

MINUTES

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING BRATISLAVA

THURSDAY 23ST AUGUST, AT 16:30 | 2012

Yoshiro Higano welcomed the members of the RSAI Council, gave thanks to Richard Kelly, executive director of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA), for the scheduling of the RSAI Council within ERSA Conference program and asked members, ex-officio members and invited members to present themselves. The meeting registered the presence of 11 of the 15 members of the RSAI Council.

1. Apologies (Yoshiro Higano)

Council members present: Yoshiro Higano (President, PRSCO), Eduardo Haddad (RSA), Neil Reid (RSA) Mark Partridge (RSA), Jouke Van Dijk (editor of PIRS, ERSA), Gunther Maier (ERSA), Tomaz Dentinho (executive director, ERSA), Alessandra Faggian (Councilor at large), Jean Claude Thill (Vice President, Councilor at large), Rachel Franklin (Councilor at large), and Johan Lundberg (Councilor at large).

Apologies from Council Members: Patricio Aroca (PRSCO), Paul Dalziel (Councilor at large), Amit Batabyal (Councilor at large) and Daniel Czamanski (Councilor at large).

Ex-officio members present: Roberta Capello (Immediate Past President), Charlie Karlsson (Book review editor) and Michael Carroll (editor of RSPP).

Apologies from ex-officio members: David Boyce (Archivist), Phil McCann (European Editor of PIRS), John LeSage (American Editor) and Rui Luís (Treasure).

Invited persons: Hiroyuki Shibusawa (executive director of PRSCO), Evelyne van Leeuwen (RSAI Newsletter Editor), and Richard Kelly (executive director of ERSA).

2. Minutes of previous meeting (Yoshiro Higano)

II Minutes of Timisoara Meeting (May 2012) 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):
 - a) Roberta Capello informed Council that there are good news from the Chinese Section: the LRPC members that participated in PRSCO meeting in Beijing last July reported that the Regional Science Association of China is more open and that there is very good prospects for a full recognition of the Chinese Section by RSAI;
 - b) If that recognition is accepted there is the project to have the RSAI World Conference in Chinese on 2014 in Shanghai, as indicated in the last RSAI Council, or in Beijing where there is a greater concentration of regional scientists
- Ibero American Network:

Roberta Capello informed Council that there will be a Conference in Mexico from the 3rd till the 6th of September; RSAI have agree to provide 4000 US\$ to support the invitation regional scientists from future sections in Latin America and there is already

someone that will go from Cuba (Arturo Rua) and there are contacts to have someone from Ecuador, Peru and Argentina.

- Founders's Award:
Roberta Capello informed that, since there is some time to select the Founders' award nomination process and the text presented in Timisoara must still be reviewed, the decision was postponed to the Ottawa meetings of the LRPC and RSAI Council.
- Replacement of the Editor of Papers in Regional Science:
Roberta Capello reported the Council that the LRPC was informed Jean Claude Thill on the nomination process that took place since Timisoara for the new editor of Papers in Regional Science.
- Strategy for obtaining a UN NGO status for RSAI:
Roberta Capello told the Council that Roger Stough thinks that this is not probably the wright time to apply for a UN NGO status and other types of affiliation can be analyzed and followed.
- Relations with Regional Studies Association:
Roberta Capello noted that there is a common approach from the different supra nationals to Regional Studies Association that clarifies the scope of cooperation with Regional Science Association International.
- Universal membership:
Roberta Capello reported that the issue of universal membership enrolment was also discussed by the LRPC. Tomaz Dentinho explained that most of the sections already paid the fees of their members, three sent the list of members but did not yet paid and two still miss the list of members. There are also new sections that must begin the enrollment of members which is still missing. Richard Kelly, executive secretary of ERSA, informed that council that the Polish and the Lithuanian sections will have the membership enrolment accomplished in the near future.

