem this past summer, there were some VISA issues for Chinese students, but it was much smoother than in previous years. Jon Cawthorne inquired about the evaluations of the Summer Program. Maggie reported that we will move to on line evaluations for the summer of 2020 and do away with paper forms. The Summer Program had avoided this because of concern that the response rate would fall. It was suggested that the evaluations be completed in class. The question was asked if there are alternatives to traditional student evaluations that would be less prone to bias. It was noted that studies show that where there is a racial and gender bias in student evaluations. Staff indicated that student evaluations have been used for instructor improvement not for decisions regarding inviting instructors back. Lisa Cook emphasized that

evaluations need to be non-discriminatory in nature. We need to look at creating more opportunities for more and different faculty to teach in order to keep the program fresh while diversifying the course offerings for both courses and evening lectures. It was suggested that a new Advisory Committee for the Summer Program be charged with guiding the Summer Program. It could improve the evaluations, expand courses on data stewardship and generally work to improve reporting. Additionally, it was suggested by Maggie that we move to using a third-party registration system. All Council members thought this was an excellent idea. Suggested advisory committee would consist of Esther Wilder, Lindsay Malcom-Piqueux, Dave Armstrong (Western Ontario – current instructor and new Council member), Trevon Logan (UC Santa Barbara – new Council member). This Advisory Committee needs to be restarted with Council members plus others in person or virtually.

II. Other Educational Activities

Linda Detterman and Lynette Hoelter presented on ICPSR's resources for instructors – Project Educate. The development of online tools was done by talking to faculty to find out what their needs are. ICPSR promotion is typically related to training. ICPSR is now in a financial position to update educational material. Priorities should be on Project Educate. Council suggested that Data Driven Learning Guides (DDLGs) grants for faculty or grad students to come to ICPSR to help produce DDLGs (perhaps in exchange for Summer Program fees?) might be an effective way to expand the content offered.

What are priorities for ICPSR to teach ICPSR users about data use? How do we gather this info? Talking to faculty/librarians - others? What are the questions we should be asking? Other suggestions were to use sabbatical or internship grants for faculty to use data and become advocates. We could offer Summer Program scholarships which includes responsibilities on project educate, e.g., helping create new DDLGs.

Technology Committee

Council attendees: Bobray Bordelon, Jane Fry, Verna Keith, Lindsey Malcom-Piqueux, and Esther Wilder

Staff attendees: Dharma Akmon, Trent Alexander, Johanna Bleckman, Sara Burchart, Chelsea Goforth, Eszter Palvolgyi-Polyak, Abay Israel, Kilsang Kim, Trisha Martinez, Elizabeth Moss, Vanessa Unkeless-Perez, and Michael Shove

Trisha Martinez, Director of Computer Network Services (CNS) introduced herself and others attending the Technology Committee. Trisha reviewed the vision for ICPSR and the technology roadmap for the next five years. We will get there faster if we win the COA3D proposal; if not, the roadmap will be longer-term.

What is Archonnex? The name for the collective platform for our archives. We are currently moving off many legacy apps and building and moving to newer ones. We need to make choices

about which things to migrate to and which things we can keep using in legacy form – and which things can be retired.

Council revisited a discussion at the March 2019 Council meeting which focused on commercialization of Archonnex. Council asked if that is still happening. Trisha indicated that open source fits our mission. We will put tools out there to help researchers do their work. We are not focused on creating an enterprise product that can be used by others. We are not going to try to commercialize the software we are writing.

Abay Israel indicated that there is a cultural shift in faster deployment and being more agile. Quick releases to get feedback early - not just from staff, but also external people. Trisha mentioned challenge of putting membership activities on pause when we get new sponsored funds.

Council indicated that the deployments in general are good. Council understands that we have to juggle, but membership funds should be used to pay for membership activities. When there is spare time, they should work on projects sitting there instead of all moving to sponsored work. Better planning would help here. Council also suggested getting users to test ideas: set up task forces? People could put it on resume/get credit. Create a small group that associates for a certain period of time. Council also suggested that we should have proxy server login or somehow address issue where you have to return to university IP to login to reaccess ICPSR member data.

The meeting was adjourned to join the ICPSR OR meeting and data fair.