

## **Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, Montreal, Canada, November 11, 1999.**

Present: Batey (Immediate Past President and ERSA), Boyce (Archivist), Carbonneau (Assistant Executive Director), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Fischer (At-Large), Florax (PRS Editor-In-Chief), Getis (At-Large), Haynes (NARSC), Isserman (NARSC), Jackson (Editor RSAI News), Kilkenny (At-Large), Kohno (President and PRSCO), Nijkamp (Observer), Poot (PRS Pacific Editor and At-Large), Rees (Observer), Rossi (At-Large), and Thill (PRS North American Editor).

Regrets: Bade (ERSA), Johansson (ERSA), Krmenek (Treasurer), Quigley (PRSCO), and Stough (NARSC).

1. President Kohno called the meeting to order at 9:15.
2. The minutes of the Dublin meeting were accepted as distributed.
3. President's Report: President Kohno acknowledged the good work of the NARSC meeting LOC and thanked the committee on behalf of the Association. He noted that he was working on a membership-doubling plan and suggested that front-loading of section payments should be considered, as well as imposing penalties for late payment.
4. Update on the Stevens Fellowship Fund: Boyce distributed a report from the Stevens Fellowship Committee on the current status of the Stevens Fellowship Fund. The report included information on total fund values, rates of return, asset allocation, a copy of the call for applications, and a copy of an agreement signed by NARSC, RSAI, and First Busey Trust and Investment Co. Boyce announced that the first award would be for the 2000-2001 academic year and would be in the amount of \$15,000 for 12 months.
5. Archivist's Report: Boyce distributed his second annual report to Council. The report listed his activities over the last year, discussed the current status of the archives and future plans, and included a policy statement concerning the regional science archives at the Carl A. Kroch Library at Cornell University. Boyce stated that Lorna Knight, Curator of Manuscripts at the Library, has admonished the Association to be far more selective in the material it

submits for archival than it has in the past. She suggests that most regional scientists' papers be archived with universities with which they have been affiliated. Cornell will serve as a clearinghouse, assisting the RSAI archivist and members of RSAI to find suitable homes for papers. Cornell does not wish to become an institution of 'last resort,' and will consider acceptance of new collections of papers only if there are compelling reasons for preserving them at Cornell and there is financial support. Knight also suggests that before archival materials are submitted they be put in good order, well labeled, and weeded of unimportant papers. Boyce observed that many of the boxes of Ben Stevens's materials -- including much data -- submitted for archival had been deemed insignificant and discarded by Cornell before they could be evaluated and weeded by someone from the Association. Boyce requested advice on how to proceed with Alonso's materials.

Discussion: Haynes commented that Cornell's policy is in line with what other university libraries are doing. Web access systems could permit linked access from Cornell's library to others. Boyce added that RSAI will continue to collect materials and noted that the materials on the regional science program at the University of Pennsylvania have not yet been archived. Kilkenny asked why data are not appropriate to archive. Nijkamp responded that increasingly institutions are not willing to bear the cost of maintaining archives and that, since most of the scientific material has been published, RSAI must specify explicitly the goals of archiving other materials. Kilkenny suggested that one such goal might be to document the inductive part of research - how a project was started and finished. (The deductive part is the scientific publication.) Rees interjected that the trouble with history is that it gets written "too bloody late." Haynes observed that money must be raised to cover libraries' costs, no matter how important the collection might be deemed. Nijkamp remarked that there is a well documented history of the Association and its 'founding fathers.' He noted that the policy of the Royal Academy of the Netherlands is to request that a history of each important scientist be written and published, after which the archival materials can be destroyed. (Of course more than a friendly appreciation must be done.) Responding to Boyce's request for advice, Isserman indicated that negotiations were under way with the University of Pennsylvania on the

disposition of Alonso's papers. Kohno thanked Boyce for his report.

