

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: DENVER, NOVEMBER 2010

Present: Roberta Capello (chair), Patricio Aroca, Mike Carroll, John Carruthers, Graham Clarke, Tomas Dentinho, Alessandra Faggian, Eduardo Haddad, Yoshiro Higano, T. John Kim, Gunther Maier, Sam Park, Mark Partridge, Robert Stimson, Roger Stough, Jouke van Dijk (prof Yang also in attendance)

1. Apologies: Charlie Karlsson, Danny Shefer

Roberta Capello welcomed all council members to the meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted with a request to add the names of the Romanian guests present at the meeting

3. LRPC

Roger Stough reported on discussions at LRPC.

- i) LRPC discussed the (\$50000) RSAI US fund currently looked after by Geoff Hewings in Illinois. This largely takes care of any US expenses (i.e. Fellow awards etc). The LRPC noted the requirement to spend 5% each year (under US financial law) and one suggestion was to use these monies to encourage the development of new sections. Another suggestion was to resurrect a finance committee to oversee RSAI spending as a whole and to include these monies within its remit. This was agreed by Council and the new committee was agreed as: Tomaz Dentinho, Graham Clarke, John Carruthers and Patricio Aroca.
- ii) LRPC recommended Council to give additional support to the planning of the 2012 World Congress. It suggested two new committees are established: an advisory committee to oversee all arrangements and a scientific committee to help plan the academic programme. This was agreed:

Advisory Committee (Roberta Capello, chair, John Carruthers and Sam Park)

Scientific Committee (Gunther Maier, Peter Batey, Graham Clarke, Mark Partridge, Carlos Azzoni and Yoshiro Higano.)

- iii) In the future, a nominating committee should be established for the RSAI Kohno award. This could be set up at the Seoul meeting in 2011.
- iv) The LRPC recommended that legal advice be sought if necessary to help with the transfer of RSAI headquarters to the Azores, especially to cover matters such as tax and charity status.

4. RSAI President Election

Roberta Capello reported the recommendations of the nominating committee (Roberta Capello, Mark Partridge, Yoshiro Higano and Eduardo Haddad). There were 4 outstanding candidates discussed but the recommendation was for Jean-Claude Thill. This proposal was unanimously accepted by Council. Congratulations to Jean-Claude. He will serve as President between 2013-2014 and need to come on to the Council in 2012.

5 Future Conferences

- 1) Roberta Capello endorsed the need for the scientific committee to help the local organizing committee. Although many respected RSAI researchers were signed up for round tables etc it was felt that there needed to be more special sessions with some top class speakers associated with each. Roberta agreed to chivy the scientific committee for ideas etc.
- 2) Prof Yang reported on arrangements for PRSCO in Seoul and urged colleagues to attend.

6. RSAI/RSA relationship

Roberta Capello summarized her white paper on potential future collaboration (see Appendix). She noted the positive initial response received by RSA. No more discussion was required at Council – we await a formal response to be received.

7. Future possible RSAI summer schools

Tomas Dentinho reminded Council of 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. Indeed, he reported that he already had raised \$35-40000 to support students and pay travel expenses of speakers. It was suggested that some monies from the US funds might be very appropriate for this activity. Tomas was encouraged to provide a fuller budget and that RSAI could contribute to this if Council agreed.

8. New section Development

There was a lively discussion on developments in South America initiated by the RSAmericas. It was reported that there is a good group of scholars now aiming to form a section in Ecuador, with a planned seminar in October 2010. It was hoped that they may be able to make a presentation in Seoul. It was also noted that there are some promising new developments in Peru.

Yoshiro Higano was hopeful that China would be able to put together documentation in 2011 for a new Section under the leadership of Prof Du.

No further news on Lithuania or other potential new sections in Europe.

9 Universal membership situation

A report on current numbers and the distribution from around the world was circulated. Graham Clarke reported how well Roberta Capello had done in getting certain European sections to fully participate in the universal membership concept. It was agreed that it was important to continue to press sections to comply with universal membership, especially in Asia.

10. RSAI journals

10.1 Papers in regional science

Jouke van Dijk reported that there was little to add to the Jonkoping report at this stage. However, he did report that the new editorial team was now in place and especially welcomed the new Japanese editor, Prof. Yoshitsugu Hayashi. The forthcoming editions were on schedule and Jouke hoped to be able to report on new special editions from the US and Pacific conferences in 2010/11. He also provided Council with a report for the journal including progress on many of the performance indicators agreed in previous years. This was well received and Council acknowledged the significant progress made under Jouke's editorial period.

10.2 Regional Science Policy and Practice

Mike Carroll reported that the journal was going well and that three special editions were now on the books. Again he made a plea for ideas for future special editions, a point reinforced by John Carruthers who noted the importance of special themed collections for attracting the student audience. It was reported that readership and submission totals were up considerably. Following on from a discussion in Jonkopping concerning editorial expenses for RSPP, Mike asked for £9000 per annum and this was agreed by Council (for a two year period after which we would reconsider).

11 ED matters

Graham Clarke reported that the next newsletter on 'climate change and regional science' was due to be ready for the Seoul conference. He also reported that nominations had been sent out for new Fellows and for a new at-large Council member to replace Charlie Karlsson. Following this procedure, he was delighted to report that Johan Lundberg, University of Umea Sweden, had been proposed by the membership and Johan had agreed to serve from 2011-2013. He also noted that we would need many new at-large Councillors to serve from 2012 and asked Council members to approach possible candidates.

