

# RSAI Newsletter

January 2006

## NEWS AND INFORMATION

### RSAI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the regional science movement has entered its sixth decade during the last couple of years, it is indeed heartening to see how our international community of regional scientists has been spreading into new and developing parts of the world, including Asia, Latin America and Africa.

Recently we have seen the formation of new sections of the Regional Science Association in South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Indonesia and Malaysia, and we are hopeful that groups in China, Algeria and Colombia will formally form new sections soon.

The spread of regional science into Latin America and Africa, and our hope that the India section of RSA will become incorporated within RSAI, has meant that the RSAI Council has had to begin the process of re-thinking the adequacy and appropriateness of the three super-regional groupings (NARSC, EASA, PRSCO). As an interim step, the Council has conferred with the three super-regional groupings to implement new procedures for the recently formed and emerging new sections of regional science to be given a voice within the existing super-regional organisations. ERSA will welcome into its fold the South Africa Section of RSAI and the emerging new sections that are likely to be founded in Africa and the Middle East. NARSC will be providing an extended umbrella to accommodate the participation of the new sections in Latin America, and PRSCO will be welcoming into its fold sections in India, China and the Pacific facing sections of Latin America (with these latter Latin American sections being able to participate in both NARSC and the PRSCO community if they choose).

These arrangements are seen as an interim measure and these are in line with a proposal that came from the Long Range Planning Committee and which has been endorsed by the RSAI Council. The super-regional groupings – NARSC, ERSA and PRSCO – are now considering the specifics of the new arrangements for this geographic expansion of RSAI sections, and these might include changes to the names of the super-regional groups. The proposal for how these new components will be implemented are to be finalised over the coming months, with the super-regional groups reporting their new arrangements to the meeting of the RSAI Council at the Volos, Greece, meeting to be held in association with the ERSA 2006 Conference in August.

The RSAI Council has resolved to revisit the issue of the number and composition of the super-regional organisations of RSAI in four years, at which time it might be feasible and appropriate to form new super-regional groupings.

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**Submission Information:** All materials for submission should be transmitted in electronic format, either via email, email attachment, or disk. Files may be submitted in Word, WordPerfect, rich text or ASCII formats. If your file contains special characters (e.g., international characters) please also submit a printed copy, either by postal mail or fax. Materials received only in printed format are not guaranteed for publication. Material for inclusion in RSAI NEWS should be received by the editors no later than December 1 for the January issue, April 1 for the May issue, or July 1 for the August issue.

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## REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

An interdisciplinary, international organization focusing on understanding the growth and development of urban, regional, and international systems.

### Headquarters

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### International Council

<i>President:</i>	Robert Stimson
<i>Vice President:</i>	Roger Stough
<i>Immediate Past President:</i>	Antoine Bailly
<i>Executive Director:</i>	Graham Clarke
<i>ERSA Councillors:</i>	Roberto Camagni [2006-2008] Paul Cheshire [2005-2007] Jan Oosterhaven [2005-2007]
<i>NARSC Councillors:</i>	Roger Stough [2006-2008] Jean-Claude Thill [2006-2007] Brigitte Waldorf [2004-2006]
<i>PRSCO Councillors:</i>	David Edgington [2006-2008] Yoshiro Higano [2004-2006] Tschangho John Kim [2005-2007]
<i>Councillors-at-Large:</i>	Roberta Capello [2006-2008] Graham Clarke [2006-2008] John Madden [2005-2007] Phillip McCann [2004-2006] Jessie Poon [2006-2008] Robert Stimson [2004-2006]
<i>Invited Councillors:</i>	Carlos Azzoni [2004-2007] Manas Chatterjee [2004-2007] Gideon Horn [2004-2007]
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Dimitris Ballas
<i>Archivist:</i>	David E. Boyce
<i>Ex--Officio:</i>	
<i>Editors, Papers in Regional Science</i>	
<i>Editor-in-Chief:</i>	Raymond J.G.M. Florax
<i>European Editor:</i>	Jouke van Dijk
<i>North American Editor:</i>	Jessie Poon
<i>Pacific Editor:</i>	Jacques Poot
<i>Book Review Editor:</i>	Brigitte Waldorf
<i>RSAI Newsletter Editor:</i>	Randall W. Jackson
<i>RSAI Web Page Editor:</i>	Randall W. Jackson

The RSAI Council has also been considering how RSAI might improve existing and initiate new member services following the successful but continuing bedding-down of the new universal membership provisions and the partnership between RSAI and Blackwell Publishing. At the Las Vegas meeting of the Council held in association with the 52<sup>nd</sup> NARSC meeting in November 2005, the Council endorsed a series of recommendations from the member sections Task Force (the report from the Task Force is included in this newsletter). This will herald the beginning of an exciting new phase in the development of RSAI, which is likely to include the implementation of a new international journal focusing on policy and practice in regional science, pending the outcome of a detailed feasibility analysis and development of a business plan for such an initiative to be undertaken between now and the meeting of the RSAI Council at the ERSA Conference in Volos in September 2006.

With the continuing incorporation of new RSA sections within the new universal membership arrangements for RSAI, the membership of RSAI will likely pass 3,500 during 2006. There is every chance that within the next few years, our international community of regional scientists will exceed 4,000.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people on the Committees and Councils of RSAI, the super-regional organisations and the many local and national Sections for their ongoing efforts in helping to build our community into one that is stronger and more diverse, as well as geographically more widely spread across the globe.

From the RSAI Council, our thanks to all the members of RSAI for their support and participation in regional science events in 2005, and our best wishes to you for a successful 2006.

Bob Stimson, **RSAI President**

### RSAI MOURNS ROBERT KUENNE

Robert Kuenne, a noted economist, author and professor who taught at Princeton University for 41 years, died of Lou Gehrig's disease, November 5 at his home in Princeton.

Kuenne became a member of the Princeton faculty in 1956 and transferred to emeritus status in 1997. He taught microeconomic theory and general equilibrium theory at the graduate level and also wrote more than a dozen distinguished works in areas of economic and military strategy. He was known for designing and teaching for 30 years a course titled "Analysis of Capitalism" which used works of fiction, social criticism, social philosophy and economics to examine attacks against and defenses of capitalism. A complete obit in his honor can be found at:

<http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pwb/05/1114/2b.html>

 **AWARDS, PRIZES AND COMPETITIONS****RSAI DISSERTATION COMPETITION**

The RSAI presented its annual Dissertation Competition award at the North American meetings in Las Vegas to Dr. Ikuho Yamada for her work *"Analysis of Spatial Clusters when the Phenomenon is Constrained by a Network Space"*. Dr. Yamada received her Doctorate from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and was supervised by Prof. Jean-Claude Thill.

