

## Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, Rome August 25, 1997

Present: Batey (President and ERSA), Bailly (RSAI at-Large), Cappellin (LOC Chair and Observer), Cuadrado Roura (ERSA), van Dijk (Observer), Donaghy (Executive Director and RSAI at-Large), Funck (Observer), Gibson (PRSCO), Kohno (representing Fukuchi, RSAI at-Large), Nijkamp (ERSA), Poot (RSAI at-Large), Reggiani (at-Large), Rossi (Observer), and Schaffer (NARSC). Regrets: Amrhein (at-Large), Haynes (NARSC), Isserman (NARSC), Munro (PRSCO), Yang (PRSCO), and Snickars (PRS Editor-in-Chief).

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by President Batey. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Barclay Jones, RSAI Archivist, past president, eminent regional scientist, and influential educator.

2. The minutes of the Hawaii Council Meeting were accepted as corrected (the council meeting in Wellington will be on December 8th, not the 7th).

3. President's Report: Batey indicated that he would present his report on alternative arrangements for publishing Papers in Regional Science (PRS) later in the meeting and asked Gibson to review RSAI's process for nominating candidates for the vice presidency. Gibson explained that it is the role of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) to forward nominations for the vice presidency to the full RSAI Council. The council can then accept the nominations as suitable or reject them as not, and supplement them with other names or not. Nominations by LRPC have been influenced by a concern to rotate the presidency between representatives of the three super-regional areas of RSAI's constituency. Since 1989, the term of service of a vice president has been effectively 5 years: one year as vice president, two years as president, and two years as immediate past president.

4. Representing LRPC, Gibson nominated Hirotada Kohno as RSAI's next vice resident. No other names were put forward and the council approved the nomination by acclamation, with ballots to be distributed in the January 1998 issue of the RSAI News.

5. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy announced that Andrew Krmeneč (Northern Illinois University), had agreed to serve as treasurer for RSAI, but that the archivist position remained vacant. He also announced that an Indonesian section RSAI has been formed and a Brazilian section would be forming in January 1998, and that exploratory efforts were being made with scholars in the People's Republic of China. Gibson continues to represent RSAI at meetings of the Mexican Section and he continues to encourage Mexican participation in international activities, especially PRSCO activities.

6. Review of ERSA-RSAI Relationships: Representatives of ERSA were given an opportunity to discuss concerns about relationships with RSAI. ERSA President, Cuadrado Roura noted that ERSA serves as an intermediary body between RSAI and the national and language sections. It has been going through some organizational changes in recent years and several new by-laws concerning elections may be adopted. The initiatives it is undertaking, such as the successful recent summer institute, are increasing. Van Dijk reported that ERSA members object to the \$US15 per capita fee paid to RSAI out of ERSA congress registrations and to the RSAI membership requirement at super-regional meetings for both philosophical and financial reasons. Moreover, they feel that the RSAI membership requirement discourages participation of local scholars from allied disciplines, students, and others upon whose attendance the success of a meeting often turns. Cappellin added that very few local attendees of the Rome ERSA Congress expressed an interest in joining RSAI. Donaghy recounted that the two requirements enforced at all Super-regional meetings—payment of a per capita conference fee to RSAI and the RSAI membership—were policies adopted by RSAI Council, with ERSA representatives voting in favor, in 1992. At that time, Council excepted from the RSAI membership requirement members of host sections and local scholars, whose participation was invited. How student attendance is handled has always been the prerogative of LOCs. Nijkamp remarked that the policies had been adopted to help build, and give a collective identity to, a decentralized international scholarly society, which is fundamentally a membership organization. He observed also that, in spite of rising costs, RSAI super-regional meetings are

still the least expensive of all professional meetings he attends. Schaffer commented that the costs of attending ERSA congresses would be substantially lower for all concerned, and more in line with those of NARSC meetings, if attendance at receptions and dinners was made optional and their costs were not included in the registration fees. Nijkamp suggested that conference registrations should be priced and marketed so that they create an incentive to be an RSAI member. Batey appointed a working group of Poot, Gibson, van Dijk, and Donaghy to consider Nijkamp's suggestion. The group is charged with relating it to previous policy, drawing out the implications for RSAI membership, and providing details of possible implementation. They will report back to Council no later than the Wellington meeting.

7. Cappellin welcomed the Council on behalf of the LOC. He reported that the expected number of papers presented at the Rome Congress would be near 500. He suggested that, in view of the trend toward larger ERSA congresses, program selection committees should be formed for future congresses. Batey thanked Cappellin for his organizational efforts.

8. Two presentations were made on alternative sites for a year 2000 world congress. Nijkamp argued that South Africa would be an interesting non-European venue in a developing country. There is a vital community of South African scholars which would support such a conference and there is a solid candidate for the chair of the local organizing committee. Nijkamp proposed that a smaller meeting be organized for one and one-half years hence with the World Congress to follow, pending the success of the smaller meeting. He asked for a delay on the decision until the Wellington Council Meeting to enable him to explore further the South African option. Gibson proposed that the World Congress be held in Ticino, Switzerland in late May of the year 2000. In discussions with local organizers, it was agreed that the LOC for a Ticino conference would have full financial responsibility. Rossi commented that the council should view the Wellington meeting as the last date by which a decision could be made with a reasonable expectation of adequate planning for a world congress in Ticino. Batey proposed that the choice be postponed until, but be taken no later than, the December Council meeting. Gibson promised to distribute to all council members a memorandum of understanding with the Ticino LOC that he had drafted.

9. Donaghy reported that so-called 'non-hard-currency' nations in Eastern Europe were receiving about \$US1,000 in services per year from RSAI in the form of newsletters and journals, but were still not paying RSAI memberships long after their currencies were freely trading. He proposed the adoption of a program according to which Eastern European sections collect RSAI membership fees from their section members at subsidized rates, with the subsidies gradually declining. The fees would pay for the membership services provided and could be used to subsidize services to sections in developing countries. Cuadrado Roura asked for the names of contacts in the countries in question and indicated that he would pursue the issue with the contacts and report back to Council at a future meeting.

10. Gibson and Donaghy reported that several opportunities had arisen for RSAI to match funding put up by LOCs of super-regional meetings to subsidize travel to the meetings by young scholars of incipient sections. They proposed that a formal matching fund arrangement be made to cover all super-regional meetings. Donaghy added that RSAI's share of the match could come from interest revenue earned on financial asset holdings that it needed to expend to comply with U.S. tax laws. The sense of the meeting was that this was a good idea in principle, but that a detailed proposal was needed.

11. Batey distributed copies of his report on alternative publication arrangements for PRS. He concluded that the current arrangement has much to recommend it but that options with Springer-Verlag should be explored further.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 on August 26<sup>th</sup> with Batey, Donaghy, Kohno, Florax, Nijkamp, Poot, and Snikers present.

13. Donaghy proposed an exploration of several arrangements for maintaining the RSAI archives at Cornell University. Nijkamp requested a report with decision points to be presented at the Buffalo meeting. Donaghy agreed to deliver the same.

14. Batey, Donaghy, Florax, and Snickars requested and were given permission to work out a transition of editorship of PRS, circulate a proposal among all council members prior to the Buffalo meeting, and if possible and propitious, conclude an agreement with a commercial publisher.

15. Donaghy proposed the inclusion of the International Review of Regional Science (IRSR) in the RSAI package of membership services was proposed if a financially viable arrangement could be made with the journal's editors, Andrew Isserman and Luc Anselin. Donaghy was authorized to negotiate and, if possible, conclude such an agreement with Isserman and Anselin.

16. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.