12 Date and location of the next meeting

Seoul, 6th July, PRSCO conference. Graham Clarke, RSAI Executive Director, July 2010, Leeds.

White paper on RSAI/RSA cooperation

1. Prolegomena

The RSAI council met at the ERSA conference in August and decided to transmit the following document to the Regional Studies Association. The document describes some background and then proposes both *continued collaboration* at various venues – including the RSA International Conference – and *new forms of collaboration* between RSA and RSAI.

2. The need for such a document

Since they were established a half century ago, the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) and the Regional Studies Association (RSA) have each developed as highly successful organisations in the fields of regional research and policy. Throughout this period relations between the two organisations have been cordial, with each association identifying a distinctive role for itself. In the last ten years, however, there has been growing recognition that the two organisations have much in common, as well as complementary strengths. Encouraging progress has been made in establishing cooperation between the two bodies. The RSAI, for its part, now wishes to take this cooperation a step further by proposing a strategy that is intended to put longer-term cooperation on a firmer footing.

A number of events have prompted this:

- cooperation with some national sections of RSAI has grown significantly over the last few years, with clear advantages for both the RSA and the RSAI sections. This is especially true with regard to the British and Irish Section of the RSAI; the codevelopment of the journal, *Spatial Economic Analysis*, is a particularly successful cooperative outcome;
- the presence of the RSA at RSAI supra-regional conferences (for example a *SEA* lecture as part of ERSA and NARSC conferences), and the role played by individual members of RSAI in organising activities (e.g. special sessions) at RSA conferences is another clear indication that there is interest and benefit in cooperation on both sides.

The aims of this document are threefold:

- to present the RSAI's views on the current state of the relationship between the RSAI and RSA;
- to explain the governance of the RSAI; and
- to present a proposal that the RSAI Council has agreed upon to RSA for establishing long term cooperation between the two associations.

Over the last three years there have been meetings between senior officers of the RSAI and the Chief Executive and senior officers of the RSA at the Sao Paulo RSAI World Congress and at the Liverpool ERSA Congress. These exploratory meetings have been important in fostering mutual understanding and in laying the foundations for possible future joint activity. In the case of the RSAI, these meetings have prompted further discussion at all levels in the organisation. The RSAI feels that it is now ready to present a more formal document that carries the seal of approval of its International Council.

3. The state of the relationships between the RSAI and the RSA

At present cooperative activities already exist between RSA and **some sections of RSAI**. In particular, cooperation has been successfully developed between the RSA and the British

and Irish Section of RSAI. Cooperation between these associations has led to new joint activities (i.e. a journal), and to the organisation of joint sessions with RSA at the British and Irish Section conference and at some supra-regional conferences, like ERSA.

Up to now, cooperation has taken place between RSA and *national sections of the RSAI*, or *supra-regional bodies* (like ERSA). The kinds of cooperative activities are welcomed by RSAI and, given the evident success of these joint events, the RSAI Council has decided to propose cooperation between RSAI as a whole (and not just via its national sections) and RSA.

4. RSAI governance structure

RSAI is a federal association led by an International Council, whose members are a combination of members nominated by the three supra-regional associations (ERSA, PRSCO, RSAmericas) and members elected 'at large'. The supra-regional organisations have their own governance structures and elect their own President. National and language sections are represented on the supra-regional councils.

The multi-level governance of RSAI allows each association to put in place its own strategy. This might explain the highly fragmented vision presented over the last few years by the RSAI to the RSA, and has, I know, created confusion among some of those on the RSA side – its board members in particular – who may have been expecting the RSAI to speak with a single, corporate voice.

The proposal that follows reflects the position of the RSAI as a whole. It has been formulated by the RSAI Council which considers that cooperation between RSAI and RSA would bring advantages to both associations. For this reason, and without in any way wishing to stifle 'local' initiatives, the RSAI Council would like to establish direct cooperation with the RSA.

5. A concrete proposal for future cooperation

Our proposal to RSA is along two lines.

The first line is **to continue the practice of featuring activities in the RSAI conferences developed by RSA, and vice versa**. RSAI has hosted in its ERSA and NARSC conferences a

lecture organised by the *SEA* journal. RSAI has welcomed this initiative, and would like to extend the cooperation with RSA by having a reciprocal lecture organised under the auspices of its journal *Regional Science Policy and Practice* at the next RSA international conference, due to take place in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in April 2011.

The second line of cooperation is for RSAI **to jointly organise new initiatives with RSA that would not otherwise happen without a joint venture between the two associations**.

Examples of the kind of initiatives we were thinking of are jointly organised targeted conferences or workshops on specific themes or topics. In this case cooperation would have the aim of developing new joint activities that would have not occurred otherwise, because they would require deployment of the strategic complementary assets of both associations.

To implement this proposal, we would need to constitute a *joint committee* with representatives of the two associations responsible for developing the new activities, and specify the complementary assets that would be contributed by each association.

The advantage of such a strategy would be an increase in the services provided to members of both associations. Such services would not otherwise be offered, either for the lack of strategic assets, or for the lack of human resources.

This document has had a long gestation period, longer than I had hoped. It was, however, important to establish that the initiative has a broad base of support within the RSAI. I believe it has and that the time taken to consult has been worthwhile. We look forward to your reactions to our proposals. Our International Council next meets in November at the NARSC conference in Denver and a response before then would be extremely helpful. All being well, we can then consider thinking about the composition of the joint committee and looking forward to further mutually beneficial collaboration.

On behalf of RSAI International Council

Roberta Capello

RSAI President

Milan, 30 August 2010