

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: JONKOPING, SWEDEN, AUGUST 2010

Present: Roberta Capello (chair), Mike Carroll, Graham Clarke, Tomas Dentinho, Alessandra Faggian, Eduardo Haddad, Yoshiro Higano, T. John Kim, Gunther Maier, Charlie Karlsson, Mark Partridge, Robert Stimson, Roger Stough, Jouke van Dijk: plus, Prof Yang (South Korea) and 2012 World Congress organisers from Romania

1. Apologies: Patricio Aroca, John Carruthers, Sam Park, Danny Shefer

Roberta Capello welcomed all council members to the meeting, especially new members Alessandra Faggian (University of Southampton) and Tomas Dentinho (University of the Azores). She also welcomed our guests.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

3. World Congress 2012

The delegation from Timisioria in Romania gave an update on arrangements for the 2012 World Congress. They discussed the excellent collaboration to date with the mayor's office and the local business community. A suggested plenary topic was 'industrial foreign linkages'. The importance of good plenary speakers was stressed by many in the room. Roberta thanked the group for their update and noted how good it was to see the whole community potentially involved. A call for papers to appear on the RSAI website was suggested (and now implemented).

4. LRPC

Roger Stough reported on discussions at LRPC.

- i) The first item discussed was the next president to follow Yoshiro Higano – 2013-2014. LRPC suggested Council might follow convention and look to someone from the RSAmericas (see also item 13).
- ii) The second item discussed was the nomination process for RSAI awards. LRPC suggested that we stick more rigorously to the rules already laid down.
- iii) LRPC welcomed the paper by Roberta Capello on potential future links with the Regional Studies Association (see also item 5).
- iv) There was also widespread approval and pleasure at the progress with the new journal RSPP. It was felt that it was timely to review resources and funding for the journal (see also item 10.2)
- v) LRPC discussed some potential expenditure proposals for the remaining monies in the US account managed by Geoff Hewings. As Geoff was unable to be present, LRPC were happy to discuss options further at the Denver meeting.

5. Links with the Regional Studies Association (RSA)

Roberta Capello presented a paper outlining a potential way forward towards more fruitful relationships with RSA. She thanked Peter Batey for his support and input into the paper. There was a lot of interesting discussion on the nature of collaboration and/or competition between the two organizations. There was also debate as to other organizations which we might actually be closer to in theoretical and practical terms. However, there was widespread agreement that it was time to try and take things forward to the next level. It was agreed that we would recommend to them two important steps:

- 1) That RSAI should have an institutional presence at their meetings: that might be done first as a plenary lecture based around our new policy journal RSPP. It could also involve a joint round table discussion at their forthcoming Brussels meeting on future issues in EU policy.
- 2) That we should encourage a truly joint session/workshop where the scientific input came equally from both parties

It was agreed that Roberta should communicate these ideas now with RSA.

6. Future Possible RSAI summer schools

Tomas Dentinho presented a paper outlining his proposals for a new RSAI summer school to be held at the University of the Azores (initially). Tomas argued that finance for this would be found outside RSAI and that he was more interested in academic commitment at this stage. Council acknowledged that this would build nicely on the work of Gunther Maier in Europe and provide a new way for RSAI to engage with young scholars. It was also hoped that scholars could be invited from all over the world to make it a truly global RSAI activity. A scientific committee was set up to help Tomas: Tomas himself, Eduardo Haddad, Mark Partridge and 1 from PRSCO - to be arranged)

7. New section Development

Roberta Capello discussed the success of recent meetings in Columbia, especially the PRSCO Summer Institute in Cali in June. She noted how many different academic communities participated to make the meetings so successful. A new section in Argentina had also been agreed by Council using an e-mail vote and RSAI looks forward to their increasing participation in international affairs. Eduardo Haddad reported new contacts in Peru and Ecuador and that he would report back to future meetings on progress with these potential new sections.

Yoshiro Higano reported that the seminar in China had been moved from December 2010 to March 2011. He also reported a joint meeting with the Japan section to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Section in 2012. It was still hoped to hold the 2012 PRSCO Summer institute in China.

Roberta Capello reported that in Europe the Polish section had been completely reorganised and had a new democratic structure with more RSAI members. There was also a delegation

from Lithuania to the ERSA congress in Sweden and we look forward to welcoming them to ERSA in 2011-12. There were also members from Estonia present in Sweden and there was interest in potentially revamping the Nordic section to take in new countries. Given the fact that Russia was bidding for a future ERSA congress then it was hoped that a section could be re-vitalised in this region too in the future.

