

MINUTES

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING TIMISOARA

FRIDAY 11ST MAY, AT 14:30 | 2012

Yoshiro Higano welcomed the new members of the RSAI Council, Jean-Claude Thill, Amit Batabyal, Daniel Czamanski and Rachel Franklin and then each one of all the participants in the meeting introduced themselves. The meeting registered the presence of 10 of the 15 members of the RSAI Council.

1. Apologies (Yoshiro Higano)

Council members present: Yoshiro Higano (Chair), Alessandra Faggian, John Carruthers, Mark Partridge, Patricio Aroca, Jouke van Dijk, Amit Batabyal, Daniel Czamanski, Jean-Claude Thill and Tomaz Dentinho.

Apologies from Council Members: Eduardo Haddad (represented by Carlos Azzoni), Gunther Maier, Johan Lundberg, Paul Dalziel and Rachel Franklin.

Ex-officio members present: Roberta Capello and Michael Carroll.

Apologies from ex-officio members: J. LeSage, Phil McCann, Rui Luís and Charlie Karlsson.

Invited persons: Hiroyuki Shibusawa, executive director of PRSCO, Evelyne van Leeuwen, RSAI Newsletter Editor; Daniela Constantin, chair of the Local Organizing Committee of the 9th World Congress of RSAI; and Roger Stough and Bob Stimson former RSAI Presidents and members of the Long Range Planning Committee.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (Yoshiro Higano)

II Minutes of Miami Meeting (Nov 2011) were approved by all members of the Council.

3. Report of LRPC (Roberta Capello)

Roberta Capello reported the conclusions of the LRPC meeting, focusing on the following topics:

- Section recognition (China):

Roberta Capello informed Council that, following the meetings held in China in the beginning of April, there are two solutions to connect the various groups of regional scientists in China to RSAI: i) one is to open a RSAI branch in China as suggested by Prof. Lei from the China University of Geosciences; an advantage of this approach is to preserve the independence of each of the existing groups of regional scientists in China; ii) another solution is to recognize the existing association registered in China as RSAC (Regional Science Association of China) which seems to be more open to accepting members from various groups. Roberta Capello also informed Council that a 4th International RSAI meeting will take place at Renmin University in Beijing between the 3rd and 6th of July and suggested that Yoshiro Higano, Jean-Claude Thill and Peter Nijkamp, who will attend that meeting, should try to get a decision from the Chinese colleagues so that RSAI can decide on the official recognition of the Chinese Section of RSAI.

John Carruthers asked if China will be integrated in RSAI through PRSCO.

Yoshiro Higano said that, once the Chinese Section is organized, it will go through PRSCO.

Jean-Claude Thill added that the structure of RSAI is another issue and that it is possible to restructure the organization with two or more supra-nationals in Asia.

John Carruthers said that he did not think that the creation of a Chinese Section will finish PRSCO.

- Section recognition (Latin America):

Roberta Capello informed Council that there will be a Conference in Mexico from the 3rd till the 6th of September; the organizers hope for financial support of 4000 Euros in order to

invite regional scientists from Latin America. RSAI must know if they invite the right people from Peru and Ecuador so as to improve the prospect of new RSAI sections in these countries and be sure that RSAI appears on the webpage and in the program.

- Founders's Award:
Roberta Capello informed there is a proposal to clarify the selection procedures because such procedures are currently ambiguous.
- Adjustment of By-Law 5:
Roberta Capello notified that the LRPC accepted a proposed change in by-law nº 5 that clarifies the schedule of the selection of the Vice-president and President Elect.
- World Conferences:
Roberta Capello informed the Council that the LRPC accepted the idea to change the design of the World Congresses that should become a great event in a world city every two years.
- Papers in Regional Science:
Roberta Capello informed Council that Jouke van Dijk will end its term as Editor in Chief of Papers in Regional Science and there is a need to create a committee to select a new editor in chief. The North American Editor is also ending his term. The LRPC suggests that the Council should nominate a committee of three people.
- UN NGO status for RSAI:
Roberta Capello informed Council that Roger Stough will inform the Council of Bratislava on the Procedures and RSAI possibilities to become a UN NGO.
- Universal membership:
Roberta Capello finally reported LRPC's position that all RSAI section members must also be RSAI members and that free rider conference benefits must stop.

III The report of the LRPC was approved by RSAI Council.

