

**MINUTES OF THE RSAI COUNCIL MEETING
SAN JUAN, NOVEMBER 14, 2002**

Present: Bade (ERSA), Bailly (Vice President and At-Large), Batey (Chair, LRPC), Clarke (Incoming Executive Director), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Getis (At-Large), Gibson (LRPC), Haynes (LRPC), Hewings (President and NARSC), Higano (Observer), Hom (Observer), Johansson (ERSA), Kohno (PRSCO), Lahr (Chair of LOC), Okuyama (Editor RSAI News), Poon (PRS North American Editor), Poot (PRS Pacific Editor), Quigley (PRSCO), Waldorf (NARSC). Regrets: Dewhurst (At-Large), Madden (At-Large), Rees (NARSC), Reynolds-Feighan (ERSA), Rossi (At-Large), Serrano-Moreno (PRSCO).

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:50 PM by President Hewings.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed. The minutes of the Dortmund meeting were approved as corrected by Bade. Bade indicated that at the Dortmund meeting he had argued for the need for a global representation of all members of any regional science organization, so that, e.g., each member of ERSa would be a member of RSAI.
3. President's Remarks: Hewings observed that the Association has transitional issues to attend to. We want to evolve so as to be more flexible and less location bound in our delivery of membership services but also more inclusive of potential members from diverse disciplinary perspectives, geographical locations, and financial circumstances. We view the development of the South African section of RSAI as a good example of the kind of growth we want to promote. Sections in South America are also making excellent progress. The Association now needs to make the changes that will facilitate the necessary transitions. Hewings thanked departing executive director Donaghy for his service to the Association, Batey for his leadership of the Long-Range Planning Committee, and Clarke for his willingness to assume the executive directorship.
4. Report from the Chair of the LOC: Lahr reported that the conference was better attended than had initially been expected and was 'in the black'.

Comments: Hewings thanked Lahr for his organizational efforts and commended him on the high quality of the program.

5. Report from the Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC): Batey observed that the upcoming 50th North American meeting of RSA/RSAI in Philadelphia in November 2003 gives the Association an opportunity to reflect sideways as well as backward and forward. There is much that is ripe for review in the role of the executive director, membership services provided, the publication of Papers in Regional Science, revision of the RSAI Constitution, and the structure of the Association. If we want to reach out to the rest of the world, we will have to revisit the nature of the Association as a membership organization and its regional configuration. The LRPC suggests several questions for consideration. Should we change the role and composition of the RSAI Council, creating more working groups and fewer Council meetings? How can we mobilize the forces of Regional Scientists in the world? The whole policy of membership needs to be revisited. We need a membership system that makes it easy to join and stay. Beginning with the Philadelphia meeting, a renewal of the Association will occur with events over a year. A transition committee should address these issues from now through January 2005. The LRPC recommends that this committee comprise the incoming president, Antoine Bailly, the incoming and outgoing executive directors Graham Clarke and Kieran Donaghy, the editor-in-chief of Papers in Regional Science, Raymond Florax, and the heads of the three regional conference organizing associations, Andres Rodriguez-Pose, Adrian Esparza, and Yoshiro Higano. Others are welcome to participate.

Discussion: Lahr asked through which of the regional conference organizing associations the Brazilian and South African sections were entering RSAI. Hewings replied that this issue was presently under discussion by NARSC and PRSCO. Getis asked why Batey wasn't a member of the transition team. Hewings replied that Batey has served the Association long and well and that including him on the team would serve to exploit his generosity. Bailly noted that there

would be an informal meeting of the transition team later in the afternoon. Poot asked if there would be constitutional convention of some sort. Hewings replied that it would be incumbent upon the transition team, when it makes its recommendations to Council, to recommend the processes by which their recommendations should be adopted and implemented.

Decision: Hewings sought and received the Council's approval of Batey's proposal.

6. Treasurer's Report: Krmeneč distributed the annual treasurer's report (see Appendix). He noted that the Association's total assets were essentially unchanged. In comparison with FY 2000, in FY 2001 current assets were marginally lower (by \$727), investment assets were down by (\$3,077 or 1.4%), and fixed assets had increased marginally (by \$1,615). He added that the fund balance remained strong, and was increased by 1.48% by a \$4,228 excess of revenue over expenses. Examining the income statement for 2001 vis a vis that of 2000, Krmeneč reported that total revenue increased marginally (by 0.4%). Total membership revenues were up in North America but down in other countries. Student memberships were also down. Income from Springer Verlag to supplement editing of Papers in Regional Science increased by \$750. Interest revenue increased, but miscellaneous revenue dropped. A comparison of expenditure statements revealed that expenditures on the whole decreased. A drop in editorial assistance costs was offset by adding an English language editor. Production costs of the newsletter continued to decrease and cost savings were realized with the publishing of the membership directory on the web site. Office expenses increased with the hiring of consultants to handle computer systems administration.

