

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: LODZ, AUGUST 2009

Present: Roberta Capello (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Dimitris Ballas, Mike Carroll, John Carruthers, Graham Clarke, Eduardo Haddad, Marie Helvo, Yoshiro Higano, Gunther Maier, Phil McCann, Mark Partridge, George Petrakos, Danny Shefer, Roger Stough, Jouke van Dijk.

1. Apologies: Patricio Aroca, Charlie Karlsson, Sam Park

Roberta Capello welcomed all council members to the meeting especially new members Danny Shefer and John Carruthers.

Council welcomed a delegation from the Romanian section who presented initial plans for the 2012 World Congress in Timisoara. The provisional dates were agreed as 2-5th May. The main theme of the conference would be foreign direct investment. The Opera House was suggested as the location for the opening ceremony. A fee of 250 Euros was suggested. A shuttle bus service would be offered from Bucharest Airport.

Roberta thanked the delegation for their excellent presentation and urged them to produce a simple leaflet for the Web as soon as possible.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

3. LRPC

Roger Stough reported on discussions at LRPC.

- i) A new sub-committee/search committee had been set up in Surfer's Paradise to find possible candidates for the role of Executive Director to follow Graham Clarke's period of office. LRPC supported this process.
- ii) The LRPC noted the success of the new developments in RSAmericas and South America generally. China developments were on-going with a workshop planned for December. However, India still seemed more problematic. For India it was felt that as no commitment was imminent then a new tactic involving young scholars should be pursued. Roger agreed to discuss possible ways forward with Geoff Hewings and Peter Nijkamp should Council agree (see item 5.2 below).
- iii) Roger noted excellent progress with the new journal. LRPC recommended that Council think about a prize for the best paper, to mirror the Beckman Prize for the annual best paper in PiRS.
- iv) There was a discussion on the development of links with the Regional Studies Association. LRPC supported the suggestion to allow Peter Batey and Phil McCann to discuss further with RSA and bring a proposal to a future meeting.
- v) Roger Stough apologized for not having had the opportunity to finish the constitutional edits. He promised to do this by the San Francisco meeting.

- vi) LRPC had been made aware of a request for support for the ERSA Summer Institute. They supported this action subject to the caveat that this would be a one-off solution (see item 9 below)

4. Publications

i) Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk reported that there was little new to add to his presentation at Surfer's Paradise. The next edition was on schedule and a special edition was planned around the work of Paul Krugman (8 papers which would also be made available early on the Web). Jouke reiterated the good news that there had been an increase in the journal impact factor – now up to 1.3. Council again offered their congratulations to Jouke and his team for this fantastic achievement. Jouke and Roberta reminded Council that Phil McCann was moving from New Zealand to the Netherlands and so he would become the new European editor and that Takatoshi Tabuchi has agreed to take over as Pacific Editor. Another Editor from Asia would hopefully be appointed in San Francisco.

ii) RSPP

Mike Carroll also noted little new to add to the minutes from Surfer's Paradise. He did outline the good progress towards the production of volume 2 of 'Regional Science Policy and Practice' (RSPP) scheduled for October 2009. He also urged Council to submit papers and/or encourage colleagues to do likewise. He liked the idea of a new prize similar to the Beckman Prize.

5. New Sections

5.1 Yoshiro Higano reported again that the dates for the China workshop had been finalized – 11-13th December in Beijing.

5.2 There was more discussion on the Indian situation and unanimous support for Roger Stough's suggestion of initiating a new strategy for reaching young scholars in India.

5.3 Roberta announced that progress was good with new sections from Argentina and Columbia. It was hoped that it may be possible to formally agree these new sections in San Francisco.

6. Executive Director's Report

- i) Graham Clarke reminded Council that Lay Gibson (Arizona) had been awarded the Kohno Prize for 2009. Gunther Maier reported that there had only been one nomination for the dissertation prize received before the deadline. It was agreed that we should not accept nominations after the deadline. Gunther agreed to think of how we might encourage more applications in the future.

ii) Graham Clarke reported that production for the next newsletter was on schedule.

7. Accounts 2008

Dimitis Ballas presented the accounts for 2008.

Regional Science Association International

2008

Balance brought forward (pounds sterling £) - 1 January 2008: £153,922.57

Receipts (Pounds Sterling £)

Subscription fees payment from John Wiley & Sons/Blackwells £26,122.00
Investment income £5,250.83

TOTAL £31,372.83

Payments (Pounds Sterling £)

RSAI World Congress Bursaries £3,676.96
RSAI World Congress support £807.24
Argentina workshop support £500.00
Start up costs for new RSAI journal £5,000.00
Web development services £2,910.00
Web maintenance services £1,200.00
Executive Director travel and subsistence £3,361.47
Oxford RSAI/Blackwells meeting travel and subsistence £955.98
2007 Accounts independent examination £646.25
NARSC support costs £1,819.06
Bank Charges £223.00

TOTAL £21,099.96

Closing Balance carried forward - 31 December 2008 £164,195.44

The above accounts have been independently examined by Chartered Accountants
Henton & Co.

Dimitris Ballas
Treasurer RSAI

After a few questions these were accepted and Dimitris was thanked for all his hard work

8) Links with other associations

Roberta Capello reported promising first discussions with SEA but that it had not been possible to discuss more at this stage. John Carruthers and Mark partridge noted the successful joint sessions with various bodies at NARSC over the last few years. It was agreed to bring Jean-Claude Thill into discussions.

9. A.O.B

Roberta noted that ERSA had requested help to fund the final workshop in their successful Summer Institute series for young scholars. It was reported that the EU funds were now coming to an end. Given the involvement of potential new RSAI scholars Council agreed to a one-off support payment of several hundred Euros. Gunter Maier and Roberta were hopeful that Charlie Karlsson may get funds to cover all the costs anyway.

10. Date of next meeting (San Francisco)

LRPC – Thursday 19th November 18.00
Council - Friday 20th November 14.45

Graham Clarke
Leeds August 2009