6. Report from the Long-Range Planning Committee: Immediate Past President Batey reported that, following up on concerns over distribution of issues of Papers in Regional Science and membership payment method voiced at the previous council meeting, the committee of himself, Donaghy, and Florax, appointed by Kohno, had met to discuss the concerns and possible responses. Section officers were then queried about how the flow of information about section membership to RSAI headquarters (HQ) could be expedited, thereby permitting a faster flow of services back from HQ, and about payment options. The responses of section officers were reported to the LRPC. Section officers generally supported the idea of submitting to RSAI HQ a list of section members from whom RSAI dues payments have been received by the end of the first quarter of each year and of submitting updates as necessary afterwards. Some section officers also suggested that arrangements be made to permit payment in euros when the currency enters circulation. While the use of credit cards facilitates collection of membership payments in some sections, officers did not feel that their use would facilitate transfers of payments, especially if transaction fees were involved.

Discussion: Haynes commented that there are differences in operational principles between sections that need to be observed.

Getis proposed that submission to RSAI HQ of lists of paid-up members by section officers by the end of the first quarter be adopted as RSAI policy and that arrangements for section payments in euros be investigated.

Decision: Kohno asked for and received approval of Getis's proposal.

Batey continued his report by noting that, since entering into the printing contract with Springer-Verlag, the Association's financial operations had become more complex and cash-flow difficulties had emerged. Since these difficulties might require changes in the structure of dues and other payments, the LRPC felt it was time to establish a financial oversight committee that has been called for by the constitution but never

implemented. Such a committee might broaden the base of information and responsibility for changes in dues schedules.

Discussion: The question of what such a committee's composition might be was raised. Kilkenny opined that the committee should be composed of sitting RSAI Council members. Getis observed that a committee so composed could request information from others not on the committee. Batey noted that surely the committee would want the ability to solicit outside information. Donaghy suggested that a financial oversight committee might benefit from the input, of, say, executive secretaries of superregional conference organizing committees of ERSA, NARSC, and PRSCO, who are attuned to the concerns of their regional memberships.

Haynes responded that, irrespective of the committee's composition, council members should take ultimate responsibility for all financial decisions. Batey proposed that the implementation of a financial oversight committee be approved in principle and that a detailed proposal of its composition and operation be submitted at the next council meeting.

Decision: Kohno asked for and received approval of Batey's proposal.

The third item of Batey's report concerned the proliferation of prizes and awards in RSAI. Batey reported that the LRPC perceived a need to gather information on just what prizes and awards are available to whom in the Association. Once such information is in hand, an organizational scheme could be developed to promote an equitable distribution among RSAI members of opportunities to compete for prizes and awards.

Discussion: Isserman suggested that data on past prize recipients might be analyzed with an eye toward geographical distribution and professional rank.

Action: Donaghy agreed to solicit information on prizes and awards for further discussion at the next council meeting.

The fourth item of Batey's report concerned efforts to extend the international scope of RSAI. Batey remarked that the upcoming Symposium on regional development in South Africa should be a precursor to other such undertakings. He suggested that a committee be appointed to

initiate other symposia in such places as South America and Southeast Asia and suggested that the committee should comprise as members Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Geoffrey Hewings, President Kohno, and Peter Nijkamp.

Discussion: Haynes commented that the Indian Regional Science Association (IRSA) has been in operation for over ten years, but it has not been well integrated into RSAI. Nijkamp remarked that he has been a member of the Association for over ten years and IRSA has been thriving. Kilkenny suggested that a subcommittee might be created to leverage the committee's efforts to organize institutes. Batey responded that it was important not to undertake too many institutes at once. Rossi noted that the French-speaking group is doing much in North Africa and suggested that Antoine Bailly be included in the committee. Getis inquired as to whether there had been an effort to bring people from South America, Southeast Asia, and Northern Africa to the World Congress in Lugano. Donaghy responded that there was a standing committee charged with the task of developing a policy for subsidizing travel to the World Congress by regional scientists from these underrepresented areas. Kohno thanked Batey for his report.

7. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy reported that Geoffrey Hewings had been elected Vice President (President-elect) of RSAI and that John Dewhurst had been elected to replace Jacques Poot as an at-large councilor. He also reported that Luz Savaadra, student of Jan Brueckner, won the award for best dissertation and informed the council that future meetings were scheduled for May 16th at 2:00 PM in Lugano, for August 29th at 9:00 AM in Barcelona, and for November 9th at 9:00 AM in Chicago. Donaghy informed Council that, because of the increased demands for information processing being placed on the RSAI HQ staff, part of the full-time position given up when Springer-Verlag took over printing of Papers in Regional Science would have to be refilled.

8. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Krmeneč's report was distributed. Donaghy reviewed its main points in Krmeneč's absence. The report discussed the financial position of the Association in 1998 in comparison with its position in 1997 and with its anticipated position at the end of 1999. In 1998 RSAI enjoyed a substantial increase in membership revenue (due mainly to the \$10 increase in dues) while institutional subscriptions declined. Figures for

revenue from conference per capita fees were low but failed to account for a late payment from the Santa Fe meeting. (Under the 'modified accrual' method of financial accounting, collection of these fees must be recorded in the year they are actually received.) Revenues from investments grew by 61%. Production costs of Papers in Regional Science were much higher in 1998 than 1997, as were costs associated with the newsletter, which involved mailing several conference posters and setting up the new web page. A decrease in office expenses resulted from the departure in October of a full-time office staff person.

1999 is the first year that RSAI has operated without the benefit of institutional subscription revenue from Papers in Regional Science. We have sufficient evidence in hand to anticipate accurately what the financial position of the Association will be at the end of 1999. In spite of higher membership fees, a surcharge payment from Springer-Verlag to support editorial assistance, and savings on office personnel expenses, the Association's assets have been drawn down due to the need to liquidate financial instruments to meet cash flow exigencies. And while the inflow of memberships from North America has remained stable, it has declined from Europe, the Pacific, and developing countries. If superregional conference per capita fee collections for 1999 are passed on to RSAI HQ in a timely manner, projected revenues and expenses should be offsetting for FY1999 and beyond.

Substantial savings from the production and mailing of the newsletter and membership directory are anticipated with the introduction of electronic publishing in 2000. RSAI HQ, however, will need to replace the lost full-time staff person with a part-time person in order to cope with the increased work flow. While cannibalizing the full-time position in 1999 has helped to balance that year's budget, rehiring at the position will surely produce a deficit in 2000.

Discussion: Batey suggested that a proposal to remedy the projected revenue shortfall, supported with data, be presented to Council at the Lugano meeting. Kilkenny commended Krmeneč for the thoroughness of his report, for which Kohno also thanked him.

A moment of silence was observed at 11:00 AM to mark the time at which the first World War ended on 11/11/17.

9. RSAI News Editor's Report: Editor Jackson reported that he will continue to serve in his present capacity only through the May 2000 issue of the newsletter and that associate editor Pellegrini has resigned. He reminded the Council that, as agreed upon at the Dublin meeting, that the newsletter would become available in print and electronic formats in 2000 and that only brief outlines of conference programs will appear in future newsletters. Full conference programs will be posted on conference web-sites to which links will be provided on the RSAI web page. Jackson announced that the transition to a new web server has been completed and that he is attempting to get the RSAI web page to appear higher on the list of sites returned for regional science searches.

Discussion: Isserman suggested that it might be worthwhile to register a web address of [www.rsai.org](http://www.rsai.org) and indicated that he would supply Jackson with information about how this might be done. Kohno thanked Jackson for his report.

10. Report of PRS Editor-in-Chief: Editor-in-Chief Florax indicated that he had both short-term and long-term issues to discuss. Taking the former first, he reported all four issues of volume 78 of the journal had been published and distributed. The editors were presently working on issues of volume 79 and anticipated that all issues would be published and delivered in a timely manner. Florax announced that volume 79 was completely filled, except for research notes, and that the publication delay now appeared to be over eighteen months from acceptance of manuscripts. The flow of manuscripts has been stable at 50-60 per year, with European submissions being constant, Pacific increasing, and North American declining. Solicitation of manuscripts from superregional meetings had been successful in netting six or seven submissions a meeting.

Florax stated that the editorial board meeting will focus on longer-term issues, on which the editors had prepared a detailed report. Longer term issues included what steps could be taken to

ensure timely delivery of the journal to members who renew through their sections and whether and when volume size should be increased.

Regarding the latter, Florax remarked that issues for 2001 were already being prepared. On the basis of the number and quality of manuscript submissions, he believed that increasing volume size to 600 pages was warranted. He noted that a decision on this matter must be made by April 2000. Florax suggested that an expanded journal could be used as a marketing tool to build the membership base of the Association as well as the institutional subscription base. He indicated that he would be putting an explicit proposal before Council members soon.

