

Minutes of RSAI Council Meeting: Seattle, November 2004

Present: Bob Stimson (chair), Franz-Josef Bade, Graham Clarke, David Boyce, Kieran Donaghy, Raymond Florax, Lay Gibson, Yoshiro Higano, Gideon Horn, Aisling Reynolds-Feighen, Andrew Krmeneč, Jessie Poon, John Quigley, Jorge Serrano, Jean-Claude Thill, Yasuhide Okuyama, Heinrich von Baer, Brigitte Waldorf.

1. **Apologies:** Carlos Azzoni, Antoine Bailly, Peter Batey, Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Manas Chatterji, Kings-ley Haynes, Geoff Hewings, John Madden, Phil McCann, Jacques Poot.
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** accepted
3. **Matters arising:** Graham Clarke noted that there had been a very positive response from the Indian Section regarding the hosting of a future international workshop. Peter Nijkamp and Manas Chatterji are now working closely with the Indian Section on this matter. The most likely date will be January 2006 in Bangalore.
4. **President's remarks:** Bob Stimson formally welcomed everyone and thanked out-going President Antoine Bailly for all his hard work. He outlined that we needed to make some key decisions today relating to the transition process and the constitution. He also thanked all those persons who had worked on the transition committee for all their considerable efforts.

5. Report of Executive Director

Graham Clarke reported on progress with transition issues. He listed the following Sections as having formally agreed to universal membership: British and Irish, Croatian, Dutch, French speaking, German speaking, Greek, Israeli, Italian, Nordic, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Turkish, Canadian, Mid-Continent USA, Southern USA, Western USA, Northeastern USA, Mid-Continent USA, Australian and New Zealand, Japan, China-Taiwan and Brazil. He thanked the officers of each of these sections for their cooperation and support. There would be further discussions with the remaining Sections that had not yet formally committed to universal membership. Jorge Serrano noted that some sections feel that many of their members are not sufficiently fluent in English in order to benefit from RSAI publications and information services (Web, Newsletter etc). Bob Stimson noted this was a problem and one for the Council to consider in more depth at a future meeting. Raymond Florax noted that at least future volumes of Papers in Regional Science will have abstracts in English, Spanish and Japanese. Graham Clarke then reported that in order to progress to the next stage in the application of charity status for RSAI (from its new European base) Council needed to nominate a Board of Trustees. After some discussion Council suggested that Graham Clarke should approach suitable candidates directly, drawing upon British and Irish members in particular (as the charity would be UK based). This would also be necessary to maintain charity status in the USA (with a suitable number of US trustees required). The next issue debated was that of the constitution. Franz Josef Bade had made some suggestions on behalf of the Constitution Committee and Graham Clarke had met with Kieran Donaghy to discuss changes required to take account of the move to Blackwells and universal membership. It was noted that most changes would be straightforward and Graham Clarke/Kieran Donaghy would circulate new versions by e-mail to Council members for comments. However, two additional issues needed some debate. First, the constitution requires that we have a more formal finance committee to oversee the accounts and the financial management for the Executive Director. It was agreed to reform this Committee: Bob Stimson, Antoine Bailly, Yoshiro Higano and Jean-Claude Thill would make up this group with Graham Clarke reporting directly to it. This would meet formally in Tokyo at the next PRSCO meeting. The second issue was whether Council wished to reintroduce the idea of an informal members meeting at future RSAI conferences. This was felt to be a good idea and would be tried out in Tokyo. Graham Clarke then reported the state of play regarding Council members. It was recommended that John Madden serve a further three years as Councillor at Large. This was agreed. Representing ERSA, Jan Oosterhaven and Paul Cheshire were due to replace Aisling Reynolds Feighen and Franz Josef Bade. Maureen Kilkenny was duly elected for another year to serve as a NARSC member. PRSCO agreed to nominate a new member to replace John Quigley. Bob Stimson thanked all out-going Council members for their dedicated and loyal service to RSAI. The next newsletter would carry details of the nomination process for

a new Deputy President (President elect) and for new Councillors-at-large. Graham Clarke thanked Lay Gibson for keeping records on individual terms of office. Graham Clarke then invited Andrew Krmeneč to report on the accounts.

6. Papers in Regional Science

Raymond Florax was pleased to report that the special golden anniversary edition of Papers ('50 years of regional science') had been published in 2004 with a variety of excellent papers on the history of the discipline and the historical development of many different methodologies widely used in regional science. He then reported on the continuing improvement of paper submissions to Papers. There had been 80-90 submissions over the last 12 months. The transition from Springer to Blackwells was going very well and the first Blackwells produced volume would appear in March/April 2005. The increased RSAI membership list would make the Papers the most widely circulated Regional Science publication. He also 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. Finally Raymond presented the new editorial board for approval, which included 19 new members. This was approved. Graham Clarke then reported on the recommendations of the Publication Sub-Committee. It was suggested that Jessie Poon and Brigitte Waldorf be re-elected for further two year periods. This was agreed. It was also suggested that a new European editor be elected to the editorial team (as Raymond Florax had moved to the USA). This was agreed and the nomination of Jouke van Dijk was duly accepted.

7. Report on PRSCO Summer Institute in Chile

[Before this item Bob Stimson asked David Boyce to update Council on the status of the new Fellows. David reminded the meeting that this year's winners were Vernon Henderson, Luc Anselin, Peter Nijkamp and John Quigley. He noted that these awards were to be presented at the conference luncheon on Saturday 13th November. Luc Anselin would take over from Tony Smith as the coordinator of the nominations and elections for next years Fellows. David Boyce also reported that as archivist he had removed a number of interesting documents from the Illinois Office for safe keeping]. Bob Stimson then invited Heinrich von Baer to report to Council on the PRSCO Summer Institute held in Chile (for the first time). Heinrich gave a very interesting presentation on regional science and regional issues in Chile and noted that the interest in regional science in Chile was developing rapidly. Bob Stimson and Jorge Serrano both offered votes of thanks to Heinrich. Graham Clarke noted the great work that PRSCO was doing in trying to open up regional science in new areas of the World. Thanks to Yoshiro Higano in particular who has spent much time on this and it was reported that he was also discussing possible new Sections with colleagues in Malaysia and Bangladesh.

8. Long-Range Planning Committee:

Graham Clarke reported on the most recent LRPC meeting (on behalf of Chair, Geoff Hewings). The meeting was largely focused on the transition issues reported above. Graham also reported that it was hoped that a paper on universal membership and the supra regions would be available for discussion in Tokyo. Yoshiro Higano had made a start on this and would discuss this further with Peter Batey and Graham Clarke. There were no further new items for discussion.

9. Date of next Council meeting: An informal meeting of Council members would take place at the Western Regional Science Meeting in San Diego in February. However, next official RSAI Council Meeting will be Tuesday 26th July at 17.00 in Tokyo.

10. AOB: None.

Graham Clarke
November 2004