The Association invites the submission of dissertations completed in 2005/06 in the field of Regional Science to the annual competition. Two copies of the dissertation and a letter of nomination from the research supervisor should be sent to Professor Antonio Páez, School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton ON L8S 4K1, Canada. The dissertations should be received no later than July 1, 2006. For further information, please contact Prof. Páez [paezha@mcmaster.ca](mailto:paezha@mcmaster.ca)

**RSAI FELLOWS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

In November 2001, the RSAI Council initiated the RSAI Fellows Award to honor a select group of members of the Association who have made important scholarly and research contributions to the field of regional science. The inaugural Fellows were the living recipients of the Founder's Medal at that time: Walter Isard, Martin Beckmann, Jean Paelinck, and David Boyce. In 2003 four Fellows were elected by the inaugural Fellows, and recognized at the 50th North American Meetings in Philadelphia: Masahisa Fujita, Geoffrey J. D. Hewings, Tony E. Smith, and Jacques Thisse. In 2004 four Fellows were elected, and recognized at the 51st North American Meetings at Seattle: Luc Anselin, J. Vernon Henderson, Peter Nijkamp, and John M. Quigley. In 2005 five fellows were elected and honored at the 52<sup>nd</sup> North American Meetings at Las Vegas: Marcus Berliant, Jan K. Brueckner, Arthur Getis, David Pines, and Karen R. Polenske.

Call for Nominations: Members of the RSAI are invited to nominate any current member of the Association for consideration for the Fellows Award in 2006 by sending a short letter of nomination, a detailed CV and publication list, and a list of three supporting references, with their email addresses, to Art Getis at [Arthur.getis@sdsu.edu](mailto:Arthur.getis@sdsu.edu). The nominator may be one of the references. Self nominations are also appropriate. Please note that detailed letters of recommendation are not requested at this time, but will be requested later. A list of current members of the RSAI may be found at: <http://www.rsai-members.org/>. For full consideration for the current selection process, nominations should be received by January 31, 2006. Past nominations are automatically considered, but may be updated, if desired.

**BARRY M. MORIARTY GRADUATE PAPER COMPETITION**

Each spring, the Southern Regional Science Association awards a prize to the graduate student submitting the best paper in any area of Regional Science. The student must be enrolled full-time at an accredited academic institution sometime during the year following April, 2006; must be sponsored by a member of SRSA; and is expected to present the paper at a session of the 2006 Meetings of the Association in St. Augustine, FL, March 30-April 1, 2006, using the award to defray the costs of attending.

The deadline for submission is January 5, 2006. Papers can be submitted electronically to Robert Gibbs at [rgibbs@ers.usda.gov](mailto:rgibbs@ers.usda.gov). Additional details are available on the SRSA website at: [www.regionalscience.org/srsa/2006graduatepapercompetition.htm](http://www.regionalscience.org/srsa/2006graduatepapercompetition.htm)

**DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA CONFERRED ON PROFESSOR PETER NIJKAMP**

On November 4, 2005 Professor Peter Nijkamp was conferred the title of Doctor Honoris Causa of the Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Romania for his outstanding contribution to the development of economic modeling and regional science throughout the world, as well as for his continuous and enthusiastic support to the academic scientific research in Romania. This is the third time Nijkamp has been awarded the title of doctor honoris causa; he received the title from the Free University in Brussels and from the National Technical University in Athens.

## THE BENJAMIN H. STEVENS GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN REGIONAL SCIENCE FOR 2006-2007 – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. programs in North America are encouraged to apply for the Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science, administered by the North American Regional Science Council of the Regional Science Association International (NARSC-RSAI). This Fellowship, in support of thesis research in Regional Science, is awarded annually in memory of Dr. Benjamin H. Stevens, an intellectual leader whose selfless devotion to graduate students as teacher, advisor, mentor, and friend had a profound impact on the field. Regional Science is a multidisciplinary field concerned with the theory and method of urban and regional phenomena. Regional Scientists use theoretical frameworks and methods of the social and other sciences, as well as develop new ones specifically for regional analysis and policy.

Eligible students should have completed all degree requirements except for their dissertation by the time the Fellowship commences. A requirement of the Fellowship is that the recipient has no duties other than dissertation research during the Fellowship, though the recipient may hold other fellowships concurrently. Applications from students working in any area or any Ph.D. program are welcome as long as their dissertation research addresses a question in Regional Science.

The Fellowship consists of a stipend in the amount of \$25,000 (U.S.), paid over a twelve-month period. Applications for the 2006-2007 Fellowship should be addressed to the selection committee chair, Professor Janice F. Madden (address below), and postmarked by February 15, 2006. An application consists of five sets (5 sets) of the following materials:

1. A curriculum vita of no more than two (2) pages in length.
2. A statement in ten (10) pages or less explaining the questions and issues to be addressed, the approach to be used, and the product expected from the thesis research, preceded by a summary (1-page maximum) describing the intellectual merit of the proposed research, and the broader impacts that may result. The 10-page limit is inclusive of references, but exclusive of tables and figures. This text should be in 12 point or larger font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins; references may be single-spaced.
3. The candidate's graduate transcripts for all graduate study. Unofficial copies are acceptable.

In addition, the thesis supervisor needs to provide a confidential letter (plus four copies), sealed in one envelope and signed across the seal, to be mailed with the application. In the letter the supervisor should assess the quality and significance of the proposed dissertation research, specify the current state of progress toward the candidate's degree and provide a commitment by the thesis supervisor to obtain a tuition waiver for the candidate for the year of the Fellowship.

A condition of the Fellowship is the granting of a tuition waiver for the year of the Fellowship by the university, or equivalent payment of the student's tuition.

Applications should be mailed to: Professor Janice F. Madden, Sociology Department, University of Pennsylvania, 218 McNeil Building, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6299 USA. Applicants are strongly encouraged to send an e-mail to [madden@ssc.upenn.edu](mailto:madden@ssc.upenn.edu) when they post their materials. Questions may be sent to: [madden@ssc.upenn.edu](mailto:madden@ssc.upenn.edu). For information about NARSC, go to <http://www.narsc.org/>. For information about RSAI, go to <http://www.rsai.org>.



## COMMUNICATION & LITERATURE

### *JOURNAL OF SPATIAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS*

--CALL FOR PAPERS

A new journal from the Regional Studies Association and the Regional Science Association International (British & Irish Section) has been released entitled, *Spatial Economic Analysis*, Vol. 1, 2, 2006. Routledge: Taylor & Francis Group, Bernard Fingleton, editor ([bf100@cam.ac.uk](mailto:bf100@cam.ac.uk)), Cambridge University, UK.

*Spatial Economic Analysis* is a pioneering journal dedicated to the development of theory and methods in spatial economics. The journal is aimed at an international audience, but will also be of interest to policy makers and practitioners. The journal is edited from Cambridge by an internationally recognized panel of economists. Papers will be subject to refereeing at international standards, and will be evaluated by their contribution to knowledge, originality, and rigor.

