

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 2008

Present: Roger Stough (chair), Patricio Arco, Antoine Bailly, John Bryson, Roberta Capello, Mike Carroll, Paul Cheshire, Graham Clarke, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Yoshiro Higano, Charlie Karlsson, T. John Kim, Gunther Maier, Mark Partridge, Neil Reid, Bob Stimson, Jean-Claude Thill, Jouke van Dijk.

1. Apologies: Carlos Azzoni, David Edgington, Phil McCann, George Petrakos, Jessie Poon

Roger Stough welcomed all council members to the meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

3. LRPC

Bob Stimson reported on discussions at LRPC.

i) The first item discussed was the position of Executive Director. Graham Clarke had completed two periods of office and needed to be re-elected or replaced during the meeting (see item 5). There was also a need to think of a replacement for Graham in the longer run as the maximum period of office currently is three terms (9 years). Bob reported that it may be a good time to think about alternatives to the current arrangements, namely a full or part-time professional post.

ii) The LRPC expressed its pleasure at the terrific 1st edition of the new journal. They wanted to congratulate Mike and his team on a making such rapid progress whilst at the same time producing such a high quality 1st edition. They suggested however that we continue to monitor the objectives etc and review the success of the journal through member take-up, overlap with PiRS, citations etc.

iii) There was a brief report on further discussions with the Regional Studies Association and the possibilities for future collaboration. Bob noted the success of joint sessions held with them at Liverpool as part of the ERSA conference. There was a further debate surrounding the benefits and difficulties associated with joint activity. Bob noted the LRPC's recommendation for a 2 page strategy document to bring before a future Council meeting.

iv) The LRPC recommended Council to agree to the 2012 Congress being held in Romania. This was agreed

v) LRPC discussed how we could develop collaboration more effectively with other organizations such as the Spatial Econometrics Society (and including the Regional Studies Association again). One mechanism might be the introduction of subject or topic focused sub-organizations rather than new regional sections. These could be called chapters or commissions of RSAI. There was a lot of support for this type of

development in Council. Roberta Capello suggested we start with the Spatial Econometrics Society and see if we can bring them into RSAI via this route. They would need to agree to the principle of universal membership. The American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association was also mooted as another potential chapter along with organizations such as the World Bank.

3. Constitutional Changes

Roger Stough reported that, as agreed in Liverpool, Lay Gibson and David Plane were helping Roger to redraft the Constitution. This would be circulated to Council members when ready.

Roger also reminded Council that we had agreed to put on a short AGM type event at one of the Supra-regional meetings in 2009 (subsequently agreed to be Lodz). The President and Executive Director would provide a 2 page report for members and a question/answer session would be followed by the presentation of RSAI awards.

4. Publications

i) Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk reported that in 2008 the size of the journal had been increased and would now be 600-900 pages per year. The abstracts in Japanese and Spanish were now in place. The 'early view' facility was also up and running. Jouke reported that 50% of submissions now came from Europe, with 30% from the USA and 20% from PRSCO sections. The geographical distribution of reviewers was in similar proportions. There were 143 submissions in 2008, and the rejection rate was 70/75%. Jouke was pleased to report that the vast majority of papers were reviewed and a decision made within three months (with a 10-12 month print time). It was reported that there had been a slight delay in Issue 3 of 2008 but that production was now back on schedule. The impact factor for the journal continues to rise and Jouke hoped that by the end of 2009 this might be close to 1. Jouke was pleased to be associated with the Beckmann Prize as this gave the journal more publicity. There were a few new board members chosen for 2009, a reward for people who had been good reviewers!

ii) RSPP

Mike Carroll was pleased to announce that the first volume of 'Regional Science Policy and Practice' (RSPP) was now available and a limited number of hard copies had been made for marketing purposes. The first edition contained 192 pages with production moving up to 600 pages by 2011 (when it was expected that there would be four editions per year). The web page was up and running now (at Blackwells) and the process for electronic submissions was operational. Mike reported that he was working well with Jouke in terms of keeping the content different and swapping papers when appropriate.

Again, Council praised the outstanding effort of the editors to get the first edition ready on time with such a strong content.

5 Elections of Next President and Executive Director

A number of candidates were put forward and discussed by Council. After a lengthy discussion on the merits of each candidate a vote took place. Council is pleased to report that Yoshiro Higano from Japan was elected to serve as President for 2011 and 2012 and to become President-elect in 2010. Congratulations to Yoshiro.

Graham Clarke was also reappointed as Executive Director to serve for a final three year period 2009-2011.

6. Executive Director's Report

Graham Clarke reported that the terms of office for Jessie Poon, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Jean-Claude Thill, Paul Cheshire, David Edgington and Roger Stough would come to an end in December 2008 (though Roger would stay on the Council for 2 years as Past President and Chair of the LRPC).

Council thanked all these persons for their considerable contribution to RSAI and Council.

From 2009 Council would welcome Jouke van Dijk, Patricio Aroca, Eduardo Haddad, John Carruthers, Sam Park and Danny Shefer.

Graham also outlined the likely contents of the 1st edition of the revamped newsletter. These contents were well received.

7. Finances

The 2007 audited accounts were presented. The overall balance went up from £133k in 2006 to £153k in 2007. Bob Stimson noted that we were on track in terms of revenues received from Blackwells. Graham Clarke noted that expenditure would increase in 2009 as we paid for web maintenance and newsletter production.

8. President's report

Roger Stough gave his thoughts on the current state of RSAI as he retired from the post of President. He outlined the progress made in recent years and the challenges ahead. He felt one of the key issues was to build membership to the critical 5000 number in order for RSAI to obtain NGO status. A major challenge was also to implement all the action groups set up at the Sao Paulo meetings and thus make progress on issues such as marketing, branding, professionalization etc.

9 AOB

None

19. Date of next meeting (Surfers paradise)

LRPC – Tuesday 21st July 08.00

Council – Tuesday 21st July 12.30

**Graham Clarke
Executive Director
December 2008**