

2010 AGM minutes

Lee Williamson reports that Troika communication has been much improved with more frequent meetings conducted via Skype (online conferencing). Minutes from RadStats AGM 2009 at Oxford University confirmed (available on website).

1.) Treasurer's Report *Janet Shapiro (report attached below)*
There has been more administrative activity due to the rate increase. This report has not been audited, but it has been looked over by Geoffrey Rendle. Report accepted as is.

2.) Editors' Report *Jane Gabraith*
Janet and Jane (current Editors) are looking to recruit help from one or two more people with general tasks. Issue 100 is with the printer and will be out to members soon.

See the book stack & let Jane G if you are interested in reviewing one – or others in general in the future.

3.) Web Editor's Report *Robin Rice*
Robin Rice reports on the website. She continues to put up issues one issue behind them being sent to membership. It has a lot of resources but new ideas are always appreciated – perhaps a blog feature. The html (code) is not up to current standards and at some point an overhaul will be required. The site is monitored by Google Analytics and Robin has received a voucher which she proposes using this to place ads featuring the website until the credit expires.
Action: Robin R to proceed.

Janet suggests that journals be put on line at an earlier date, perhaps a month after paper publication. This could help promote the most current journal and facilitate discussion in a more topical and timely manner.
Seconded by Jane G and approved by voice vote.

4.) E-mail list *Alison Macfarlane*
Mainly the task is just maintaining protocols (as in, no attachments). She welcomes submission and communications.

5.) Membership Report *Alistair Cairns (report attached below)*

6.) Troika elections
Lee W is stepping down from the Troika. David Manley has volunteered. There is still possibility of one more member (a fourth).
David Manley is voted in.

7.) Sub-groups *Alison Macfarlane*

With better technologies Alison hopes that subgroups (particularly Health, with which she is involved) can become more active.

8.) RadStats Leaflet

The Troika has purchased the copyright to the (green, 3-fold) promotional brochure. A motion is made by Russell Ecob: "on Radical Statistics promotional materials, website and other materials, below the masthead, add "*Statisticians for Social Responsibility*" underneath (in a smaller font as appropriate for appearance and emphasis)". This could help with quick name recognition, and put RS into an informal grouping of similarly titled groups.

John Bibby asks that a pithy 'mission statement' appear much more prominently' and 'we began in 1975' to be less prominent. Alison M suggests more precision and tighter word choices.

Action: Troika and the two above shall meet and work out suggested changes, get these changes to members via Announce (& mail) for final comments.

9.) RadStats Promotion

It remains important to get the promotional material out to supportive members who attend conferences & into any University departments teaching Statistics. With copyright the brochure can be put up on – and printed off from- the website.

Action: Robin R to put pdf version of brochure on website.

Radical Statistics members continue to offer 'fringe sessions' at related, supportive conferences, such as RSS. Once paper calls are issued, a call should go out to recruit volunteers. Social Research Association has an upcoming conference. Sometimes a payment can be made to include brochures in delegate packs, for example Research Methods Festival has a cost of £100 to get to all thousand delegates. Printing costs are also involved.

Within RSS there is a statistics user group who could be targeted with information from RadStats.

Daniel Lewis, a PhD student suggests that, from a younger person's perspective, the brochure could contain just a link to the website, as young people tend to read almost entirely on line.

Janet S has gotten support and cooperation with trade unions, but more links would be a good idea and very desirable.

10.) Essay Competition

The bi-ennial Essay Competition has, in previous years, been an expense RS probably cannot afford in future. A previous judge suggests that exposure and publication is probably ample reward. There is, in addition to prize money, costs for publication and promotion. It is scheduled to run in 2010,

but Janet S, who has led previous efforts, is stepping down. A leader and a couple judges are required before this year's could go ahead. A call will go out to the Announce list. There is quite a lot of work involved particularly the organization but Daniel D offers that the judging is quite enjoyable.

Any other significant activity in the upcoming year(s) will be picked up in the Activity Sessions. Suggestions for activity will likely require the person with an idea to lead. See report A below.

11.) Next Year's Conference & AGM

2011's Conference will take place in Leeds. Paul Marchant will lead efforts but he is looking for assistance. Assistance is needed: ideas or offers of help to Troika or Paul M.

A.) Five groups each discussed one proposal for activity during the next year, and reported back as follows:

University staff composition. A report from Paul Marchant showing administration increasing its share in Leeds Met, will be followed up by a search for data for other Universities by Dave Bolton. The group may work these up to publish in RadStats or with UCU, taking into account the transfer of admin tasks to teaching staff (as in hospitals) and issues of definition for academic-related staff.

Data Protection Act and research data. John Urquhart and others discussed cases where health dataset owners have been very cautious in making data available for useful research, citing the DPA when it was not relevant.

