

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: PORT ELIZABETH, APRIL 2004

Present: Antoine Bailly (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Franz-Josef Bade, Peter Batey, Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Graham Clarke, Kieran Donaghy, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Yoshiro Higano, Gideon Horn, John Madden, Phil McCann, John Quigley, Jacques Poot, Jorge Serrano, Robert Stimson.

1. Apologies: David Boyce, Manas Chatterji, Aisling Reynolds-Feighen, Raymond Florax, Andrew Krmeneč, Geoff Hewings, Yasuhide Okuyama, Jessie Poon, Jean-Claude Thill, Brigitte Waldorf.

2. Minutes of last meeting: accepted

3. Matters arising: none

4. President's remarks: Antoine Bailly reviewed the composition of the RSAI Council and reminded the meeting who needed to be re-elected to serve in the future.

5. Transition Committee: Antoine Bailly reported that the contract with Blackwells had now been signed and he thanked the members of the transition committee for their input and comments on earlier drafts of the contract. Graham Clarke reported on the sections that had already said a provisional yes to universal membership and thanked all the Council representatives on the committees of the three supra-regions for their support at the various meetings of these groups. A fuller and more definitive list of sections joining RSAI would be presented at the Council meeting in Porto. Graham agreed to write to all sections to encourage them further and to explain the next steps in the transition procedure (at the same time undertaking a new survey of the Association). This information would also be posted on the web-site. There followed a discussion on the language of the RSAI given the possibility of universal membership. Jose Serrano explained the difficulty of all sections understanding English and he felt that Papers in Regional Science may not appeal to all in their present state. It was agreed to ask Raymond Florax/Blackwells to review the possibility of at least producing abstracts for the journal papers in English, French and Spanish, and/or the possibility of encouraging authors to produce a 1 page summary of their papers in a non-technical, easy to understand vocabulary.

6. Report of Executive Director(s): Graham Clarke reported that the transition of all but the special Fellowship long-term accounts would be transferred forthwith to the UK bank account. He also explained that he was researching the possibility of charitable status in the UK/Europe and possible NGO status for RSAI. These were agreed as priorities.

Kieran Donaghy reported the healthy state of the accounts and informed Council that we had covered the expenses associated with the Golden Anniversary edition of the Papers in Regional Science from the conference fees at Philadelphia. He also reported that the staff at Illinois had been given official notice and he looked forward to the transfer of the Illinois office to both Leeds and Blackwells in Oxford. This included the back copies of the Journal which Blackwells had agreed to ship to the UK for storage at their headquarters. He also apologized for recent e-mail problems at Illinois.

7. Prizes: Kieran Donaghy outlined the various prizes that are sponsored or awarded by RSAI. The list is now long and there have been several recent requests for new prize funds to be set up. A sub-committee was set up to review prizes and to make recommendations regarding any future proposals. This subcommittee will consist of Kieran Donaghy, Andres Rodriguez Pose (ERSA Secretary - if willing) and Yoshiro Higano.

8. Papers in Regional Science: Jacques Poot reported that all the 2004 editions were in good shape and noted a healthy number of submissions for 2005.

9. Long Range Planning Committee: Lay Gibson reported on the most recent LRPC meeting. First, it was agreed to fix the dates of future Council and Long Range Planning Meetings well in advance of the next meeting. Graham Clarke to check with various conference organizers and send out a new set of dates as soon as possible. Then Lay outlined several ideas for new

initiatives. After a wideranging debate on many of these issues the following action points were agreed:

i) Lay Gibson to articulate the duties of the Executive Director and President more fully (including a timetable of events for the year). This was felt to be especially useful for new members coming into these posts.

ii) A meeting room to be booked at the Western Regional Science Association meeting in San Diego in February so that a 'study session' of Council could be held if needed (noting that there will be a long break between Seattle in November 2004 and PRSCO meeting in July 2005)

iii) A sub-committee to be set up to discuss the venue and arrangements for the 2008 World Congress. The following were elected to that sub-committee: John Quigley, Roberto Camagni and Yoshiro Higano. They would report to Council meeting at Porto or Seattle on first deliberations.

iv) A finance committee be set up to monitor spending undertaken by the Executive Director (and President where appropriate). This committee would also be charged with monitoring the relationship with Blackwells. Membership of this group would be ratified in Porto (may need a European composition for accessibility reasons). v) Graham Clarke was encouraged in his bid to seek charity/ NGO status.

vi) Given all the widespread changes in the structure of RSAI a sub-committee was set up to check constitutional matters, and if necessary or appropriate to redraft sections of the constitution. This group to consist of Kieran Donaghy, Graham Clarke, Franz Josef Bade, Jorge Serrano and Peter Batey.

Date of next meeting: Saturday, August 28th, 16.15, Porto

Graham Clarke, April 2004