Discussion: Hewings thanked Krmeneč for his report.

7. Archivist's Report: Boyce's report was distributed in his absence. In the report, Boyce noted that over the last year his principal activity has been to work with Walter Isard on a history of Regional Science and of RSNRSAI. He will be responsible for treating the period of 1968 to the present. Boyce noted that he had received few if any inquiries concerning the Archives during the past year.

8. Report of the Editor in Chief of Papers in Regional Science: Florax reported that the Editorial Board is welcoming new members, North American editor Jessie Poon is presently managing the review of 29 manuscripts, and that the 4th issue of 2002 is ready to go. There is presently a nine-month backlog of accepted manuscripts. Florax indicated that he would distribute an editorial report shortly. He noted that journal submissions have increased from about 50/year to 85/year since 1998 and that book reviews have increased to 5 per issue. (The editorial board would like to see 100 submissions/year. Submissions presently over-represent North American men and under-represent Pacific and female regional scientists.) Florax remarked that the journal remains multidisciplinary, although the representation of applied economics is getting stronger, that of geography is declining, and that of planning is holding constant. In general, the journal is doing well; the citation index is improving and is now close to that of other leading regional science journals. Moreover, the content of the journal reflects the structure of the Association. There will be a golden anniversary issue published in time for distribution in Philadelphia in November 2003 that will be co-edited with David Plane.

9. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy reported that Roberta Capello had won the election to the At-Large seat on the RSAI Council to be vacated by John Dewhurst. Adelheid Holl of the University of Sheffield won the prize for best dissertation in Regional Science in the last year for a dissertation entitled "Transport Infrastructure in Lagging European Regions." Donaghy also reported that, pursuant to a collective decision taken by Council members responding electronically, the Association would no longer collect subscriptions to International Regional Science Review, the Journal of Regional Science, or Regional Science and Urban Economics for their respective publishers. (Beth Carbonneau has received verbal assurances from the publishers that members of the Association will still be able to receive discounts in purchasing subscriptions directly from the circulation departments of the publishers. Contact information obtained from the publishers has been printed on membership renewal forms distributed at the meeting.) He noted, moreover, that because of anticipated complications, the publications committee had decided that it would be best not to offer to members of RSAI the option of receiving Papers in Regional Science in either electronic or hard-copy format for another two

years. Upcoming meetings of the RSAI Council are scheduled for the early afternoon of July 4th at the PRSCO conference in Acapulco, for August 30th at the ERSA congress in Jyväskylä, and for November 20th at the NARSC conference in Philadelphia.

10. Report on the RSAI Fellows: Donaghy conveyed a report from David Boyce that nominations had been closed and that present fellows (recipients of the Founder's Medal) would now deliberate on whom would be inducted.

11. Extraordinary Appropriations for the 50th Anniversary of RSAI: Donaghy reminded Council that it had agreed in principle to distribute to members attending the 50th Anniversary meeting a copy of the first volume of the history of regional science and RSA/RSAI (written by Walter Isard with assistance from David Boyce), the golden anniversary issue of Papers in Regional Science, and a CD containing the back volumes of Papers in Regional Science (PRS). Springer Verlag has offered to publish the history volume and make it available to RSAI for about \$25/copy if RSAI takes 500 copies. (This is the number previously discussed.) Springer Verlag has also offered to print a longer run of the special 50th Anniversary issue of PRS if the Association pays the cost of printing the additional pages. (The additional copies of the issue would be used to promote membership.) Because of the extraordinary nature of the expenditures entailed, Donaghy asked Council to appropriate resources to cover approximately half of the costs of the history volume and all of the remaining costs. (NARSC was being asked to account for the other half of the costs associated with the history volume through a higher registration fee to be charged at the Philadelphia meeting.)

Discussion: Getis asked if some of the costs could be covered by the Association's investment income. Hewings replied that they could.

Decision: Hewings asked for and received approval of the exceptional appropriation.

12. 2004 World Congress: Horn indicated that he would try to finalize arrangements with Peter Nijkamp for the organization of the program of the 2004 World Congress in Port Elizabeth in the near future. He also reported that Henryk Lloyd was organizing a conference on doing business in Southern Africa, which he would like to expand to include regional science themes.

13. New Business: Batey noted that a committee should be formed to nominate candidates for the Founder's Medal and proposed the following members: Roberto Camagni, Yoshiro Higano, David Plane, Jacques Poot, John Quigley, and Angelo Rossi. Council approved the proposed committee. Hewings asked Batey to serve as the chair of the committee and Batey agreed.

14. Concluding Remarks: Hewings thanked Bailly for accepting the presidency of the Association at such a time of transitions. Getis commended Hewings for his leadership and good stewardship of the Association over the last 2 years.

15. There being no further business the meeting was concluded at 3:10 PM.