RadStats timely responses. Geoffrey Rendle reported suggestion for website development to allow blog-like contributions and allow anyone to add comments. Would have RSS feed and links to and from other sites.

Acute medical services. Janet Shapiro reported on a discussion on statistics and models relevant to acute medical services, and response to Whittington and other hospital cuts.

20 worst cases of research supporting immoral minorities in power. Jeff Evans reported on a ranking exercise which suggested the worst four cases, the list will get to the newsletter.

- END

Treasurers' Report for 2009-2010

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

for the year ending 31 December 2009

	2009	2008	2007	2006
			£	£
GENERAL INCOME				
subscriptions	£4,315.00	£2,989.00	£3,997.80	£2,269.00
Conference Fees	£815.00	£458.00	£583.00	£1,002.00
Publications		£81.50		
library subs	£435.00	£295.00		
donation*	£94.00	£375.00		
Health account		£4,819.36		
other				£633.00
subtotal	£5,659.00	£9,017.86	£4,580.80	£3,271.00
INTEREST RECEIVED	£12.65	£76.39	£78.05	£46.44
TOTAL INCOME	£5,671.65	£9,094.25	£4,658.85	£3,317.44
EXPENDITURE				
Conference costs	£122.65	£100.00	£840.66	£571.93
Radstats Newsletter	£2,167.47	£3,057.62	£3,340.18	£2,034.64
Administrative costs	£810.00	£793.35	£1,279.48	£1,969.28
Miscellaneous	£309.29			
Central publications				£0.00
Bank charges	£17.14	£24.83	£38.44	£28.77
Other (leaflet)	£100.00	£99.70	£721.57	£0.00
Essay		£1,021.00		£731.14
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£3,526.55	£5,096.50	£6,220.33	£5,335.76
NET INCOME	£2,145.10	£3,997.75	-£1,561.48	-£2,018.32

**RADICAL STATISTICS
GROUP**

NET WORTH

As at 31st December 2009

	2009	2008	2007	2006
BANK BALANCES				
Current Account	£4,314.00	£2,181.55	£1,285.19	£1,924.72
14 Day Deposit	£3,551.98	£3,543.61	£5,286.58	£6,208.53
14 Day Deposit (Health)	£4,848.64	£4,844.36		
TOTAL	£12,714.62	£10,569.52	£6,571.77	£8,133.25
INCREASE IN NET WORTH				
bank balances at 1st Jan 2009	£10,569.52	£6,571.77	£8,133.25	£9,518.57
bank balances at 31st Dec 2009	£12,714.62	£10,569.52	£6,571.77	£8,133.25
Net Income for Year	£2,145.10	£3,997.75	£1,561.48	£1,385.32

Only two publications of *Radical Statistics* had to be funded in 2009, so the net income of £2,145.10 would have been substantially less had #100 not been delayed. Note that bills will be presented soon for £1,000 plus for this issue.

Even though the full effects of the subscription increase approved by the 2009 AGM is not expected until next year, total subscription income is already up by 44%. If we persuade members to adjust their standing orders and recruit more members the future of our finances should be more stable.

Membership Report

from Alistair Cairns, Administrator

As of February 2010, breakdown of membership within Radical Statistics is:

	2010	09	08
Unwaged/student	(1)	11	16
Low waged	30	16	18
Waged	187	204	229
Institutional	25	25	24
Overseas	7	10	12
Gratis (2)	8	8	16
Total	257	274	305

- 1. Following 2009 AGM, low & unwaged categories were combined..*
- 2. An additional four copies are sent for the Legal Deposits Libraries. Editors, authors & essay competition winners each receive two copies (one additional if they are already members).*

14 new members joined in 2009.

Item for AGM – Leaflet wording changes

The proposed changes to the current RadStats promotional leaflet are to expand what we do and what we are for, in order to give potential new members a clearer idea of the kinds of things RadStats stands for.

The proposed changes are in the section on:

Our concerns are

- The mystifying use of technical language to disguise social problems
- Lack of control by the community over how statistical investigations are carried out and how the findings are used
- The power structures within which statistical and research workers are employed
- The ways in which the interests of governments and other organisations influence the production and presentation of statistics
- The fragmentation of social problems into specialist fields, obscuring the underlying connection

Possibly replace with:

What we promote

- correct use of statistics for the benefit of society
- influence by statistics users in what statistics are collected and how they are made available
- use of statistical evidence in policy development
- independence and integrity of researchers in their use of statistics
- clear and unbiased presentation of statistical evidence
- cross-disciplinary research and review

What we combat

- undue influence of funders on the outcome and publication of research
- constraints on research due to fear of legal or financial consequences (eg being sued for defamation or a university not wanting to upset a potential funder)
- mis-use of statistics in policy development
- the mystifying use of technical language
- the fragmentation of social problems into specialist fields, obscuring the underlying connections

Additional ideas/suggestions please email to: troika@radstats.org.uk