

# SOCIETY FOR QUANTITATIVE ANALYSES OF BEHAVIOR

# DEVELOPMENTS

Volume 16, Number 1, Issue 1, May 20, 2009

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## Society for the Quantitative Analyses of Behavior (SQAB)

### Executive Board Meeting

**Business Meeting (Friday, May 23, 2008; 5:03:41 pm)**

### Program Chair

Alliston K. Reid's term finishes in 2009. Given increased workload of editing the Special issue, Alliston thought it would be good to have a third person involved. The next Program Chair should be appointed as early as possible. When elected, that person could help edit the issue of the journal by the end of the summer. Then after the 2009 symposium that person would assume the role of program chair. The current president and program chair will continue their responsibilities as editors. They will come back to the board with a proposal for a procedure for succession.

Michael Commons nominated Timothy A. Shahan to be the new Program Chair. Michael Davison seconded the nomination. Everyone voted in favor of him. We need to discuss who might come after Tim. Everyone should reflect upon this issue.

### Discuss Expanding to Two Days

The fact that attendance is up this year (expected 250) was discussed. Then there was discussion of a variety of formats. The student representatives liked the idea of a full two days. We decided to add a poster session Thursday evening. No radical changes were planned for next year.

### Nominating Assistant Registrar

Brett Kellerstadt, who works with Darlene Crone-Todd, was nominated and elected to be assistant registrar and assistant email list moderator.

### Website

It needs to be updated. It must have changes so that it communicates to everybody. It needs to be split into pages as opposed to being one large page that forces people to scroll down. Currently, the registration data has to be hand entered into Excel form. It should be put onto an Excel spreadsheet

automatically. A webmaster or web designer could do this. Darlene and Michael will report back a strategy, and solicit feedback. Otherwise Board says to go forward.

### Poster Sessions

People liked having the easels. The space was more open.

### Student Council

Michael Davison would like the SQAB Student Council to advertise itself more. After the poster session, there is usually a meeting of the SQAB Student Council. Each year, we want to have a student representative on a cycle. They all can attend the Executive Board Meeting, however, only one is the official representative. Joanna Arantes is the current representative. Jade Hill is the incoming, and Chris Podlesnik is the outgoing representative. Essentially it is a three year term. When we revise the SQAB website we should put links to the Wiki and student council sites and vice versa. One of the projects for the council was writing up Wikis's.

### Financial Report

May 31, 2008 to April 30, 2009

Starting Balance in Bank	11,332.37
Registration Deposits	10,863.00
DVD Sales	112.20
	334.58
DVD Expenses	520.00
Symposium Expenses	
Food & Beverages	6,975.51
Audio Visual	1,619.11
Shipping Journals	284.00
Staples	70.52
Office Depot	652.20
Copying (Kinko's)	118.18
Board Meeting costs	224.01
Student council meeting	243.75
Program copies	355.76
	SUBTOTAL
	10,543.04

Tax Return and Annual Report 830.00

Ending Balance in Bank 12,398,45

**Members Meeting (Friday, May 23, 2008; 6:39:54 pm)**

**Member present at the SQAB Business Meeting**

Michael Lamport Commons  
Patrice Marie Miller  
Jack Marr  
Darlene Crone-Todd  
Tim Shahan  
Jade Hill  
Joana Arantes  
Troy Zarcone  
Armando Machado  
Bruce Brown  
Erin McClure  
Rachelle Yankelevitz  
Anthony McLean  
Russell M. Church  
Tony Nevin  
John Staddon  
Michael Davison  
Len Green  
William Palya  
Alliston Reid  
William Baum  
Jonas G. Miller  
Andrew Richardson  
Randolph Grace

President Randolph Grace presided. He offered thanks to Alliston Reid, who is doing a great job. Alliston's term expires at the end of the next year. Timothy Shahan has accepted to become next program chair, beginning with 2010 year. Tim has also agreed to be one of the Associate Editors of this year's proceedings.