The Editorial Board invites original submissions from economists, geographers, regional and social scientists, working within the fields of spatial, geographical and regional economics. The following subject areas are particularly welcome:

- The development, testing and application of theories of 'new economic geography'
- Theoretical, applied and policy oriented papers within the broad sphere of spatial economics
- Quantitative economic geography models, spatial econometrics, simulation modeling, multi-sectoral regional and CGE models, interregional migration modeling
- Quantitative policy evaluation and applications of spatial data analysis and Geographical Information Systems, urban economics, the analysis of regional and international growth, global, international and local trade and investment, regional labor markets

For further information about this journal please email [kath.sayer@tandf.co.uk](mailto:kath.sayer@tandf.co.uk)

### ERSA SUMMER SCHOOL 2006

The school is open for a limited number of non-European regional science students. The website is: <http://www.regroningen.nl/summerschool/>

### RECENT BOOKS BY MEMBERS OF RSAI

- Okuyama, Yasuhide and Stephanie E. Chang (eds). 2004. *Modeling Spatial and Economic Impacts of Disasters*, Springer-Verlag, 300 pp. (ISBN: 03-540-21449-6).
- Fujita, M., ed. 2005. *Spatial Economics*, Vol. 1 and Vol. II. The International Library of Critical Writings in Economics 188. Edward Elgar Publishing Limited, UK. ISBN 1 84376 648 5. US Price: \$365.00
- Koontz, S.R., D. L. Hoag, D.D. Thilmany, John W. Green, and J.L. Grannis. 2005. *The Economics of Livestock Disease Insurance: Concepts, Issues and International Case Studies*, CABI Publishing, UK, ([orders@cabi.org](mailto:orders@cabi.org)); ISBN 0 85199 077 0, US \$110.
- Polenske, Karen R., ed. Available January 15, 2006. *The Technology-Energy-Environment-Health (TEEH) Chain in China: A Case Study of Cokemaking*. Series: Alliance for Global Sustainability Book series, Vol. 8, 2005, ISBN 1-4020-3433-4.

### ON-LINE COURSE IN LOCAL ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Judith Stallmann, University of Missouri-Columbia is offering the one-credit online course entitled, Special Topics Course: Ag Econ 301 Local Economic Analysis. Begins January 17, 2006 and ends May 12. Available nationwide and taught online through MU Direct. Register at: <http://mudirect.missouri.edu/>. Contact Judith Stallmann at: [Stallmannj@missouri.edu](mailto:Stallmannj@missouri.edu) or (573) 882-6455.





## CONFERENCE NEWS

**45TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WESTERN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION**, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA, **February 22-25, 2006**. Visit the WRSA website for complete conference information:  
<http://www.u.arizona.edu/~plane/wrsa.html>.

**45TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (SRSA)**, St. Augustine, Florida, **March 30-April 1, 2006**. Potential topic areas include: regional modeling, international trade, resource utilization, environment quality, transportation systems, tourism and recreation, economic impact analysis, rural economic development, regional migration/labor markets, regional development issues/policy, public finance and investment analysis.

Contact information: David McGranahan, ERS USDA, 1800 M ST NW 20036, Washington, DC 20036-5831, email: [dmcg@ers.usda.gov](mailto:dmcg@ers.usda.gov). For additional information, visit the SRSA's website: <http://www.srsa.org>.

**NORDICK NETWORK OF THE REGIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION**, **May 4-5, 2006**. A two-day conference entitled, "*Towards a New Nordic Regionalism?*" for policy-makers and researchers. It is being held in Balestrand, Norway, 4-5 May 2005 and organized by the Nordic Network of the Regional Studies Association. Nordic regions are currently involved in processes of profound transformation, and the conference will bring together policy-makers and researchers from the Nordic countries and beyond in order to take stock and exchange experience about the current state of regional reforms, about the economic and other rationales for the new regions, and about the implications of reform for leadership and democracy. The event will combine high-profile plenary speakers and thematic workshops, giving participants plenty of opportunities to listen, reflect and discuss. See the full announcement and call for papers on the conference website:

<http://web.hisf.no:16080/konferansar/index.php?cf=1> and check out an out-of-the-ordinary venue on <http://www.kviknes.no/>

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SPATIAL ECONOMETRICS AND STATISTICS**, **May 25-27, 2006**, Rome Italy. Visit the website for complete information:  
<http://www.unich.it/conferencerome2006/>

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL AND URBAN MODELING**, Free University, Brussels, **June 1-3, 2006**. The goal of the conference is to promote and stimulate the exchange of ideas in the field of modeling techniques applied to regional and urban issues. You can submit your paper on the conference management website:  
<http://www.ecomod.org>. Deadline for abstract submission is January 15, 2006; deadline for submission of full papers is April 1, 2006.

**THE MID-CONTINENT REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION** is teaming with the IMPLAN National User's Conference to host their annual (biennial) conferences **June 8-10, 2006** in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is to announce the call for regular papers and to encourage students to participate in the M. Jarvin Emerson Student Paper Competition.

Information can be found at the MCRSA Website: Mid-Continent Regional Science Association  
<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/mcrsa>

The MCRSA/IMPLAN meetings will be bigger and better than ever with a stimulating mix of academics and practitioners all focusing on applied problems. And, the conference remains a great buy among professional and academic association meetings. Early registrants will enjoy a reduced meeting registration fee of \$130. In addition, a special reduced fee for students will once again be in effect. The full student registration fee is \$40.

You can either download a conference registration form from the MCRSA Website, or register for the conference using IMPLAN's secure online ordering system at:  
[https://www.implan.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?cPath=261&products\\_id=187](https://www.implan.com/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=261&products_id=187)

The meeting will take place at the University Place Hotel on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis in Indianapolis, Indiana. The entire hotel will have undergone a complete renovation by the time of the conference. We're getting a great rate (\$125/night single and \$140/night double). Participants should contact the

hotel directly at 800-627-2700 and indicate participation in the MCRSA conference.

The conference is being sponsored by the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at IUPUI. SPEA will host a very special reception at the NCAA Hall of Champions located on campus. All persons wishing to submit an abstract or session proposal are encouraged to do so electronically via e-mail to John Leatherman at [mcrsa@agecon.ksu.edu](mailto:mcrsa@agecon.ksu.edu) by April 1, 2006.

For the IMPLAN devotee, a dedicated track will run throughout the conference and the Minnesota IMPLAN Group (MIG) will again publish the IMPLAN Conference Proceedings. MCRSA will offer its regular menu of highly interdisciplinary research. Both groups will be encouraged to mix, however, to sample the offerings and issues on each side of the conference.

The meeting also offers students the opportunity to participate in MCRSA's M. Jarvin Emerson Memorial Student Paper Competition. Strongly encourage your students to enter the paper competition. It's a great learning experience and the odds of recognition are favorable for good work. Cash awards are made and the winning entry is published in the Association's journal, the Journal of Regional Analysis & Policy. Additional details can be found at the MCRSA Web site.

The MCRSA consists of an interdisciplinary membership from academics and other public and private organizations. The MCRSA is interested in using the tools of regional science to help solve applied problems in rural and urban areas at the local, state and national levels. There are over 1,500 active users of MIG databases and software in the United States as well as internationally. MIG clients include federal and state government, universities, as well as private sector consultants.

#### **CREATIVE ECONOMY WORKSHOP – Mystic, Connecticut, June 13 – 14, 2006**

In conjunction with the 2006 annual meetings of the Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (NAREA), the Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development is sponsoring a two-day post-conference workshop on the rural creative economy. The workshop will be held on June 13 and 14, 2006, in lovely Mystic, Connecticut. It will feature keynote speakers and selected papers on the

opportunities and challenges that nonmetropolitan areas face in the attraction and retention of creative talent (i.e., Richard Florida's "Creative Class").

