Minutes of Committee on Applied Demography Business Meeting, March 31, 2004
Taken by Shelley Lapkoff

1. Composition of the CAD
2. Annual Report
3. Applied Demography Sessions for next year’s meetings
4. This Year’s meetings
5. Website
6. Applied Demography Newsletter
7. Survey
8. Thursday Night Wine and Cheese Mixer
9. Miscellaneous

Board Members present: Lisa Blumerman, Warren Brown, Shelley Lapkoff
Board Members absent: Lou Pol
Others in attendance: Stan Smith (past chair and running the meeting), Pipi Ray Diamond, Linda Gage, Jeanne Gobalet, Tom Godfrey, Dana Gu, Ken Hodges, Linda Jacobsen, Dean Judson, Samuel I. Kahn, Wolfgang Lutz, Peter Morrison, Meg O’Brien, Bill O’Hare, Kelvin Pollard, Carole Popoff, Bob Scardamalia, Jeff Tayman, Paul Voss, Signe Wetrogan, and Greg Williams.

1. Composition of the CAD
Normally, one new member is appointed each year and the most senior member of the committee becomes the chair for next year’s meeting. This year is different because Martha McMurry, who would have been the most senior member of the committee, has resigned. As a result, two new members were appointed this year rather than one: Lisa Blumerman and Warren Brown. Also, the succession for chair needs to change. Shelley Lapkoff will be next year’s chair. The following year, Lisa will be chair and then Warren. Both Shelley and Lisa will serve one additional year after their terms as chair. There will be one year when there will be five committee members, rather than just four.

Lou Pol, whose term would be over this December, has also resigned, as he does not have time to participate in CAD due to a new job assignment. Shelley Lapkoff will fulfill Lou’s duties through the end of this year, including: submitting our suggestions to the PAA Board for next year’s sessions, proposing a new member for CAD, and submitting (an optional) report to the PAA Board in the fall.

2. Annual Report
Shelley Lapkoff submitted the CAD 2003 annual report to the Board this year, which is appended to this report. The key recommendations were to (1) continue the applied demography track at the PAA meetings, with one applied demography session per time slot, and (2) to make the PAA Board aware of our interest in having a website in case we would like to have it as part of the PAA website.
3. Applied Demography Sessions for next year’s PAA meeting
There was extensive discussion about sessions for next year. In 2003, we felt there were three core applied demography sessions – one on projections, one on estimates, and one on new directions in applied demography. For the 2004 meetings, the new directions in applied demography had by far the most submissions. We discussed combining subnational estimates and projections, and to have one session be an invited panel (case studies/applications) and the other a normal submitted paper session focusing on subnational estimates and projections methodology and evaluations. Thus, we would continue to have three core sessions.

The sessions to recommend to the PAA Program Committee for 2005, in order of preference (selected by a vote by everyone at the meeting), with suggested organizers are:

1. New directions in applied demography (Warren Brown and/or Jeanne Gobalet)
2. Case studies: How to make subnational population estimates and projections (Linda Jacobsen or Signe Westrogan) (invited panel)
3. Population estimates and projections: Methods and evaluations (regular paper session) (Lisa Blumerman or John Long)
4. School district demography (Robin Blakely)
5. Using ACS in Applied Demography (Bill O’Hare)
6. Stochastic Forecasting in an Applied Demography Setting (Shelley Lapkoff)
7. Local Demography of Philadelphia (Peter Morrison)
8. New Race and Ethnicity Categories – Challenges and Approaches (Samia El-Badry, Signe Westrogan or Ken Hodges)
9. Spatial Models in Applied Demography (Dean Judson)
10. Beginning Careers of Applied Demographers (Tom Godfrey)
11. Demographers as Experts in Court (Bill Clark)

It was noted that Charlie Hirschman and Eileen Crimmins would head the PAA Program Committee for the 2005 meetings. We discussed how applied demographers might make sure our interests were represented. One suggestion was to see if the CAD Chair each year could be part of the program committee. Since the program committee is usually institutionally based, this did not seem feasible. Next year’s institutions are USC and Washington, and there was some discussion of applied demographers at each institution who might be on the program committee.