Discussion: Batey commented that, owing to the terms of the printing agreement RSAI had signed with Springer-Verlag, Council shouldn't delay past April 2000 in making the volume size decision. He proposed that the working group of himself, Donaghy, and Florax, which had negotiated the original agreement with Springer-Verlag, be reconvened to consider the issue, formulate a proposal, and put a decision to the Council via e-mail prior to the April 2000 deadline.

Decision: Batey asked for and received Council's approval of his proposal.

Kohno thanked Florax for his report.

11. Proposal to establish the Alonso Memorial Fund: Isserman gave a background sketch of William Alonso, recipient of the first Ph.D. in the field of Regional Science, and briefly discussed his many contributions to regional science, demography, urban modeling, and area studies. He apprized Council that several former students and colleagues wished to honor the memory of Alonso by establishing an annual competition for a cash prize to be awarded to a scholar who had recently made an important contribution in an area of research that Alonso had worked. The prize would be supported by interest income from a fund to be established under the aegis of RSAI with First Busey Trust and Investment Company in an arrangement similar to that of the Stevens Fellowship Fund. The committee proposing to raise funds and choose prize winners comprises Michael Tietz (Chairperson),

Isserman (Vice-Chairperson), Koichi Mera (Secretary and Alonso's first Ph.D. student), Chang-I Hua (Treasurer), and Walter Isard (Honorary Chairperson). Other members of the committee include Peter Hall, Niles Hansen, and Anne Markusen. Isserman requested Council's approval of the proposed arrangement.

Discussion: Fischer inquired about who would be eligible to receive the prize and suggested that a decision on the proposal should be taken in the context of a policy on prizes suggested by Batey in his report from the LRPC. Batey remarked that such a policy could not be established without first obtaining more information and suggested that the absence of a policy at this time should not delay a decision on Isserman's proposal. Isserman stated that, if at all possible, the committee would like to announce the prize at the present conference. Nijkamp argued that there is a need for a rationalization of the many prizes awarded in the field of regional science. He wondered if RSAI should passively accept funds for prizes or if perhaps RSAI should play a proactive role in raising funds for new prizes. Isserman remarked that the purpose of the prize would be to recognize a single achievement in the form of a demonstrably influential book or article. The prize would be open to anyone publishing scholarly work.

Kohno asked for and received Council's approval of the proposed arrangement to establish the Alonso Memorial Fund.

12. Update on the South African Symposium on Regional Development: Nijkamp reported that planning for the symposium had proceeded very well. 'Missionary work' had to be done to develop support for the undertaking but it appears that the symposium will involve about 100 participants, about half South African and half internationals. The symposium will provide an opportunity for researchers and on-the-ground practitioners to become acquainted with each other and to examine together problems of regional development. Nijkamp stated he was most happy with how the initiative to promote regional science in South America was turning out and indicated that efforts to develop a South African section of RSAI would be most welcome.

Kohno thanked Nijkamp for his report and proposed that he be designated the official chair of the South African Symposium Organizing Committee.

13. Update on the Year 2000 World Congress: LOC member Rossi reported that planning for the World Congress was proceeding well. To date 28 countries are represented. The committee anticipates receiving 140-160 abstracts for proposed papers plus 20-40 papers invited from eminent regional scientists. They foresee no major problems at this point. Names of needy conferees from developing countries are being actively solicited to help determine who shall be awarded subsidies. Rossi distributed an outline of the conference program.

14. Other Business: Rees announced that the Southern Regional Science Association would be holding its annual meeting in Miami in April. Kilkenny asked if RSAI provided venues to match job opportunities with candidates. Haynes responded that 'early-bird' sessions used to be scheduled, but now Ph.D. candidates' papers have been incorporated directly into the program. He suggested that the RSAI web page should provide links to job markets. Fischer suggested that the LRPC should consider this issue and that private sector companies should be invited to attend meetings for purposes of recruitment. Kohno announced that he had recently met with the Emperor of Japan and expressed the Association's gratitude for his attendance at the last World Congress.

15. **The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.**