Workshop objectives are to (1) disseminate current research on the rural creative economy, (2) establish a framework for policy discussion, and (3) identify areas of interest and support for future work. Some possible topics of research include connections between rural amenities and population growth, human capital based economic development theory and practice, and the size and growth of creative occupations (e.g., artistic, cultural, and technology-based) in rural areas.

To be considered for the selected paper sessions, author(s) are asked to submit a 3 to 5 page extended abstract that will be evaluated by the organizing committee on the bases of scholarly merit and relevance to the workshop topic. Honoraria of \$500 per selected paper will be provided. Papers presented at the workshop will also be considered for a special edition of NAREA's journal, *Agricultural and Resource Economics Review*. Journal submissions will be selected through a separate peer-review process.

Send paper abstracts electronically to Todd Gabe, University of Maine, at [todd.gabe@umit.maine.edu](mailto:todd.gabe@umit.maine.edu). Please use the subject heading "NAREA 2006" in your message. Submission deadline is February 15, 2006. Authors will be notified of the committee's decisions by March 1, 2006. For more information about NAREA and its 2006 conference, please visit [www.narea.org](http://www.narea.org). Please contact Todd Gabe, at the e-mail address listed above for additional information about the post-conference creative economy workshop.

#### **GROWING REGIONS CONFERENCE, Brisbane, Australia, July 25-27, 2006**

The ANZRS AI (Australian Regional Science Association International) has as part of a mutual support agreement, agreed to promote the Australian Department of Transport and Regional Services (Federal govt. dept.) "Growing Regions" conference. Contact information: Shelagh Krummel, Executive Officer, ANZRS AI, P.O. Box 572, Hamilton VIC 3300 Australia. tel. + 613 5572 0532 fax + 613 5572 0555, [anzrsai@uq.net.au](mailto:anzrsai@uq.net.au)

**ERSA 2006 CONFERENCE, Volos, Greece,  
August 30-September 3, 2006**

The conference website is now open for abstract submission and can be found at <http://www.prd.uth.gr/ersa2006>. The website also gives all relevant information that is currently available, including an overview of conference themes, and of the dates and deadlines that apply. The deadline for abstract submission is January 16, 2006. Contact the ERSA 2006 Local Organizing Committee at: [ersa2006@prd.uth.gr](mailto:ersa2006@prd.uth.gr)

**IV MEETING OF THE BRAZILIAN RSA, October  
15-17, 2006**

"Learning Regions and Regional Development, Foz do Iguaçu City, Brazil. All paper submissions welcome.  
[www.aber.fea.usp.br](http://www.aber.fea.usp.br)

**53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN MEETINGS  
OF THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL, November 16-18, 2006**

The Fairmont Royal York, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Paper and session submissions will be accepted online between April 15-August 1, 2006. Conference registration through the conference website. Hotel reservations at the Fairmont Royal York, located in the heart of downtown Toronto. Book early to get the special conference rate!  
([www.fairmont.com/royalyork](http://www.fairmont.com/royalyork)). Conference questions Bruce Newbold (905) 525-9140 x 27948 [newbold@mcmaster.ca](mailto:newbold@mcmaster.ca) Official conference website: [www.narsc.org](http://www.narsc.org)

**54 ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN MEETINGS OF  
THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION  
INTERNATIONAL, November 7-11, 2007,**

Savannah, Georgia, USA at the Hyatt Regency. The meetings will be hosted by the SRSA. The Hyatt underwent a complete renovation in the spring of 2005 and claims 347 guest rooms, including 29 suites, offering panoramic views of the Savannah River and the Downtown Historic District. Deadline for reservations is: October 25, 2007. Contact: Professor Doug Woodward <[woodward@moore.sc.edu](mailto:woodward@moore.sc.edu)> or <<http://mooreschool.sc.edu/moore/economics/profiles/woodward.htm>>, University of South Carolina, program chair.

 **MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL  
MEETING: TOKYO, JULY 2005**

Present: Bob Stimson (chair), Franz-Josef Bade, Peter Batey, Graham Clarke, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Yoshiro Higano, T. John Kim, Maureen Kilkenny, Jorge Serrano, Jacques Poot.

**1. Apologies:** Carlos Azzoni, Antoine Bailly, Peter Batey, David Boyce, Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Manas Chatterjee, Paul Cheshire, Kieran Donaghy, Raymond Florax, Gideon Horn, Geoff Hewings, John Madden, Phil McCann, Jan Oosterhaven, Jessie Poon, Jean-Claude Thill, Brigitte Waldorf.

Bob Stimson welcomed T. John Kim to his first committee meeting. Graham Clarke noted that we did not have a quorum and so other committee members would be e- mailed and asked to comment on recommendations.

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** accepted

**3. Matters arising:** none

**4. President's remarks:** Bob Stimson again thanked out-going President Antoine Bailly for all his hard work.

**5. Report of Executive Director**

Graham Clarke reported on four main issues:

- i) progress with universal membership. 19 Sections (out of a total of 36) were now fully up and running in terms of receiving membership (and Papers where relevant) via Blackwells. 4/5 Sections were likely to be fully operational by the end of the year. The challenge was now to make sure that other sections (many in the developing world) also came on board asap. Yoshiro Higano agreed to help Graham Clarke bring in many of the PRSCO sections
- ii) all financial accounts in the US had now been closed with the exception of the funds for fellowships which would continue to be administered largely through NARSC. Kieran Donaghy was thanked for his support in this transfer of funds.
- iii) changes were required in the constitution in order to meet UK Charity Commission Law. In particular, it was felt strongly that deputies for Council meetings should not be allowed.

The meeting agreed these changes on ratification by other Council members.

**Recommendation: to accept changes to RSAl Constitution**

iv) Yasuhide Okuyama (newsletter editor) has left West Virginia University to return to Japan. The meeting thanked Yasu for all his hard work in producing the newsletter. Randy Jackson has agreed to resume the role of newsletter editor and the Meeting expressed its gratitude to Randy and his assistant Mary Lou Myer.

**6. Papers in Regional Science**

Jacques Poot reported that the first Blackwell's produced Papers in Regional Science is now available electronically. The first printed version should be ready mid August. He reminded Council that the editors had decided to move from a geographical mode of operation (with editors dealing with submissions from their own Supra regions) to one based on subject matter. This had now occurred, and the new European editor was also in place (Jouke van Dyke). The central submission system was also up and running. Finally Jacques reported the good news that Papers had the highest citation index for 2004 amongst regional science journals.

**7. Election of President Elect**

This had been an item for discussion amongst the long range planning committee and was dealt with under item 10

**8. Report on 2008 Congress**

This was deferred until Amsterdam

**9. Report on Indian Symposium – Bangalore 2006**

It was reported that the organization of this event was gathering momentum. A call for papers had gone out and Peter Nijkamp had asked a number of Council members to organize special sessions. Bob Stimson thanked Peter and Yoshiro Higano for all their hard work.