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

4. New editor in chief of Papers in Regional Science (Jean-Claude Thill)

Roberta Capello left the room since she was one of the nominees. Jean Claude Thill informed the Council that, following what was agreed in the Timiosara RSAI Council, the nomination committee was formed by Yoshiro Higano, Jouke van Dijk, Tomaz Dentinho, Marlon Boarnet, Dan McMillen, Manfred Fischer and himself, Jean Claude Thill.

Jean Claude Thill explained that the three applications that resulted from the open call to RSAI members were analyzed based in the requested documents, qualities and tasks (see table below). Related to the documents all the candidates were accepted for evaluation. Concerning the requested qualities and tasks the nomination committee agreed that two candidates could be good editors in Chief of Papers in Regional Science since they both have editorial experience and financial capability and curriculum. The third one is a very good and promising researcher but more editorial experience should be encouraged. From the three cadidates Roberta Capello seemed to be the best candidate taking into account the criteria adopted namely the representation of the full spectrum of high-quality research in regional science. The nomination committee agreed unanimously to suggest the RSAI Council Roberta Capello for the next editor in chief of Papers in Regional Science.

Eduardo Haddad point out that the nomination process was carefully taken. Jouke Van Dijk highlighted that all the candidates were very good and that the process was clear. Yoshiro Higano proposed a motion to the Council to approve Roberta Capello as the new editor-in-chief of Papers in Regional Science.

Documents required
A succinct letter of interest and qualifications
A vision statement for the next three to six years of publication of PiRS
A statement of financial and/or time release support from the application's employer
A curriculum vitae
The names and contact information of three references
Requested qualities
The editor's primary responsibility is to continue to enhance the journal's quality, reputation, and scholarship
The editor will be expected to leverage achievements of previous editorial teams, and strengthen the journal's competitive position in support of RSAI's worldwide mission
The editor will also demonstrate visionary leadership in developing editorial policies and initiatives that stimulate novel ways to theorize and analyze the changing reality of urban and regional environments
The editor must represent the full spectrum of high-quality research conducted worldwide in the regional science community
Requested tasks
Maintaining and updating the aims and scope of the journal, editorial policies, and guidelines to authors
Overseeing the manuscript peer review process through the publisher's on-line submission portal in an unbiased, confidential, and timely manner.
Checking proofs and revisions to proofs; proof reading.
Preparing and forwarding accepted manuscripts to the publisher's production department.
Coordinating standards and practices across managing editors and managing the workload of each member of the editorial team.
Maintaining close and regular contact with the publisher on marketing and production matters
Initiating and responding to correspondence with authors, managing editors, and reviewers
Recruiting, selecting, and appointing PiRS board members that reflect the diversity of regional science and addressing any performance issues
Soliciting guest issues, selecting guest editors, and providing advice and assistance to guest editors
Adhering to the page budget and financial structures set by RSAI. RSAI and the publisher are responsible for managing production, layout, printing, subscriptions, pricing and funding initiatives for society publications
Appointing associate editors and a book review editor (to be approved by RSAI Council). The editorial team (editor and associate editors) will be comprised of RSAI members with high stature and respect in the community, and with the expertise to manage the breadth of regional science
Serving as a non-voting ex officio member of RSAI Council and other regional science governing bodies
Chairing the jury of the annual Martin Beckmann Prize for the best article published in PiRS and managing the nomination and selection procedure
Reporting to RSAI Council through regular reports at Council meetings
Reporting to the journal editorial board through board meetings held at least once a year

IV The Council unanimously approved Roberta Capello as the editor-in-chief for the journal Papers in Regional Science from January 2013 till December 2015.

Yoshiro Higano invited Roberta Capello to join the Council to announce the result. The Council gave an acclamation both to Roberta Capello, the new editor-in chief of PIRS and to Jouke – Van – Dijk for the remarkable achievements he realized along the period he served as editor-in-chief of PIRS.