There was discussion of how we can improve what we do. At the Executive Board meeting, there was a discussion of expanding the program. We wanted to know how the membership feels. Would people be willing to come with a half day or a full day on Thursday? It might not be the same format. We could have a poster session with more discussion, or more panels. There was some discussion of this (for example, would this work with ABA's schedule). The sentiment of the Board was in favor of leaving things the way they were. The Sqab Student Council wanted an extra poster session with a panel. There was a motion to leave the time frame the same as at present and experiment within the current temporal framework. The motion was approved.

**Announcement:** Brett Kellerstadt will be the new Associate Registrar for SQUAB. He also will help maintain the email listserv. It now has 383 members.

**Website:** There are some funds to improve the look and feel as well as the accessibility of the website. The site will still be

hosted at the same physical location and will still coordinated through Don Walters. We will send a trial mock up, and will get feedback from people.

**Poster session:** Feedback has been very positive. There was a discussion about easels versus display boards. Darlene Crone-Todd described the expense of using the display boards. There was a consensus to go with easels.

At last year's business meeting, it was decided there would be a student representative for the SQAB board. There was some e-mail discussion, and there are now three student volunteers - Joana Arantes is the current student rep; Jade Hill is the future student rep; Chris Podlesnik is the outgoing student rep (he has graduated).

There was a meeting of the student council after the poster session. Its minutes are below. Michael Commons mentioned the number of Wiki's that have been created thus far by the students and asked people to volunteer to create more.

Treasurer's report was presented describing what the expenses were. Alliston Reid asked that the expense with respect to poster boards be corrected. William Palya moved we accept the financial report, as amended; John Staddon seconded this. This motion carried.

**Tutorials:** William Palya said that all tutorials are available on the web, and can be downloaded for a fee. Palya would like to pay the people who spent a year converting the video tutorials to digital (DVD) format. This was approved.

The Board asked everyone to give a round of thanks to Darlene Crone-Todd for her work as Executive Coordinator.

**Website Changes**

As noted above, the SQAB website is undergoing some changes. Here are some of the changes to be made.

Registration data needs to be automatically put into an Excel file. This will automate the collection of the information about who has registered and paid. When someone registers, the site should also confirm that you have done so.

The website should change from being one long page, into separate pages. The first page of the website would have sections that would be directly reachable by clicking on links on the left in rectangles.

There would be a number of additional pages such as ones for the SQAB Student Council and Student members.

There would be a Google search of the site at the top right.

The Board would be on its own page and the officer's names clickable to email them.

There will be a webform to use to sign up for the listservs on line. The current listservs are:

[Squab@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Squab@yahoogroups.com)

[Sqabboard@yahoogroups.com](mailto:Sqabboard@yahoogroups.com)

[SqabStudentCouncil@Yahoogroups.com](mailto:SqabStudentCouncil@Yahoogroups.com)

[SquagStudents@yahoogroup.com](mailto:SquagStudents@yahoogroup.com)

**Purchasing the Tutorials.** The SQAB-Invited Preeminent Tutorials should be directly purchasable online by filling out a form and paying with PayPal. A receipt would be emailed to the purchaser and to the seller. Entries would be made into a second Excel sheet.

**Rent the SQAB Mailing List!** We may add a line or link about renting the SQAB mailing list.

We are currently finalizing discussions about how these changes are going to get done.

For an example of a website that has some of the features that the SQAB website will have, go to:

<http://www.comparativecognition.org/>

Further suggestions welcomed

[Commons@tiac.net](mailto:Commons@tiac.net)

#### **Student Council Notes, Friday May 23, 2008: 9 pm**

The meeting took place at the Tamarind restaurant on 614 South Wabash Avenue, Chicago.