Peter Batey and Bob Stimson reported on the most recent LRPC meeting (on behalf of Chair, Geoff Hewings). The Committee had discussed four main items:

- i) Supra-regional organization

**10. Long-range planning Committee**

Peter Batey and Bob Stimson reported on the most recent LRPC meeting (on behalf of Chair, Geoff Hewings). The Committee had discussed four main items:

- i) Supra-regional organization  
Peter Batey discussed this item and agreed to summarize through a paper. The paper follows:

**Supra-regional Groupings in the RSAl: Proposed Changes**

1. The present structure of three supra-regional groupings within RSAl – NARSC, ERSA and PRSCO – dates from the early 1990s.

Each supra-region was intended to serve as a hub for regional science activity. The groupings covered the vast majority of the RSAl sections that existed at that time, with the significant exception of India.

2. The introduction of universal membership and the growing aspiration to draw more of the developing areas of the world into a more inclusive RSAl has prompted this review of supra-regional groupings.

3. Supra-regional groupings will continue to play an important role, reflecting the fact that many regional scientists prefer to attend conferences and develop research networks in their own part of the world, rather than engage in worldwide activities. The conferences of the supra-regional groupings, in particular, are well established and attract large attendances from amongst the RSAl membership.

4. The RSAl is encouraging the establishment of new sections, notably in China, South Africa, the Mediterranean region and Latin America. It is also committed to re-engaging with the Indian Section, which in recent years has operated largely in isolation.

5. In proposing changes to the present structure, it is important to retain the advantages of several features of the current arrangements and to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility to accommodate a range of preferences and practices among RSAl sections. Moreover, given the pace at which the RSAl is developing, it is sensible to regard the new arrangements as transitional and to plan to review them in five years time. By then there may be a good case for further restructuring involving the creation of more supra-regions.

6. Each of the current supra-regions will now be examined in turn. In the PRSCO supra-region there is a well-established practice of fostering new sections. In the next few years, PRSCO can expect to be involved in the formation of new Latin American sections, a China Section, and new sections in other

Asian countries. Following recent discussions, the Indian Section has applied to join PRSCO.

7. To accommodate this substantial expansion, and to better represent its emerging geographical coverage, we propose that PRSCO be transformed into the Asia-Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization: A-PRSCO.

8. In the Americas, there is the prospect of several new sections being formed in Latin America. Sections already exist in Brazil and Mexico, and a new section is on the point of being formed in Chile. Such sections may benefit from participation in PRSCO (and its successor, A-PRSCO), as well as from developing stronger links with the present NARSC.

9. To facilitate these links within the Americas, we propose that NARSC be transformed into TARSC (The Americas Regional Science Council). Such a change would enable all regional scientists, whether they are from North or Latin America, to participate on an equal basis.

10. In Europe, ERSA has grown rapidly as a result of its success in establishing new sections in eastern, central and southern Europe. Around the Mediterranean rim there is the likelihood that sections will be formed in a number of North African countries, possibly in Egypt and Morocco. Already the Israeli Section is a member of ERSA, setting a precedent for the inclusion of non-European sections with some affinity with Europe. A South African Section, with some existing links with Europe, was established three years ago.

11. We propose that in the next five years ERSA addresses the issue of incorporating more non-European sections, fostering their development in much the same way as it has done for new sections within Europe. The experience of PRSCO in establishing new sections may also prove valuable in this respect.

12. It is strength of the current arrangements in RSAI that some sections participate in more than one supra-regional grouping. For example, the WRSA and the Canadian Section are affiliated with both NARSC and PRSCO. We propose that the choice of which supra-region to join be a matter for an individual section. A section, faced with a choice of two groupings, may choose to affiliate with either or both. Nevertheless, we

would anticipate that the vast majority of existing sections would want to maintain their present allegiance(s).

13. It is important that the RSAI Council reflects the expansion of the supra-regional groupings. We propose that three additional places on Council be created by cooption. Two of these places would be filled by representatives from India and China, nominated by A-PRSCO, while the third would be a representative from the Latin American sections, nominated by TARSC.

14. These proposals, assuming they are adopted, will come into operation in January 2006. Consultation will be undertaken between August 2005 and the Las Vegas NARSC meeting in November 2005, leading to a final decision by the RSAI Council in Las Vegas.

Peter Batey, on behalf of the RSAI LRPC

**Recommendation: to be discussed by existing Supra-regional Councils for further debate in Amsterdam**

- ii) There was discussion amongst LRPC and Council over future at-large candidates. Three names were discussed for the 2 posts available from 2005. Graham Clarke was asked to discuss this with the three candidates and report back to next meeting
- iii) After discussion the preferred candidate for President Elect was Roger Stough. NARSC would be asked if they were happy to propose Roger for NARSC rep from 2005. Graham Clarke to again report back to Amsterdam meeting.
- iv) There was some discussion about possible future changes to the RSAI constitution to allow potential Presidents to serve more than 6/7 years on Council. It was felt that some excellent potential candidates were now ruled out under present rules as they had served previous two terms on Council. A possible solution is to amend the constitution to allow more than 2 terms for officers only.

**11. Date of next Council meeting:**

ERSA Conference, Amsterdam, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 11.00 am

**AOB**

Jorge Serrano asked about a discussion on new services Council could support. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item in Amsterdam.

Graham Clarke, 2005

## **MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: LAS VEGAS, NOVEMBER 2005**

Present: Bob Stimson (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Antoine Bailly, Peter Batey, David Boyce, Graham Clarke, Kieran Donaghy, Raymond Florax, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Yoshiro Higano, Maureen Kilkenny, John Madden, Phil McCann, T. John Kim, Jorge Serrano, Jan Oosterhaven, Jessie Poon, Jacques Poot, Roger Stough, Jean-Claude Thill, Brigitte Waldorf. (Guests: Patricio Aroca (Chile), Jorge Bueno (Columbia), Antonio Paez, (McMaster, USA)

1. **Apologies:** Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Paul Cheshire, Gideon Horn

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** accepted

3. **Matters arising:** None

### 4. **President's remarks**

4.1 Bob Stimson remarked on the need for a Council meeting between November 2005 and August 2006. He suggested a teleconference should be set up in April/May. This was agreed.

4.2 Bob congratulated all those associated with the formation of three new RSAI sections: Malaysia and Chile (now officially accepted into PRSCO). It was hoped that a new Colombian Section would be next. It is anticipated that the India section would also join PRSCO.

### 5. **Report of Executive Director**

5.1 To meet the requirements for registration under the UK Charities Act, Graham Clarke asked Council to approve further changes to the Constitution in order to gain charity status in the UK (current headquarters of RSAI). This was agreed subject to the words 'no political bias' being retained somewhere in the Constitution. Also, it was agreed that the President and Executive Director could serve three terms on Council rather than two.

5.2 Following the nomination at the Tokyo meeting in August 2005 of Roger Stough as President Elect for 2005 and thus President for 2007 and 2008, Graham reported that NARSC had appointed Roger as one of its appointees to Council, and thus Roger's

three year term would occur under that process.

5.3 Graham announced that of the three candidates for At-Large Councillors he had heard directly from only two to accept their nomination. This meant that the two nominees who had now formally communicated the acceptance of their nomination equaled the number of vacancies for Councillors-at-Large, and that an election ballot of members would not be necessary. Thus, Jessie Poon and Roberta Capello were duly appointed as Councillors at large for the years 2006, 2007, 2008.