5. Elections of RSAI Councilors-at-large (Jean Claude Thill)

Jean Claude Thill reported that a call for nominees was delivered to RSAI members and two applications were presented: Jichung Yang from the Korean Section and PRSCO and Tomaz Ponce Dentinho from the Portuguese Section and ERSA. A vote bulletin was also distributed to RSAI members that should be returned to NARSC (NARSCouncil@uncc.edu) until the 30th of September because one of the candidates is presently the executive director of RSAI.

Alessandra Faggian said that she had not received the call for nominees and Mark Partridge confirmed the same. Jean Claude Thill remarked the need to clarify the RSAI list of members. Rachel Franklin asked if the Executive Director of RSAI is also a voting member of the Council. Tomaz Dentinho said that is the system that is defined in the RSAI constitution. Jean Claude Thill suggested that all the members should be remembered more often not only for the

nomination of candidates but also for the collection of votes. Finally he said that the votes will be reported in Ottawa.

V The Council acknowledge the suggestions of Jean Claude Thill that all the members should be remembered more often for the nomination of candidates and for the collection of votes.

6. World Congresses (Jean-Claude Thill)

Jean-Claude Thill said that there is a group constituted to promote the World Conference. The discussions held with the Chinese colleagues raise the issue that Shanghai is probably not the best location because there could be more support in Beijing and there are more regional scientists in this city. Summing up, Jean Claude Thill remarked that: a) the RSAI Council should probably have a vote to have the World Congress in Beijing; b) although the Chinese colleagues are very excited about the World Congress RSAI should only do that if China becomes a formal member of RSAI which will not happen until the spring of 2013.

Rachel Franklin remarked that to organize a large World Conference it requires time and it is not possible to announce a World Conference six months before the event. Jean-Claude Thill said that there is still time, that the Chinese colleagues have a very good experience in the organization of scientific meetings; nevertheless it is important that the World Conference does not conflict with the other great regional science events and that on the Spring of 2013 the announcement should be out. Roberta Capello point out that it is very important to be in China. Mark Partridge suggested that whatever the commission is it should decide on the place and the time of the World Conference. Jouke Van Dijk said that the external people will prefer Shanghai. Jean Claude Thill pointed out that it is easy to get funds if it is in Beijing. Rachel Franklin remarked that the Chinese colleagues are thinking internally and probably Shanghai is the best option. Tomaz Dentinho said that dates are important and should not collide with the ERSA Conference planned for the summer of 2014 in St. Petersburg. Yoshiro suggested that a commission formed by Jean Claude Thill, Roberta Capello and himself should be responsible to decide the date and the place. Jean Claude remarked that there is a need for some quality and financial control and that RSAI wants to have a major role in those issues. Mark Partridge reinforced that the committee should decide on the place and time of the World Conference in China in cooperation with ERSA to avoid conflicts between various RSAI conferences.

VI The Council approved unanimously that a commission composed by Jean Claude Thill, Roberta Capello and Yoshiro Higano should decide on the date and place of the World Conference in China.

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

Roberta Capello reported that the main goals of the Ibero-American network are, to enhance the cooperation among Spanish and Portuguese speaking regional scientists and to promote the development of new sections in Latin America. There will be a first meeting in Mexico on from the 3rd till the 6th of September 2012 and there are ideas to have a second meeting in São Paulo in 2014.

Roberta Capello pointed out that RSAI Council of Miami decided to support the creation of new sections by sponsoring the travel expenses up to 4000 US\$ of a few key people from other countries to the conference, selected by Patricio Aroca and Carlos Azzoni in accordance with the Mexican Section, AMECIDER. The issue is that such money should go to support new sections – as it is planned with the invitation to the colleagues of Cuba, Ecuador, Argentina and

Peru - and not to sponsor the travel and accommodation of key speakers coming from existing and well established sections.

Eduardo Haddad said that there is a string support to the Network in Brazil but due to a strike of three months in many Universities probably not many people will attend the meeting in Mexico.

