

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: SAN FRANCISCO, NOVEMBER 2009

Present: Roberta Capello (chair), Patricio Aroca, Carlos Azzoni, Mike Carroll, Graham Clarke, David Boyce, Eduardo Haddad, Yoshiro Higano, T.J.Kim, Jim Le Sage, Gunther Maier, Phil McCann, Edgard Moncayo, Charlie Karlsson, Sam Park, Mark Partridge, Danny Shefer, Robert Stimson, Roger Stough, Takatoshi Tabuchi, Jouke van Dijk.

1. Apologies: John Carruthers, George Petrakos

Roberta Capello welcomed all council members to the meeting

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

3. LRPC

Roger Stough reported on discussions at LRPC.

- i) Roger Stough apologized for not having had the opportunity to finish the constitutional edits. He promised to do this by the Sweden meeting.
- ii) The main item of discussion was the election of the next ED to replace Graham Clarke. A number of candidates were discussed from the recommendations of the sub-committee. There was overwhelming support for Tomaz Dentinho from Portugal and LRPC recommended him to RSAI Council (please see item 5 below)
- iii) There was also discussion concerning the next PRSCO secretary. The LRPC were happy to endorse the name of Dr Hiroyuki Shibusawa, as recommended by Yoshiro Higano.

4. Publications

i) Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk reported that the next editions were on schedule. There was a special edition on Paul Krugman now available as a collection of previously published papers – available e-only ‘virtual’ edition. There was also a due to be a special issue for 2010 on ‘Knowledge spillover agents and regional development’, with guest editors: Michaela Trippel and Gunther Maier. The main new item was the need to elect a second Pacific Editor. Following the recommendation (in Surfer’s Paradise) that Phil McCann become the new European Editor, and that Takatoshi Tabuchi take over as Pacific Editor, Jouke nominated Professor Yoshitsugu Hayashi, Dean and Professor of the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Nagoya University. This nomination was accepted by Council and he was welcomed to the editorial team.

ii) RSPP

Mike Carroll reported a few delays likely to impact in early 2010 but hoped all editions would be out on time. Given the move to 4 editions per year in 2012 he again urged Council to submit papers and/or encourage colleagues to do likewise. Following a suggestion at Lodz, Council agreed to award an annual prize for the best paper published in the journal during a calendar year. This should help publicity and marketing. Good names for the prize are welcomed by Council members.

5 Election of the new ED

After a wide ranging discussion on the merits of a number of excellent candidates for the role of ED, Council agreed to invite Tomaz Dentinho to take up the post. Tomaz is a lecturer at the University of the Azores and, since 2008, he has chaired the Portuguese Association for Regional Development. He is a lecturer in regional and urban economics, environmental economics, cost-benefit analysis and agricultural economics. His research group, involving around ten PhD and Master students and researchers, are experts in regional sustainable development, integrated water management, marine resource economics, agricultural economics and cost-benefit analysis. Tomaz has helped in the promotion and organization of many international conferences and workshops, and, for seven years was director of a local daily newspaper! Congratulations to Tomaz. He will begin his duties sometime in 2011.

6. New Sections

Two items of the agenda were discussed together here. The main item was the formal consideration of Columbia as a potential new section of RSAI. Roberta Capello invited Edgard Moncayo to address Council. Edgard reported that the Colombians had organized and participated actively in the first Conference of the Regional Science Association of the Americas: RSAmericas, held in Cartagena, in February, 2009. In addition, they held two national conferences, the last of which took place in Bogotá on the 31st October, 2009. At this meeting (at the Universidad Central campus) a new Board was elected through open and democratic procedures (with Edgard elected as the new president). Edgard finished by pointing out that the membership of the Colombian section now has national coverage with representatives from all Colombia's principal regions.

Council voted overwhelmingly to welcome Colombia into RSAI and congratulated Edgard for the great progress he and his colleagues had made in advancing the Section.

Edgard also outlined plans for the PRSCO Summer Institute to take place at the Universidad Autónoma de Occidente in Cali, Colombia in June 2010.

There was little news to add regarding China in advance of the meeting planned in December 2010

7. Executive Director's Report

- i) Graham Clarke reminded Council that Carlos Azzoni was due to finish his first spell on Council as an at-large member. Nominations for a new member would be requested from the membership. Mark Partridge had been re-elected to serve three additional years as a member for RS Americas, as had Yoshiro Higano for PRSCO. This was also the last meeting for George Petrakas from Europe. Roberta thanked the out-going Council members for all their hard work.
- ii) Graham Clarke reported that production for the next newsletter was on schedule. The theme would be 'Regional science in the Economic Crisis'
- iii) Graham Clarke requested further funds (about £1000) for new web developments. This would include a new search engine and a member's forum for exchange of ideas and questions. It was also necessary to update the security to avoid repeats of the recent hacking. This was agreed by council.
- iv) No further news to report on prizes except the fact that it had been decided not to award the student prize in 2009.

8. Archivist Report

David Boyce reminded Council of his activities, providing advice on request to Graham Clarke and others concerning past operations of the RSAI, and interviewing past presidents and other notable members as time permits and opportunities arise. He also maintains a file of obituaries of prominent members who have died. David noted that this file is rather US-centric, and would benefit from contributions from Council members in other countries, as the occasion arises. David noted that several years have passed since the purpose of the Regional Science Archives was discussed with Council and asked Council to consider any changes for the future at one of its subsequent meetings.

9. A.O.B

Roberta reminded Council of the 2012 World Congress in Romania.

None

10. Date of next meeting (Jonkoping, Sweden)

LRPC – Sunday 23rd August 0800

Council – Sunday 23rd August 14.00

**Graham Clarke
Leeds December 2009**