Jan Oosterhaven asked Council to ensure in future there are more than 2 candidates so an election could be held by the membership. Phil McCann suggested that wider canvassing of potential nominees be undertaken to entice members to stand for nomination to make the procedure of election of Councillors-at-Large be seen to be more democratic.

### 6. **Long Range Planning Committee**

Antoine Bailly reported on a number of issues:

6.1 There had now been much discussion on the possibility of starting a new policy related journal. A Member Services Task Force had been set up in Amsterdam to take this forward, and a Report had been circulated and is open for discussion at this meeting. It is suggested that now Peter Batey and Raymond Florax be added to this team (see also item 9) in its pursuit of a strategy for developing that new journal.

6.2 There should be a deadline for set for Sections to decide on joining RSAI under universal membership. Graham Clarke would try (with Blackwells) to get all sections to be either joined or formally committed to become members by the end of 2005. The situation regarding any Sections not having joined by April/May 2006 would be discussed and reviewed at the next Council meeting and the status of those sections determined.

6.3 Peter Batey reported on this item. He reminded Council of the details concerning the paper on reorganisation of Supra-regional groupings (reported in full in the Amsterdam minutes). NARSC had agreed to support and welcome Latin American sections. Jean-Claude Thill reported that he hoped that a final document on the

changes would be ready by next October/November. PRSCO also agreed to support the proposals but would further debate the change in name at their next meeting in Malaysia. Few changes were envisaged for ERSA at this stage.

These proposals from the Long Range Planning Committee were accepted.

### 7. Papers in Regional Science

Raymond Florax reported that 2005 had been a year of transition with the move to Blackwells as publisher and the editorial office move to Purdue. Although there had been inevitable production delays in the year of transition he was confident that all 4 editions for 2005 would appear this year. The number of submissions continues to climb and in January 2006 a new on-line paper submission process would be in place. Raymond also reported a number of items from the Editorial Board meeting. He urged the secretariat to get universal membership sorted as soon as possible so that as many people could have on-line access to the journal as possible. He also noted a number of appointments/reappointments were needed soon, and he asked Council to resurrect the publications committee to address this issue.

This was agreed, with the membership to be: Raymond Florax, Bob Stimson, Graham Clarke, Paul Cheshire, Roger Stough and John Madden.

David Boyce asked about increases in sales to libraries. Raymond replied that this was an integral part of Blackwell's plans for the expansion of the journal.

### 8. RSAI Accounts

Dimitris Ballas presented the accounts to the Council. Council was pleased to see a healthy balance. But now it was necessary to put into place an expenditure program related to RSAI promotion and new services to members. The President suggested that this be undertaken by the Finance Committee immediately after the financial outcome of the first year of the universal membership transition and partnership with Blackwell was known, and that was expected about April 2006. A budget incorporating an expenditure program for operations and member services innovations would be put to the next meeting of the Council.

Graham Clarke thanked Kieran Donaghy at Illinois for his hard work in closing and transferring accounts from the US. A small balance remained in the USA however for expenditure needed in the US (i.e., production of prize medals etc).

### 9. RSAI Task Force

Bob Stimson presented the Report from the Member Services Task Force. This was well received and Council voted to agree all the action points proposed.

Most debate focused on the policy journal issue which was welcomed an initiative to serve the wider and more diverse membership of RSAI following the transition to universal membership.

Jan Oosterhaven urged Council to meet with ERSA as soon as possible so that no duplication of effort takes place. Peter Batey and Graham Clarke agreed to meet Paul Cheshire as soon as possible.

It was decided to ask Blackwell to provide advise to the Task Force on the role it might play vis-à-vis the new journal and for it to provide an assessment of market potential/viability.

The Task Force sub-group would have a virtual meeting in January to take matters forward. A budget of £20k was provisionally agreed for the Task Force group.

It was anticipated that a Development and business plan for the new journal be brought to the next meeting of the Council.

### 10. Prizes

Kieran Donaghy produced a list of current RSAI prizes. A Prizes Sub-Committee was set up to propose the two additional awards proposed in Report from the Member Services Task Force. That Sub-Committee will be: Bob Stimson, Roger Stough, Graham Clarke and Antoine Bailly.

Bob Stimson thanked Luc Anselin and David Boyce for all their efforts in process for selecting the RSAI Fellows and arranging for the awards.

Art Getis has agreed to be Chair of process for selecting RSAI Fellows for 2006. The call for nominations has already been made and nominations close in late January in 2006.

Nominations made in previous years remain under consideration for 2006.

Antonio Paez (new coordinator of the dissertation prize) proposed some minor changes to the procedure for electing the Ben Stevens Fellowship. These were agreed.

#### 11. AOB

11.1 The Brazilian section announced their forthcoming meeting in Foz do Iguaçu City, October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2006

11.2 Roger Stough detailed the contents of an e-mail from Paul Cheshire asking if Council could release details of the resources available for new service provision in 2006. Phil McCann had received a similar request. Both Roger and Phil believed that the publication of accounts under item 8 had now resolved this issue.

11.3 Bob Stimson thanked out-going Councillors Antoine Bailly and Maureen Kilkenny for all their hard work.

11.4 For the appointment of Councillors for 2006/2007/2008, Council is pleased to welcome:

From NARSC – Roger Stough (also President Elect) for a first term; Jean-Claude Thill for a second term.

From ERSA – Roberto Camagni for a second term.

From PRSCO – David Edgington for a first term.

11.4 The President invited Jorge Bueno to say a few words about RSAI in Columbia. Council looked forward to their full participation in future years.

#### 12. Date of next Council meeting:

Teleconference to be arranged for April/May

Graham Clarke, November 2005



## EDITOR'S NOTE

To contact the editor for posting to the RSAI website or newsletter:

RSAI Newsletter/Webpage Editor:  
[rri@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:rri@mail.wvu.edu)

In order to receive RSAI monthly news updates and other regional science related communications, you need to join the listserv (regsc-l), maintained by West Virginia University's Regional Research Institute, at <http://www.rri.wvu.edu/listservs.htm>



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## DEVELOPING EXISTING AND INITIATING NEW MEMBER SERVICES FOR RSAI

### Report to the RSAI Council from the Member Services Task Force

This Report from the Member Services Task Force to RSAI Council is for consideration and action as appropriate by the Council at its meeting at 12 noon on Friday 11 November during the NARSC meeting in Las Vegas.

The report canvasses a number of issues which the Council needs to address in improving existing and potentially initiating new member services. It makes a number of proposals and eight specific recommendations, some of which are amenable to implementation immediately and in early 2006, and some of which will need to be pursued through further deliberation by the Task Force with a view to a detailed strategy and implementation plan being brought back to the Council at its meeting in association with the ERSA Conference in August 2006.

#### 1. Establishing the Member Services Task Force

1.1 At the Amsterdam meeting of the RSAI Council held on 27 August 2005 in association with the ERSA 2005 Congress, it was resolved to form a Member Services Task Force to develop a strategy and to recommend specified proposals for new member services to be provided by RSAI.