4. World Congresses (Jean-Claude Thill)

Jean-Claude Thill reported to Council on the proposal of the working group created to rethink future World Congresses. The proposal entails:

- Moving from a 4-year frequency to a 2-year frequency;
- Increasing participation to 1000;
- Improving quality and adopting a more professional organization;
- Holding the conference in a more global city such as Shanghai or New York;
- RSAI should play a direct and active role in organizing the conference, possibly with a professional conference company, if the price is competitive.
- "Big Name" keynote speakers (esp. international policy makers) should be enlisted to draw in new members.

The World Congresses should be different from the existing ones organized by ERSA, PRSCO and RSAmericas. Finally he pointed out that the congress can become a profit center for RSAI

Daniel Czamanski expressed his appreciation for the new concept of RSAI World Congresses although the objectives should be further clarified. He also said that it will be difficult for most of the members to attend more events than they attend nowadays.

Yoshiro Higano clarified that the decision that must be taken by the Council are: i) the frequency of World Congresses; ii) their scale; and iii) the location of the next one.

Jean-Claude Thill clarified that the possibility of using Shanghai as a venue was well received by our Chinese colleagues and could be an important action to signal the creation of an official RSAI Section in China, thus still encompassing the former concept of implementing world conferences to promote the establishment of new sections.

Amit Batabyal said that RSAI already has many meetings and asked that if there is any evidence that the new concept will attract more and better participants.

John Carruthers suggested that, based on former experiences of joint conferences, there should be joint conferences between RSAI and other supra-nationals (ERSA, NARSC and PRSCO) and pointed out that the promotion of smaller conferences could be better.

Jean-Claude Thill indicated that smaller events (workshops, etc.) will continue to be sponsored by RSAI as in the past.

Tomaz Dentinho said that if the aim of RSAI is to get a United Nation NGO status there is a need to grow and, to achieve that, it is necessary to implement a strategy that involves a set of actions which includes the promotion of enlarged and central World Congresses.

Jean-Claude Thill remarked that the RSAI World Congress must be different from the existing ones so that they can be seen as complements.

Jouke van Dijk stressed that the World Congress should be a major event and with a cycle of two years.

John Carruthers pointed out that the North American members will not be able to attend World Conferences and NARSC conferences due to budget constraints.

Bob Simpson clarified that most Americans do not attend conferences outside the United States. He also reminded Council that RSAI is the product of the three supra-nationals (ERSA, NARSC and PRSCO) and asked the Council not to open old fights and not do anything against the autonomy of each one of the sections or supra-nationals.

Jouke van Dijk said that one of the aims is the expansion of membership and that there is room for some expansion.

Jean-Claude Thill pointed out that the next World Congress would be in China in 2014 if the Chinese section is created and recognized soon.

Roger Stough approved the idea of an enlarged concept for the World Congress and pointed out that the first test of a World Conference in China in 2014 has to do with the Chinese interest in the creation a RSAI section and in the organization of the World Congress.

John Carruthers expressed that may be the OECD and the World Bank could have interest in sponsoring the World Congress in China.

Jean-Claude Thill (chair), Daniel Czamanski, Mark Partridge, Hiroyuki Shibusawa and Tomaz Dentinho will constitute a committee to work out a formula for Congresses post 2014

IV The Council approved unanimously the promotion of the World Congress in China in 2014.

5. Report on the World Congress of Timisoara (Daniela Constantin)

Daniela Constantin presented a short report on the World Congress of Timisoara with four major points:

- First to thank RSAI for the opportunity to organize the conference decide in 2009 which involved a lot of work and collaboration over three years.
- Second to highlight the importance of full involvement of all the institutions recognized during the opening ceremony: the West University of Timisoara, the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, the Timis County, the Chamber of Commerce of and Industry of Timisoara, the Municipality of Timisoara, the West Regional Agency, the Romanian Regional Science Association and the Regional Science Association International.
- Thirdly to report that there was major work around the final organization of the program since many participants did not confirm their participation and some of them also appeared without notice.
- And finally to inform on some statistics: 365 abstracts submitted from which 15% were rejected; 184 papers were uploaded and there were 212 participants from 32 countries: 37 from Romania, 22 from Japan, 16 from Germany, 15 from Italy, 14 from the United States, 12 from Spain, 9 from Brazil, 5 from Serbia,...

Daniela Constatin closed her report saying that there will be good news in the years to come.

Yoshiro Higano recognized the difficult job undertaken by the Local Organizing Committee and proposed:

V A round of applause to Daniela Constantin and the Local Organizing Committee of the 9th World Congress was assumed unanimously by Council.

6. Ibero - American Regional Science Network (Roberta Capello).

Following the information presented by Roberta Capello on point 3, Yoshiro Higano opened the discussion on the Latin American Issue.