Jean Claude Thill told that Pedro Elosegui, from the RSAI Section of Argentina, asked if RSAI had funds to promote new sections for a short period of two to three years. Tomaz Dentinho reported that the RSAI funds of the current account are quite limited but a budget for 2013 will be presented for discussion, modification and approval to the Council in Ottawa where such supports can be considered. Alessandra Faggian suggested that a Committee should be formed to establish the criteria to obtain the support from RSAI. Johan Lundberg suggested that RSAI should raise money to support the development of new sections. Jean Claude Thill proposed the creation of a Committee – formed by Alessandra Faggian, Johan Lundberg and Rachel Franklin - that will present a proposal to the Council on the criteria to support the development of new sections.

VII The Council approved unanimously the creation of a committee to propose criteria for the support of the development of new sections formed by Alessandra Faggian, Johan Lundberg and Rachel Franklin.

8. Section recognition and development (Yoshiro Higano)

Eduardo Haddad from RSAmericas reported that the Brazilian meeting takes place in October with around 200 participants that are registered as RSAI members.

Gunther Maier from ERSA reported that there are good developments in the creation of a section in Lithuania and that can be expanded into the Baltic countries. He also reported that the Polish section is restructuring and it will soon have a legal status. Richard Kelly, executive director of ERSA, also said that there are promising news from East European countries.

Roberta Capello asked if ERSA is doing something regarding the difficulties of the British and Irish Section in membership enrolment. Alessandra Faggian clarified that membership fees are collected in the annual conferences of the British and Irish Section and the list of members changes a lot according to the place of the conference; there are ideas to split the membership from the conference fee but it has not been implemented.

Yoshiro Higano informed the Council that China has a new and more open Regional Science Association and by the Ottawa Conference in November 2012 they can make a procedure for approval by the RSAI Council. He also said that there are great expectations on the Chinese section and the expansion of the RSAI meetings in China from 3 to 5 led to the rapid fulfillment of the special issues planed in the Miami Council for PIRS and RSPP. On that Jouve Van Dijk clarified that from the various regional science meetings held in China there will be four special issues on PIRS, RSPP and also in Letters in Spatial and Resource Sciences.

VIII The reports on section development were acknowledge by the RSAI Council.

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

Roberta Capello asked to postpone the issue for the Ottawa Meeting since there will only be a selection of a new Founder's awardee in 2016 and the amendments to the text presented in the meeting in Timisoara have still to be included.

IX The Council agreed unanimously that a final text of the Procedure for the RSAI Founder's Medal should be postponed for approval in the RSAI Council of Ottawa

10. RSAI President Elections (Jean-Claude Thill)

Following the RSAI by-law 5 amended by the Council in Timisoara, Jean-Claude Thill proposed the Council the following composition of a nomination committee:

- Yoshiro Higano – RSAI President
- Roberta Capello – RSAI Immediate Past-President
- Tomaz Dentinho – ERSA
- Patricio Aroca – RSAmericas
- Paul Dalziel – PRSCO
- Mark Partridge – Long Range Planning Committee
- Jean Claude Thill – Long Range Planning Committee

Jean Claude Thill informed also on the selection process that was taken in previous nominations: i) Each one of the nomination committee members expresses his/her preferences regarding potential nominees; ii) the nomination committee asks the first person ranked if he/she is able to accept; iii) the nomination committee proposes the Council a person to nominated and approved by RSAI members.

Roberta Capello pointed out that the selection process is clearly defined in the RSAI Constitution and by-laws and remarked that when the nomination committee reports the Council the results there should be full certainty that the proposed nominee has enough funds to undertake the task.

Yoshiro Higano clarified that in the Ottawa meeting the Council will nominate the RSAI President for 2015-2016 based on the indications produced by the nomination committee.