1.2 The Task Force comprises:

- Robert Stimson, RSAI President
- Antoine Bailly, RSAI Immediate Past President
- Roger Stough, the Council nominee as RSAI President Elect
- Graham Clarke, RSAI Executive Director
- Paul Cheshire, representing ERSA
- Maureen Kilkenny, representing NARSC
- John Madden, RSAI Council.

1.3 The role of the Task Force is to develop a comprehensive strategy for RSAI Member Services and to recommend to the RSAI Council at the ERSA meeting in August 2006 a set of specific proposals and mechanisms for implementing action for expanded and new member services.

1.4 The Task Force was asked to provide a Report to the RSAI Council at the NARSC meeting in November 2005.

1.5 A part of the considerations of the Task Force was to be the issue of a new journal in Regional Science Policy and Practice (See 5 below). The intent was for the Task Force to report to that meeting of the Council proposing a procedure to pursue the development of a detailed strategy and implementation procedure if it is deemed to be desirable and feasible for RSAI to undertake such an initiative. That will require the formation of a specialist sub-committee of the Task Force to work on the details and to report back to the Council with a detailed recommendation at the Council meeting during the ERSA Conference in August 2006.

1.6 The task Force has conducted its business through email correspondence and the development of draft documents incorporating feedback from members of the Task Force proposing ideas and suggesting amendments to drafts.

#### 2. Background

2.1 As part of the discussions with the three supra-regional organisations of RSAI (NARSC, ERSA, PRSCO) and with RSA Sections to negotiate and implement the arrangements for universal membership of RSAI, it was implicit that, following the successful operation of those new arrangements with Blackwell, the RSAI Council would then turn attention in 2005 and beyond to developing new member services to meet the needs and expectations of a larger and more diverse international membership of RSAI. Of course there is an on-going need to be reviewing member services and considering how they may be enhanced.

2.2 It is now the appropriate time to commence that process and to develop a strategy during 2005/06 for implementation from 2006/07.

### 3. The range of RSAI Member Services which should be considered for further development and/or as new initiatives

#### 3.1 Current RSAI member services include:

- (a) Through the arrangements with Blackwell, on-line access of RSAI members to *Papers in Regional Science* and the RSAI Newsletter.
- (b) The RSAI web-site.

***Recommendation 1: 'Papers in Regional Science' and the 'RSAI Newsletter', and the RSAI web site, are crucial established member services and should continue and be enhanced, with specific attention being given to how to improve and further develop the RSAI Newsletter and RSAI web-site.***

#### 3.2 Possible new initiatives for additional member services might include the following:

- (a) A new journal in the field of Regional Science Policy and Practice.
- (b) International study groups on specific topics.
- (c) Joint ventures between RSAI and the supra-regional groups (NARSC/ERSA/PRSCO) and local Sections of RSAI.
- (d) Web site "chat rooms" for special interest groups.
- (e) Services which specifically meet the needs of non-academic members of the RSAI.
- (f) Collaborative ventures with other professional associations where symbiotic and mutually beneficial outcomes are apparent.
- (g) Additional RSAI awards to recognise excellence and service within RSAI and by policy leaders and practitioners in the fields of regional development and planning and the application of regional science approaches, including "best practice" case studies.

In addition, while recognising that English is the official language for RSAI "international" meetings, activities and publications, it might be possible to provide a limited multi-language service for appropriate activities and publications to meet the needs of the diverse language groups within the overall RSAI membership, especially for the French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese speaking groups.

***Recommendation 2: From the 2006 volume of 'Papers in Regional Science', there should be incorporated within the on-line version of the journal abstracts of papers in several languages to reflect the diverse language groups represented in the membership of RSAI.***

***Recommendation 3: A sub committee of the RSAI Council should be established to draft a policy and guidelines for the implementation of two new RSAI awards: a RSAI Service Award; and a RSAI Medal for Public Service Commitment to Regional Development.***

### 4. Developing the RSAI Web-Site

#### 4.1 Specific issues to address for the short-term development of the RSAI web-site include the following:

- (a) Improving the integration between Blackwell, RSAI Council/Secretariat, and the RSAI web-master for the development and operation (including management) of the web-site.
- (b) Providing on the RSAI web site direct links to the web sites of the supra-regional bodies (NARSC, ERSAs, PRSCO) and the web-sites of local Sections of RSAI, and similarly providing links the other way.

#### 4.2 The RSAI web site incorporates a range of functions which include the following, and these might be improved in the ways suggested:

- (a) A directory of RSAI members through a 'type-in name' mode of access, which could be improved by also having a facility to access the full listing of members, with details of their email contact, and a summary of their expertise and research interests. It would be useful for there to be a facility whereby a user of the web site might be able to search for persons with expertise in specified fields.
- (b) A calendar of RSAI conferences, which needs to be enhanced with links to the web sites for registration for those events.

- (c) A notice board for up-coming regional science meetings/events, which might be enhanced with provision of a "pop-up" notice on the home page upon entry to the web site.
- (c) A notice board for 'job vacancies', which needs to be expanded to include non-academic positions in the public and private sectors.

***Recommendation 4: The RSAI Executive Director negotiate with Blackwell to determine the arrangements necessary to implement the innovations set out in 4.2 of this Report, and arrange to put in place the mechanisms for their implementation in 2006.***

4.3 The RSAI web site might be developed to incorporate new facilities, including the following:

- (a) A 'standardised' RSAI conference registration facility for the RSAI supra-regional organisations and Sections that want to participate, and/or links to the NARSC/ERSA/PRSCO and Section conference registration web-sites. The RSAI Executive Director should liaise with the supra-regional organisations and the local Sections of RSAI to discuss this matter.
- (b) Providing the facility for 'chat rooms' for regional science interest groups.
- (c) Hosting of 'News Notes' on regional development and planning policy and practice through a "gate-keeper" to ensure quality control for access by researchers, policy and planning bureaucrats and consultants.

***Recommendation 5: The RSAI Executive Director liaise with the President and Executive Secretary of the three supra-regional organisations of RSAI and with the local Sections of RSAI to determine the need for initiatives from the RSAI Council with respect to the matters raised in Section 4.3 of this Report, and provide feedback to the Council during the first half of 2006.***

#### **5. A new journal initiative in regional science 'policy and practice'**

5.1 The notion of a regional science 'policy and practice' journal initiative does potentially represent an important step in the necessary development of additional member services to cater for the now more diverse membership of RSAI, which includes regional development and planning policy and practice bureaucrats and consultants in addition to academic researchers and teachers. In addition, it needs to recognise that the academic membership of RSAI includes a very substantial number of researchers and teachers who undertake work applying regional science approaches to policy and practice in regional development and planning. Thus, the matter needs to be given serious deliberation.

5.2 This initiative would require careful consideration thorough a feasibility evaluation and subsequent detailed planning for implementation if the indication is that such an initiative is feasible and desirable. That should include a formal evaluation of the following:

- (a) market potential and commercial viability
- (b) orientation, scope and focus
- (c) editorial policy
- (d) contract arrangements with a publisher
- (e) the possibility of collaboration with another professional association (s)

To assist the RSAI in undertaking that evaluation and formulation of a strategy and plan for implementation, it may be necessary to hire the professional services of an appropriate consultant to provide independent advice.