Carlos Azzoni said that Chile, Brazil and Mexico have well-structured RSAI sections that collaborate with each other also in the promotion of the Meetings of RSAmericas that take place in Latin America. He also said that other countries are now developing or expanding RSAI sections such as Colombia, Peru, Argentina and Ecuador and others can follow. Finally, Carlos Azzoni reported that in the past Mexico preferred to stay just within PRSCO but now they are more willing to cooperate also within RSAmericas.

John Carruthers said that there are some doubts on the roles of RSAmericas and NARSC and suggested that there should be some discussion on the structure of the organization.

Roberta Capello clarified that RSAmericas was established to develop RSAI in the part of South America not covered by PRSCO and, knowing that NARSC has long tradition no one wants to destroy a meeting that works. She concluded that, in the future, it will be possible to have NARSC and "SARSC" within RSAmericas, the same way as there are sections that belong both to RSAmericas and PRSCO.

VI Following a proposal by Roberta Capello the Council approved the following:

- To thank the Mexican section for spearheading the Ibero-American network initiative namely for the significant impact it can have in promoting regional science in Latin America.
- To guarantee a clear presence of RSAI and RSAmericas in the event, namely by securing that their logos are in the web-side and program of the event
- To nominate Patricio Aroca, President of RSAmericas, with the help of Carlos Azzoni, from the Brazilian Section, to be in charge of representing RSAI at the event.
- To sponsor the travel expenses up to 4000 Euros of a few key people from other countries to the conference, selected by Patricio Aroca and Carlos Azzoni in accordance with AMECIDER, agreeing with the organization which role they should have;

7. Section recognition and development (Yoshiro Higano)

Yoshiro Higano informed Council that the recent 3rd RSAI International Conference in Beijing, organized by China University of Geosciences was a success. He also reported that, during the workshop, the steering committee for the establishment of a new section in China was held with the participation of Jean-Claude Thill, Tomaz Dentinho and himself, from RSAI. He added the meeting was a historical step, with the participation of Prof. Sun Jiuwen from Renmin University in Beijing, local organizer of the 4th RSAI International Workshop and 12th PRSCO Summer Institute, 3-6 of July 2012. Yoshiro Higano concluded remarking that regional scientists from the various groups in China had agreed to cooperatively communicate between each other, namely the groups led by Prof. Lei, by Prof. Sun Jiuwen and the group of RSAC led by Prof. Yang Kaizong, primarily.

Patricio Aroca added that the 2014 PRSCO Summer Institute will take place in Ecuador. He also informed Council that the next meeting of RSAmericas will be in Chile after the ones held in Miami and Cartagena, and other successful conferences in Mexico and Brazil.

Tomaz Dentinho said that Eduardo Haddad represented RSAI at a Conference in Lebanon where he contacted regional scientists; Eduardo Haddad suggested that they be invited to participate in the next ERSA Congress in Palermo, Italy. Tomaz Dentinho also reported that a first workshop in regional science took place in Huambo /Angola on Sustainable Development in Africa on the 25th of April; and that Peter Nijkamp and a few others are promoting a workshop of regional science on urban issues on the 1st and 2nd of October 2012 in Rabat, Morocco.

VII The reports on section recognition and development were acknowledge by the RSAI Council.

8. Selection of the Founder's Award (Roberta Capello)

Roberta Capello remarked that the issue of the Founder's Award comes out because, in the last selection, it was discovered that there were no explicit rules for the selection process. The proposal, amended with the suggestions of the LRPC, is:

Recommendation Procedure for the RSAI Founder's Medal

The Founder's Medal was established in 1978 on the 25th anniversary of the Regional Science Association to honor its founder, Walter Isard. The first medal was presented to Professor Isard by Harvey Perloff, an early supporter of Isard's efforts to establish the Regional Science Association in 1954.

The following procedure is required for awarding it.