8. Fellows nomination process

David Boyce, in absentia, reported that many nominations for new Fellows were not complete, often lacking a CV or supporting statements. Graham Clarke promised to remind the membership of what is required in the next communication and in the next newsletter.

9. Universal membership

Roberta Capello reported that she has worked hard on trying to get all sections to conform to the principle of universal membership, making particularly good progress with ERSA sections. Yoshiro Higano and Graham Clarke are also trying to increase membership from PRSCO sections. However, there is still progress to be made. For example, although we have a list now from South Korea it was pointed out that the Korean section was much bigger in reality. The RSAI officers will continue to work on this in 2011.

10. RSAI journals

10.1 Papers in regional science

Jouke van Dijk reported a pleasing increase in the impact factor for the journal. This was now 1.4 and well on target for the growth aimed for in the 5 year plan. The forthcoming editions were on schedule and Jouke noted that the Singapore production team seemed very efficient and there was no drop in standards following the move from Oxford. He also noted the good capturing of high quality papers from recent key note plenaries and paper sessions at RSAI conferences.

10.2 Regional Science Policy and Practice

Mike Carroll reported that the journal was going well and next issue would hopefully be ready for the Denver conference. Mike outlined plans for a plenary session at NARSC supported by a reception from Wiley/Blackwell. He was concerned, however, at the lack of papers being submitted and urged all RSAI council members to encourage submissions or offer special editions. Mike also responded to Roger Stough's financial questions in LRPC report (item 3), and confirmed resources were running low. The £10000 granted in 2007 was almost spent. Roger Stough proposed a £5000 bridging payment and encouraged Mike to submit a full proposal to the Denver meeting outlining what kind of funds are required to take the journal to the next stage. It was suggested that Mike and his team could produce a 5 year plan similar to the one Jouke van Dijk and his team produced for PiRS, with funding requirements and target performance indicators.

11 RSAI accounts 2009

Dimitris Ballas presented the following summary of the RSAI accounts for 2009.

Regional Science Association International 2009

Balance brought forward (pounds sterling £) - 1 January 2009: £164,195.44

Receipts (Pounds Sterling £)

Subscription fees payment from John Wiley & Sons/Blackwells	£33,401.00
Investment income	£124.30
TOTAL	£33,525.30

Payments (Pounds Sterling £)

Editorial Office of Papers in Regional Science	£20,280.24
RSAMERICAS Cartagena meeting support	£2,834.28
RSAI newsletter editor	£2,000.00
RSAI Webmaster	£2,400.00
Executive Director expenses	£2,793.85
2008 Accounts independent examination	£690.00
NARSC 2009 T&S expenses (Edgardo Moncayo Jiménez)	£1,386.16
NARSC 2009 T&S Maarten Bosker RSAI dissertation award	£1,415.80
Postal costs	£10.50
Bank Charges	£291.00
TOTAL	£34,101.83

Closing Balance carried forward - 31 December 2009 £163,618.91

These accounts have been independently examined by Chartered Accountants Henton & Co.
(<http://www.hentons.com/>)

Dimitris Ballas, Treasurer RSAI, Jönköping, 22 August 2010

After a few questions these were accepted and Dimitris was thanked for all his hard work

12 ED matters

Graham Clarke reported that the next newsletter on ‘sport and regional science’ was due to be ready by the Denver conference. He also reported that nominations would be sent out for new Fellows and for a new at-large Council member to replace Charlie Karlsson (2011-2013). He also reported that membership now stood at 4500 and we were rapidly approaching the magic 5000 number! The prize winners for 2010 were reported as:

Martin Beckmann prize: Thomas Scherngell and Michael J. Barber

Hiratodo Kohno award: Gunther Maier

The student prize would be announced in Denver.

It was agreed that Tomas Dentinho should take over as ED on 1st January 2011, allowing Graham Clarke to support him in Graham's last year on Council in 2011.

13. RSAI President 2013-2014

LRPC had suggested the next President after Yoshiro Higano might ideally come from RSAmericas. This was agreed by council. A search committee was set up to report initially to the Denver conference: Roberta Capello, Yoshiro Higano, Eduard Haddad and Mark Partridge

14. AOB

14.1 Prof Yang of South Korea outlined details of the PRSCO conference in July 2011. Details now appear on the RSAI website.

15 Date and location of the next meeting

Denver, 12th November, NARSC conference.

Graham Clarke, RSAI Executive Director, November 2010, Leeds.