5.3 Principles which are important and should guide the development of a formal strategy for such a new journal initiative include the following:

- (a) A new journal - whatever its ultimate name might be - will need to have a truly international perspective to reflect the 'global focus' of RSAI in developing regional science. The Editorial Board structure of *Papers in Regional Science* might provide a model to replicate with an Editor in Chief and three Editors from the supra-regional organisations (NARSC, ERSAs and PRSCO).
- (b) An explicit editorial policy will be required which emphasizes the focus on the application of regional science methods in a policy/practice context for regional studies and planning, and especially in the field of local and regional economic and community development policy, planning and practice. Papers that demonstrate public policy development and program implementation and business applications using regional science theory and methods and case providing 'best practice' case studies would be particularly sought.

- (c) Quality control for contributed and solicited papers would be assured through the normal refereeing procedures would be used.
  - (d) Contributed papers would be encouraged not only from academic researchers - especially in collaboration with public policy and program bureaucrats and with private sector people - but also from policy and program bureaucrats and private sector consultants. However, it may also be desirable and feasible to include sections that are non-refereed contributions in the form of 'notices' and 'news'.
  - (e) Because of the formal collaboration recently implemented with Blackwell, preferably this initiative would occur under that RSAI/Blackwell agreement, and in the first instance discussions should be held with the people at Blackwell to ascertain what they might propose. That is not to say that alternative potential publishers might or should be considered and alternative potential publishers approached if it is decided to seek competitive tenders.
- 5.4 An important issue is whether a new 'policy and practice' journal should only be an 'on-line' e.journal or whether it should be available both 'on-line' and in 'hard copy' for institutional subscribers and individuals who were to pay an additional fee for that service. A view has been put to the Task Force that an 'on-line' only e.journal would provide greater flexibility without the page constraint of a journal that is also available in hard copy. The notion behind this perspective is that the potential initiative for a 'policy and practice' journal could result in a "flood" of contributions - particularly from policy and program practitioners and consultants of papers and case studies that are intrinsically most valuable but which are 'replicative' in nature and would not be suitable for a refereed journal that is 'on-line' but also 'hard copy.' A mixed model of both 'on-line' and 'hard copy' does have the flexibility of the on-line version incorporation non-refereed components while the 'hard copy' version would include only fully refereed contributions.
- 5.5 There might be the possibility of collaborative joint venture in this initiative between RSAI and other established organisations which more explicitly embrace the diverse regional development policy and practice community. This might be possible with the organization known as ACCRA in the U.S., which started as a division of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives but split off about 20 years ago as the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association but decided to keep the ACCRA identity. Today the body has the official title of ACCRA: The Council for Community and Economic Research, but it is understood that the 'ACCRA' part will be dropped in the near future. ACCRA has in the order of 500 members in the U.S. and Canada, with a few from elsewhere. Members of ACCRA are predominantly from chambers of commerce and regional development organisations, but it also includes academic researchers and teachers. ACCRA undertakes a substantial amount of training activities including an accredited course in regional and local economic development, and one of its professional development programs results in enrollees becoming a Certified Community Researcher. In addition, ACCRA publishes the *Cost of Living Index* for almost 300 metro areas; it lobbies federal agencies on data availability and quality; it disseminates data of members; and it has a consulting arm for economic development. Within ACCRA there is a degree of cross-over of membership in North America with RSAI members, and there are strong connections with the Executive MBA program at the U Southern Mississippi. Many of the classes in the education and professional development programs run by ACCRA are taught by members of the RSAI. Following some preliminary informal discussions with officers of ACCRA, there may well be interest in entering into a joint venture with RSAI in resurrecting the journal *Economic Development Review* which has lapsed and was edited out of U Southern Mississippi. It would seem sensible for at least formal discussions be entered into between RSAI and ACCRA to explore the possibilities for collaboration and the possible 'sharing' of member services, and to specifically evaluate the potential and desirability of a collaboration on a journal initiative which could involve the resurrection of *EDR* in some form with RSAI.

***Recommendation 6: The RSAI Council establish a Sub-committee of the Member Services Task Force to undertake a detailed investigation of the feasibility for an initiative for starting a new journal in regional science 'policy and practice', with a full report recommending further action, including an implementation strategy if that initiative is shown to be feasible, to come to the meeting of the RSAI Council at the August 2006 ERSA conference. In conducting this task, the Sub-committee should address the issues set out in Section 5 of this Report. The Sub-Committee should be empowered to spend up to British Pounds 10,000 to obtain independent advice necessary in carrying out the evaluation of the feasibility of this initiative.***

## 6. A 'policy and practice news' web facility

- 6.1 The RSAI web-site could be expanded to incorporate an initiative which provided a facility for:
- (a) The hosting of 'News Notes' on regional development and planning policy and program initiatives.
  - (b) Submission of reports and papers on policy, plans, practice, and business applications of regional science approaches through a "gatekeeper" to ensure quality control for access by researchers, policy and planning bureaucrats and consultants.
  - (c) A 'chat room' for applications of regional science approaches and regional economic development and planning for participation by researchers, bureaucrats and consultants.
- 6.2 This development might occur as a collaborative venture with an appropriate other professional association(s), and that might result in the service being run through an existing web site with a direct link from the RSAI web site. Such collaboration might also lead to RSAI members gaining access to existing information sources that might be of interest to the diverse membership of RSAI.

***Recommendation 7: The members Task Force should consider further the feasibility of RSAI initiating a 'policy and practice news' web facility and report back with a detailed proposal to the meeting of the RSAI Council at the August 2006 ERSA conference.***

## 7. Funding expansion of existing and new initiatives in member services

- 7.1 The expansion in existing member services and the new initiatives proposed for consideration in this Report will require the allocation of funds, both for the conduct of the detailed feasibility of some of the new initiatives proposed and the implementation of expansion in existing services.
- 7.2 It will be necessary to incorporate within the RSAI 2006 budget an allocation to fund the service innovations proposed in this Report, and annual allocations are likely to be required beyond that year to keep the new services going. However, the impact on the RSAI annual budget should not be great, and it is likely that the surpluses that are envisaged to accrue from the arrangements with Blackwell vis-à-vis universal membership and its implementation from 2005 will be sufficient to underwrite a considerable expansion of member services in the coming years.
- 7.3 The RSAI Executive Director will need to begin discussions with Blackwell regarding the implementation of extension of some of the existing member services proposed in this Report that relate to the RSAI web site and *Paper in Regional Science*, and to determine those things that can be implemented within the current contract between RSAI and Blackwell and where an additional fee paid by RSAI can achieve implementation within the existing contract and/or an amendment to the contract will be necessary.
- 7.4 It is suggested that an allocation of up to British Pounds 20,000 be provided in 2006 (not necessarily to be fully expended in that year) to begin the implementation of member services expansion and to undertake the feasibility analysis that will be necessary with respect to the new initiative for a regional science 'policy and practice' journal.

***Recommendation 8: The RSAI Council allocate up to British Pounds 20,000, with spending to commence in 2006, for the implementation of the extension in existing member services and for the investigation and possible implementation of the new initiatives in member services that are proposed in this Report.***