

RSG ADMINISTRATION.....DEMYSIFYING RADICAL STATISTICS

At the recent AGM, several people declared that they had no idea how Radical Statistics organises itself. It was all something of a 'mystery' known only to the 'clique' in control.

Well, there's no mystery. Below I set out our simple administrative procedure. It works as well as each person involved makes it work.

There are three people, duly elected at each AGM, who constitute the Troika. (Last year we had a Pentagon, but have gone back to the Troika because too many statisticians skew the stew.) These three people take a four month turn at being the person responsible for actual administration. The other two may be consulted if necessary. Administration involves holding the RSG files in the Box, dealing with membership and with any correspondence that anyone cares to send us. Membership is a routine matter. Enquirers are sent a specimen newsletter and invited to join. They are added to the card index of members if they do join, and their subscription is paid into the RSG account.

All subscribers receive our newsletter, Radical Statistics. This is currently produced at the Open University under the watchful eye of John Libby. John also maintains the computerised mailing list used to print out the address labels. Any alterations to the computerised mailing list are made by John on instruction from the Troika. Such alterations are made three times a year, immediately prior to the mailing of the newsletter. The editor of each newsletter should alert the Troika to the fact that a newsletter has been sent to John for production, so that the Troika can send mailing list amendments to John ready for the mailing. (See Guidelines for Editors in the front of each newsletter.)

Correspondence (not related to membership) relates to a variety of subjects ranging from pleas for help on a BSSRS bookstall to the issue of the ISI meetings in Argentina. Other items such as the organisation of the AGM also arise. When several things need discussing, the Troika arranges a meeting of the Steering Committee where each matter is discussed and someone volunteers to reply to or act upon it. The Steering Committee consists of the Troika, John Libby and the coordinators of each of the RS subgroups. All other members of RSG may attend these meetings, but it is their responsibility to find out when they are to take place.

The Troika also has a coordinating function relating to the activities of the group, including subgroups. It has long been our policy that members should not make any public statements, either written or verbal, in the name of the group or subgroups without first clearing the content. In the case of publications and non-urgent items this should take the form of a meeting open to all RSG members and/or an open circulation of a draft. For more urgent items, such as press releases, at least two Troika members should be consulted. Obviously, time is saved here if copies are sent directly to each member. In very urgent cases, the telephone may be quicker.

These administrative processes are, of course, a small part of what happens in the Radical Statistics Group. The main activities take place within the subgroups which are coordinated and organised separately and in various ways.

Heather Booth