Brett Kellerstedt

Andrew Richardson

Jonas Miller

Eric Thraillkill

Darlene Crone-Todd [darl\\_cronetodd@hotmail.com](mailto:darl_cronetodd@hotmail.com)

Rachelle Yakelevitz

Robert Johnson

Jack Smethells

Dennis Hand

Nathalie Boutros

Ana Barbara Neves

Angeles Perez-Padilla

Paula Magalhaes

Chris Podlesnik

Joana Arantes

Jade Hill

Drew Fox

Joana Arantes called the meeting to order. Brett Kellerstadt collected all the names and email addresses of those present in order to distribute them to those in attendance. These will be appended to the revised notes. Joana Arantes suggested that Brett Kellerstadt collect all emails from all the students (not only the students that are already attending SQAB) by using registration forms. [SqabStudentCouncil@yahoogroups.com](mailto:SqabStudentCouncil@yahoogroups.com) a new Yahoo Group was formed. It now (2009) has 47 members. Joana Arantes also suggested encouraging cooperation

among students to increase publication and then create working relationships. To that end, some students will create a database of interests to find like minded individuals.

#### **Should there be a prize for the best poster?**

It was suggested that there be criteria and everyone who meets those criteria would be acknowledged. Michael Lamport Commons and Darlene Crone-Todd said that the real prize is getting your poster into the SQAB issue of *Behavioural Processes*. How many publications you have is everything, and the prize is moot. There was discussion to the effect that experienced people could look at all the posters and judge them based on a set of criteria so that students could get feedback on their posters. This is the most redeeming characteristic of the judging. It could provide excellent feedback.

#### **Ways to make SQAB more inviting to students:**

Presenters could post or somehow give out an article or two for background on what they are going to present before the meeting. Jonas Miller, Andrew Richardson and Michael Commons suggested that Vocabulary cards be generated. They could email the cards out to all the students so that when printed out, and studied, the students could understand the talks better.

#### **T-shirts "I survived SQAB"**

Eric Thraillkill volunteered to design t-shirts

#### **Need for website changes**

The student council was updated about possible changes to the website, also discussed at the Board meeting. There were some additional suggestions.

Joana Arantes and Jade Hill suggested there needs to be an area for students with a discussion section for the students to get feedback from the professionals.

Jade Hill suggested getting more on the SQAB math page. Mathematical models and how to test and fit them should be presented. Actual cases should be shown.

Commons asked for more Wiki's to be generated. This helps students understand SQAB presentations and spreads the message to a much larger audience. Send them to "mailto:Commons@tiac.net" [Commons@tiac.net](mailto:Commons@tiac.net). Commons

monitors and helps edit the Wikis.

## **Grants for Students**

Jade Hill suggested the possibility of grants for students. Money should be given out based on needs. There is also a need to coordinate hotel accommodations. The student email list could be used for students to room share at the meeting. There should be a place for students to get together. This could be the two email lists: SQAB student council and SQAB students.

We need people to help organize presentations at Psychonomic Science, Mathematical Psychology. This really helps students get jobs.

Andrew Michael Richardson  
Acting Secretary

## **Data Needed!**

An important part of running an organization and helping it to grow and improve is to collect data on its various functions. Some of the questions below might be helpful in understanding how to better mentor students and how to help grow the field and the organization.

You might think of other questions as well. More importantly, would you be interested in working on these issues, and making a report to the organization?

We need to know for each year:

How many posters were accepted into the journal?

How many posters were there?

What was the distribution of authors on posters (students, others)?

How many undergraduates versus graduates have presented at SQAB?

How many students got in free?

How many of those got in because they were giving SQAB posters?

How many for ABA posters?

How many second authors got in for SQAB or ABA posters?

How many other authors got in for SQAB or ABA posters?

How many graduate students who have presented at SQAB applied to university or college jobs?

How many got one?

In what areas?

How many undergraduates who presented at SQAB applied to graduate program to work in quantitative analysis, behavior analysis, or other areas?

What were the other areas?

How many undergraduates who presented at SQAB got into a graduate program to work in quantitative analysis, behavior analysis, or other areas?

What were the other areas?