

Credit for Computational Statistics Contributions

Tim Hesterberg, Insightful Corp.

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- ▶ Notes from two other meetings
 - ▶ <http://www.amstat.org/sections/educ/evaluation.html>
 - ▶ http://www.lawrence.edu/fast/jordanj/isostat_2004.html
- ▶ Additional thoughts

Notes on Evaluation of Academic Statisticians

<http://www.amstat.org/sections/educ/evaluation.html>
 Selected notes from a session on Evaluation and Tenure, held at 1995 meeting for isolated statisticians; largely for statisticians housed in mathematics departments.

- (1) Relationships with Mathematicians
 - MAA Guidelines for Evaluating Programs in the Mathematical Sciences
 - ▶ Not approved by ASA. Major problems
 - ▶ Don Bentley is liaison. Working for change.
 - ▶ Includes guidelines on evaluating faculty
 - ▶ New guidelines will appear in Focus, Amstat News

Suggest departments write to: MAA/ASA joint committee, SLAW, David Moore (won MAA top teaching award)

[2] Special Difficulties for Statisticians

- ▶ Evaluation by Mathematicians, who may not understand the differences between Statistics and Mathematics.
- ▶ Starting major consulting project takes time to learn new field.
- ▶ Transition to teaching in Math Dept. takes more time than for math PhD.
- ▶ Time spend consulting on student projects.
- ▶ Publication delays long.
- ▶ Acceptance rates low.

Suggestions:

- ▶ CBMS Report (strategic plan?) discuss issues like consulting taking more time.
- ▶ Suggest departments write to: MAA/ASA joint committee, SLAW, David Moore
- ▶ Obtain copy of forthcoming revised MAA Guidelines for evaluation.

- (a) Consulting, especially: technical reports (unpublished work in industry), consulting work with proprietary info
 - ▶ Keep record
 - ▶ Get letters from people you worked with
- (b) Lab notes, instructional material
 - ▶ Send out for review
 - ▶ Put on Web page, or JSE
- (c) Consulting on grants
 - ▶ Be listed as principal investigator or at least consulting statistician

- ▶ Get info from stis.nsf.gov (Web or ftp)
- ▶ At MAA meeting, stop by NSF booth
- ▶ Should count like peer-reviewed paper, even if accepted without funding
- ▶ Be sure to be listed as PI or at least statistical consultant

Our work is

- ▶ interdisciplinary
- ▶ relevant
- ▶ involve students (especially consulting)
- ▶ can be understood

- ▶ Make sure your research goes to a reviewer outside your college (and preferably to another isolated statistician, since he/she will understand your situation). Also, its important that your work is reviewed by a statistician, not by a theoretical mathematician.
- ▶ Rely on the isostat group to verify your work.
- ▶ Talk to your department chair, so he/she knows what journals are peer-reviewed (e.g., since JSE is an online journal, it may not be perceived as peer-reviewed).
- ▶ Get letters of support from colleagues with whom youve consulted.
- ▶ Argue that consulting is professional development and is not simply part of teaching.
- ▶ Look at the ethical guidelines of the MAA.

The group agreed that this kind of conversation is very important and should take place periodically at isostat meetings.

- ▶ Recruit mentor, other letters of support
 - ▶ Well-established professor
- ▶ Role of ASA Stat Computing / Graphics Sections
 - ▶ Prizes
 - ▶ Chambers award for student software
 - ▶ Add others?
 - ▶ Mechanism: judges, survey?
 - ▶ Recruit willing mentors
 - ▶ Discussion group (JSM mixer, luncheon)
- ▶ Role of other organizations
 - ▶ European societies
 - ▶ IASC
 - ▶ R Foundation
 - ▶ Conferences

- ▶ Academic job = “natural path” (easiest to visualize)
- ▶ Other jobs:
 - ▶ Potentially greater impact
 - ▶ Better working conditions

- ▶ Turn research into software for wide use
 - ▶ Higher standards than academic software (ease of use, robustness, testing)
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Variety: resampling, missing data, group sequential designs, simulation-based econometric software, functional data, stable distributions, proteomics, microarrays, frailty models, causal modeling
- ▶ External funding — SBIR grants (NIH, NSF, . . .)
 - ▶ Somewhat easier funding
 - ▶ Commercial potential
 - ▶ Risk, research element
- ▶ We're hiring
- ▶ We're looking for good projects and collaborators

References:

- ▶ <http://www.amstat.org/sections/educ/evaluation.html>
- ▶ http://www.lawrence.edu/fast/jordanj/isostat_2004.html
- ▶ Hesterberg, June 06, Amstat News, “Research at Insightful”; (or timh@insightful.com)

Final suggestions:

- ▶ Discussion group(s) over lunch; keep notes.
- ▶ Need volunteer to collect notes.