- 1. The Founder's Medal is awarded every 4 years.*
- 2. The RSAI Council nominates a Founder's Medal Committee of 5 members one year before the award. The RSAI President is by definition the 5th member of the Founder's Medal Committee.*
- 3. The Founder's Medal Committee nominates a Secretary who is in charge of keeping linkages between the Executive Director of RSAI, the works of the Committee and the Past Recipients of the Founder's Medal.*
- 4. The Committee nominates and lists a number up to 10 candidates to be recommended as potential recipients of the Founder's Medal. The secretary of the Committee sends the list to the Past Founder's Medal recipients and, for information, to the Executive Director of RSAI.*
- 5. Past living recipients of the Founder's Medal are asked to recommend the recipient from the list sent by the Founder's Medal Committee ranking their top five choices from 5 to 1, with 5 being the top choice, and send their ranking to the Secretary of the Founder's Medal Committee.*
- 6. The Founder's Medal Committee Secretary compiles the list in a spreadsheet and distributes the total scores to the Founder's Medal Committee members and the Executive Director of RSAI.*
- 7. If one round is not sufficient to determine the recommendation a second round is launched by the Secretary of the Committee.*
- 8. The Secretary of the Committee declares the winner to the Executive Director of RSAI, to the Founder's Committee and to the Past Recipients.*
- 9. The President of RSAI communicates the result to the winner, who is invited to a conference for a keynote speech.*

Mark Partridge said that the proposal represents a major improvement but there must be a large number of people involved in the selection process.

Amit Batabyal said that, since there are only 5 past recipients alive, the number is too small for an effective final selection of the Founder's Medal Award.

Daniel Czamanski suggested that the RSAI Fellows should be involved in the selection process.

Roberta Capello pointed out that this year's Founder's Medal Awardees came from the Fellows which creates a conflict of interest.

Mark Partridge added that we would like the Founder's Medal Award to be the Nobel Prize in Regional Science.

Jean-Claude Thill remarked that the Founder's Medal Award is not strictly an academic award.

Mark Partridge suggested that the final voters of the selection process should be enlarged.

Jouke van Dijk suggested that the list of nominees drafted by the Founder's Medal Committee can be reduced to three.

Daniel Czamanski remarked that Walter Isard kept the management of regional science within a small group and that we are slowly moving into a more transparent style. The idea of having a list of three nominees strengthens the role of the organization through the Council.

Jean-Claude Thill proposed that Roberta Capello works towards a revised document with email input from Council and that there should be a final text ready for approval by RSAI Council in Bratislava.

VIII The Council agreed unanimously that a final text of the Procedure for the RSAI Founder's Medal should be ready for approval in the RSAI Council of Bratislava

9. Adjustment of by-law 5 RSAI President Elections (Jean-Claude Thill)

Jean-Claude Thill informed Council that the existing by-law 5 was not clear enough in terms of the timetable for the election of the President-Elect. The proposal is the following:

By-law 5: RSAI President Elections

a. President election procedure. The RSAI President shall be elected by the Council for a two-year-term and confirmed by a vote of the entire active membership of the Association. To canvass suitable candidates for nomination, the Council establishes a "Nomination Committee" comprising the RSAI President, the RSAI Immediate Past-President, three members of RSAI Council (one each from among the council members who are appointees of the three superregional organizations), and two members of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) recommended by the LRPC itself.

b. Criteria of the nominees. The nominees should satisfy the following criteria: a) financial resources sufficient to cover travel costs to perform RSAI duties; b) support from candidate's institution including release of duties to enable President to travel as needed to conduct RSAI business; c) RSAI Council experience (Council member experience) and/or other service to the regional science community (e.g., superregional and/or other sections, editor of one of the regional science journals, etc.).

Current by-law

c. Time for the formation of the "Nomination Committee". The President Elect nomination committee shall be formed at the RSAmericas meeting at the end of the second year of the outgoing president so that the appointment is made at the PRSCO meeting in the next calendar year (first year of the incoming president).

Proposed by-law

c. Schedule of the nomination and election. The President Elect nomination committee shall be formed no later than the first year of the two-year term of the President and make a recommendation to Council at the second Council meeting of this same year. Upon receiving this recommendation, Council will select a nominee, who shall be confirmed by a vote of RSAI members no later than the end of the calendar year. The President-Elect and Vice-President shall start his/her appointment at the start of the next calendar year (i.e. the second year of the current President's term).

IX The Council approved unanimously the proposed change in the text of by-law 5

Roberta Capello clarified to Council that, with the approved new rule, the Nomination Committee must be constituted by Council in Bratislava.

10. Papers in Regional Science Replacement (Jean-Claude Thill)

Yoshiro Higano said that Jouke van Dijk informed him, Jean-Claude Thill and Tomaz Dentinho during the last Beijing Meeting that he wishes to step down as Editor in Chief of Papers in Regional Science and that North American Editor James LeSage also wishes to step down at the end of this year. Yoshiro also reported that the issue was discussed by the Long Range Planning Committee whose advice was to guarantee continuity and smooth transition. Yoshiro Higano suggested that the Council shall nominate a committee composed of the RSAI President (chair), the Executive Director (secretary), the Vice President, the current Editor in Chief and three more elements recommended

and nominated by the RSAI Council. He concluded saying that the committee shall be organized today and the final decision shall be taken by the RSAI Council in Bratislava.