There was concern that the PAA program committee would evaluate applied demography sessions based on submissions. The number of submissions tends to be low for our sessions. We noted that attendance in the applied demography sessions is typically very high, and that we hope this is taken into account when the PAA program committee evaluates how many sessions to allocate to applied demography.

4. This Year’s Meetings
We (especially Paul Voss) worked with the PAA program committee for the 2004 meetings to have an applied demography session in each time slot and to avoid overlap. This was largely accomplished. One oversight that occurred this year was that the
applied demography poster session was concurrent with two of the key applied demography sessions offered. In future years, we hope to avoid this overlap. Stan Smith suggested that we ask to have applied demography posters in the first session – Thursday from 8:00 to 10:00am, and have no applied demography session on Thursday from 8:30 to 10:30. That way, the poster session would interfere with only one applied demography session.

5. Website
It was generally agreed that it would be very useful for CAD to have a website to insure institutional memory. The website would have minutes of past business meetings and CAD reports to the PAA Board. It was generally agreed that we would like to have a page on the PAA website. Since we are an official committee of the PAA, this seems appropriate. Lisa Blumerman, CAD committee member, offered to follow up on this with the PAA staff and Board if necessary.

6. Applied Demography Newsletter
Kelvin Pollard, the editor of the Applied Demography Newsletter, reported that flyers soliciting articles for the Applied Demography newsletter were placed in strategic locations in the registration area. He is not overwhelmed with submissions and welcomes more. There was a brief discussion of whether to make the newsletter available on-line or by e-mail. Some issues raised were whether people would continue to subscribe if the newsletter were available free, loss of information about subscribers, and loss of visibility within PAA (the newsletter is a moneymaker). No conclusions were reached; however, there was a suggestion that newsletters could be posted after a few months.

7. Survey
It was generally agreed that a survey of applied demographers would be useful to applied demographers and the PAA as a whole. The purpose of the survey would be to determine if there are changes we can make at the meetings (or elsewhere) to serve applied demographers better. Tom Godfrey offered to spearhead that effort. Linda Jacobsen offered to assist him, as did others. Linda Gage, Shelley Lapkoff and Signe Westrogan have worked on this in the past, and will assist Tom as needed.

8. Thursday Evening Wine and Cheese Reception
CAD (and pre-CAD) has traditionally held a wine and cheese mixer for networking among applied demographers. For several years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has sponsored these events. Bill O’Hare of the Annie E. Casey Foundation was interested in measuring the visibility of the Foundation due to its sponsoring the event. We made several suggestions to Bill, such as having sign-up sheets in the back of the room, to take more time in the introduction to talk about the Foundation, and to have a large banner in the room that listed the sponsors. We also noted that PRB was a sponsor this year.

9. Miscellaneous
Wolfgang Lutz attended the meeting, and commented that this year he was chairing a session called “Population Forecasting” which was scheduled at the same time as the session chaired by Lisa Blumerman titled, “Population Projections for the 21st Century.”
This was of concern to him and he also asked how we determined what constituted an applied demography session. In response, we told him about our process of submitting sessions to the PAA program committee.

A group of people interested in school demography met on Wednesday afternoon before the CAD meeting. Warren Brown reported that this was a successful meeting with much interest generated. The group decided to meet next year at the same time – Wednesday afternoon before the CAD meeting. More details about next year’s meeting would be given via the email list server.

Jeff Tayman and other past chairs of CAD offered to locate old minutes and reports to the PAA Board so that we could develop some institutional memory, perhaps as a page on the PAA website.

Shelley Lapkoff will submit names to Charlie Hirschman for the 2005 appointment. Since Lou Pol has officially resigned, it was suggested that the appointment be made as soon as possible, and not wait for January, the traditional appointment time. It was also noted that CAD is supposed to have two members from state and local (or federal) government and two members from the private sector. Since Warren and Lisa are from the government side, the next appointment ought to be someone from the business sector.

There was no time to discuss possible speakers for next year’s breakfast meeting. People can give Shelley Lapkoff suggestions, as she will be chair and in charge of the 2005 breakfast meeting.