X The Council approved unanimously the composition of the nomination committee for the RSAI President -2015 – 2016, election procedure

11. Procedures and RSAI possibilities to become a UN NGO (Jean Claude Thill)

Jean Claude Thill told that Roger Stough did not advance much in searching the procedures and possibilities for RSAI to become a UN NGO. He also informed the Council that Roger Stough will report on the UN NGO issue in the Council Meeting of Ottawa.

Jean Claude Thill also said that he will investigate better the information by Bob Stimson on associations of social sciences. Rachel Franklin remarked that she was not so sure on the benefits for joining such associations which was share by Jean Claude Thill who stressed that RSAI must be certain about the advantages and disadvantages of joining those associations.

XI The Council acknowledged the information provided on UN NGO status and connections with other associations

12. Proposals for the accreditation of Regional Science Degrees and Programs (Patricio Aroca and Daniel Czamanski)

Yoshiro suggested that the issue should be postponed to the Ottawa Council since neither Patricio Aroca nor Daniel Czamanski could attend the Council Meeting in Bratislava.

XII The Council agreed to postpone the issue “accreditation of Regional Science Degrees and Programs” for the RSAI Council in Ottawa

13. RSAI Awards (Paul Dalziel)

Tomaz Dentinho said that Paul Dalziel sent a letter to the Council reporting that:

- i) Jean Claude Thill was appointed by Professor Kara Kockelman to receive the Hirotada Kohno Award as recognition for his long and meritorious service;
- ii) There were no new nominations for the Peter Nijkamp RSAI Research Encouragement Award for an earlier career scholar from a developing country. But since there were two nominees carried over from 2011, and the CVs of these two people were put before the award committee, comprising Roberta Capello, Jouke van Dijk, Yoshiro Higano and David Boyce, the committee unanimously agreed that the award should be made to Luís Galvis at the Centre for Regional Economic Studies (CEER) in Columbia.
- iii) Regarding the PhD award Gunther Maier reported that he had received eight applications and will report on that.

XIII - The Council approved unanimously that Jean Claude Thills should receive the Hirotada Kohno Award and that Luis Galvis should receive the Peter Nijkamp RSAI Research Encouragement Award. The RSAI Council also acknowledged the information provided on PhD awards.

14. Publication Reports (Jouke Van Dijk, Michel Carroll and Charlie karlsson)

- a) Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk said that, following the election of a new editor-in-chief of Papers in Regional Science, there is a need to create a new team that will substitute also the co-editors John LeSage and Phill Mc Cann that also asked to be replaced.

- b) Regional Science Policy and Practice

Michael Carroll informed Council that downloads for Regional Science Policy and Practice went up 59%. He also reported that there will be four special issues, one of them on Asia and Peter Nijkamp is preparing a new one for China.

Charlie Karlsson asked to be replaced as Book Review Editor.

XIV The RSAI Council acknowledged the information provided by the editors and by the book review editor.

15. 2011 RSAI Report (Tomaz Dentinho)

Tomaz Dentinho informed that most of the sections sent the list of members and paid the respective fees to RSAI secretariat. The sections that are missing are either new sections that should be enrolled in the next year or sections (just two) that have difficulties in sending

updated list of members. He also reported that, after solving the pending issues, there will be an increase on enrolled members from 3898 in 2010 to 4222 in 2011.

Tomaz Dentinho reported that there is a deposit in pounds of £ 149997.11 and the bank account in Euros has 7081.57 €. Furthermore, as agreed subsidies for the RSAI Summer Course, there are 7900.00 € to be received from the Regional Directorate for Science and Technology of the Azores Regional Government and 8000.00 € from the Antero Quental Exchange agreement.

Jean-Claude Thill remarked that RSAI must have a plan and to rise more funds and to create a legacy fund.

XIV The RSAI Council acknowledged the information provided by the executive director and by the vice president of RSAI.

13. AOB

There were no other issues highlighted by the Council members.

14. Date of next meeting

Otawa, 8th November 8H00– Long Range Planning Committee; 9th August 12H30 RSAI Council Meeting.

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