Mark Partridge point out that Papers in Regional Science is one of the most important assets of the association and suggested that the committee should include elements that are editors of other regional science journals.

Alessandra Faggian supported the idea.

Jouke van Dijk explained the reasons of his decision to leave to task of Editor in Chief of the Papers in Regional Science: first, he already had completed two 3-year terms and, second, some co-editors also would like to leave creating the opportunity of a new team to take the task. He concluded saying that he is available to support a smooth transition to the new team.

Mark Partridge pointed out that, from his experience, it is very easy to learn the process and that RSAI must undertake a good procedure to choose the right person for the task.

Yoshiro Higano remarked that it is possible to have an overlap between the present Editor in Chief and the new one to secure a smooth change and guarantee a good choice procedure.

Jean-Claude Thill said that it would be very good if the RSAI Council can have a good candidate by the time of the Bratislava ERSA Congress but if that is not possible there is always the possibility of the NARSC Conference in Ottawa. He concluded that there should be an open call for editors.

Mark Partridge asked how to nominate the three persons beyond the four proposed by Yoshiro Higano.

Daniel Czamanski proposed that the selection committee should include active members of other regional science journals.

John Carruthers suggested that the Editor in Chief should be a generalist to cover the different fields of regional science.

After some brainstorming among members of the RSAI Council, the following ordered list of names was proposed to be invited to serve on this search committee (up to three members): 1) Marlon Boarnet co-editor of the Journal of Regional Science, 2) Simona Lammarino editor of Regional Studies, 3) Dan McMillen editor of Regional Science and Urban Economics, 4) Manfred Fischer editor of the Journal of Geographical Systems and 5) Mark Partridge editor of the Journal of Regional Science.

X The Council approved unanimously that the Committee to nominate the new editor in chief of Papers in Regional Science be composed by Yoshiro Higano, Jean-Claude Thill, Jouke van Dijk, Tomaz Dentinho and three members invited sequentially until three 1) Marlon Boarnet, 2) Simona Lammarino 3) Dan McMillen 4) Manfred Fischer and 5) Mark Partridge.

11. Publication Reports (Jouke Van Dijk and Michel Carroll)

a) Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk reported that Papers in Regional Science is now listed in the Economics section of the ISI report, in addition to Geography and Environment. He also said that there is a need to get more revenues from Wiley Blackwell since the journal has grown from 600 to 900 pages, increased the impact factor and, adding to this, RSAI has also the journal Regional Science Policy and Practice that also grew in terms of issues.

b) Regional Science Policy and Practice

Michael Carroll informed Council that the time for publication is reduced and there is a series of special issues that will help the further growth and development of the journal.

XI The RSAI Council acknowledged the information provided by the editors.

12. 2011 RSAI Report (Tomaz Dentinho)

Tomaz Dentinho informed that the shift in membership enrolment from Wiley Blackwell went smoothly, as shown in the distributed report, but there are still some sections that have not sent their 2011 membership list and paid the respective membership fees. He proposed that the

members of the Sections that do not pay the enrolment fees can pay their section's fee directly to RSAI to continue to be RSAI members having access to RSAI journals and reduced registration fees in conferences organized by sections, supra nationals or RSAI.

XII The Council agreed unanimously that the members of the Sections that do not pay the universal membership fee before the 1st of July can pay the universal membership fee directly to RSAI to continue to be RSAI members while their Sections do not do it. In this cases the universal membership fee is equivalent to the section fee of the member.

13. AOB

- Accreditation of Regional Science Courses

Patricio Aroca informed Council that there is a problem in the recognition of a regional science degree and suggested that RSAI Council should set a framework for accreditation of degrees and programs.

John Carruthers said that it makes a lot of sense to formally or informally identify programs that are in the field of regional science.

Alessandra Faggian recognized that the idea is great but had doubts how it could be implemented.

Daniel Czamanski said that he could understand the idea of recognizing degrees but he found difficult to accept the concept of accreditation of disciplines.

XIII The Council agreed to create a committee for the accreditation of Regional Science Degrees and Programs composed by Patricio Aroca, John Carruthers and Daniel Czamanski that will prepare proposals for the Council in Bratislava.

14. Date of next meeting

Bratislava, 23th August 12H30– Long Range Planning Committee; 24th August 12H30 RSAI Council Meeting.

Tomaz Ponce Dentinho, RSAI Executive Director, May 2012, Angra do Heroísmo.