

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: SAVANNAH, NOVEMBER 2007

Present: Roger Stough (chair), Dimitris Ballas, David Boyce, John Bryson, Roberta Capello, Mike Carroll, Paul Cheshire, Graham Clarke, Terry Clower, David Edgington, James LeSage, John Madden, Yuzuru Miyata, T. John Kim, Antonio Paez, Mark Partridge, Neil Reid, Bob Stimson, Jean-Claude Thill, Jouke van Dijk.

1. Apologies: Antoine Bailly, Lay Gibson, George Petrakas, Jan Oosterhaven, Carlos Azzoni, Peter Batey, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Yoshiro Higano.

Roger Stough welcomed the new policy journal team and congratulated NARSC on its excellent branding of RSAI at the Savannah meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

3. Matters arising: None

4. LRPC

Bob Stimson reported on discussions at LRPC. Much of the discussion was around matters below on the agenda. However, it was suggested that the time is right to hold a longer brainstorming session on future initiatives for RSAI. It was agreed to hold the first of these meetings in Brazil in March and to involve the entire Council (ensuring that the Supra-regions were all represented).

Action: Council and LRPC (plus other guests where invited) to meet 9.00 on Sunday March 16th

5. Policy Journal

Roger Stough introduced Mike Carroll and his team (a mixture of original nominations and new ones from Council):

Editor-in-Chief	Mike Carroll, Bowling Green State University
European Editor	Juan Cuadrado-Roura, University of Alcalá
“	John Bryson, University of Birmingham
Americas Editor	Neil Reid, University of Toledo
“	Terry Clower, University of North Texas
Pacific Editor	Yuzuru Miyata, Toyohashi University of Technology,
“	Christine Tamasy, University of Auckland
Book Review Editor	Richard Le Heron, University of Auckland

Mike Carroll and the team gave short presentations on their background and interest in policy matters. Roger Stough commented that the team was in excellent shape to deliver a high quality policy journal and thanked the new team for their application and subsequent acceptance to the various roles. He also thanked Council for its nominations. It was suggested that New York 2008 might be a good time to launch the journal officially. Jouke van Dijk welcomed the opportunity to work closely with Mike Carroll and the new team to ensure both RSAI journals compliment each other rather than compete. Council agreed to provide the Editorial Team with up to £5,000 pounds sterling for implementing the start up of the journal and producing the first edition or two so that the journal can begin with release of volume 1, no. 1 2009 in November of 2008. It was suggested that the Editor-in-Chief, Michael Carroll should meet with the Wiley-Blackwell team along with Jouke van Dijk (Editor-in-Chief, PiRS), Graham Clarke and Roger Stough in late January to get the RSPP journal set up on the WB electronic submission and management system.

Roger Stough also reported that we now had a much better contract and financial package from Blackwells (pre-circulated paper). He thanked all Council members for their comments and advice on the previous draft.

The team will now develop editorial policy in regard to handling submissions etc within the team and will also develop a proposal for the Editorial Board of the journal. The starting point will be the list of persons that has already indicated interest. That core will be supplemented with others that seem to be appropriate to the Team and some senior RSAI members including some members of the Fellows of the RSAI

Roger Stough also noted the paper from Jouke van Dijk regarding additional expenses needed by the editorial teams. Jouke was asked to provide a more detailed request for the Brazil meeting.

Actions: Graham Clarke to organize Blackwell meeting in January
Mike Carroll to propose new editorial team
Jouke van Dijk to prepare detailed paper on editorial expenses

6.Papers in regional Science

Jouke van Dijk reported that the transition from Purdue to Groningen had now been fully implemented and Manuscript Central was now operating very efficiently. On-line abstracts in Japanese and Spanish were now available. Jouke welcomed the introduction of the Beckmann prize as this added to the profile of the journal. He also reported a very pleasing increase in submissions and the subsequent introduction of larger print volumes (up 25%). Two special editions (led by Bernie Fingleton and Antonio Paez) were planned for 2008 and 2009.

Mark Partridge led Council in proposing a vote of thanks for the excellent work of Jouke and his team in their first year together.

7. Election of future presidents and role of LRPC

Roger Stough and the LRPC proposed the following procedure:

Recommendation of Formal Guidelines for Selection of President Elect

- 1. *Nomination Committee***
 - a. *President RSAI***
 - b. *Three (3) members of Regional Science Association International (RSAI) Council – one representative for each of the three super regions***
 - c. *Three (3) members of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) – immediate past presidents and other members to be recommended by the LRPC***
- 2. *Criteria to be satisfied by nominees***
 - a. *Financial resources sufficient to cover travel costs to perform RSAI duties***
 - b. *Support from candidate’s institution including relaxation of duties to enable President to travel as needed to execute RSAI business***
 - c. *RSAI Council experience (Council member experience) and/or other service to the regional science community (e.g., super regional and/or other sections, editor or one of the regional science journals, etc.)***
- 3. *The President Elect nomination committee would be formed at the NARSC meeting at the end of the second year of the outgoing president so that the appointment is made at the PRSCO meeting in next year (first year of the incoming president).***

After a short debate Council accepted the proposal

Roger Stough and LRPC also proposed that membership of the LRPC should be extended to include two current Council members. This was agreed and nominations were called for. [Subsequently Mark Partridge and T.J.Kim offered their services and will now serve on LRPC whilst they serve as Council members]

8. Prizes and ED matters

Graham Clarke announced the following prize winners:

- i) the Hirotada Kohno Outstanding Service award 2006 to Kieran Donaghy, Cornell University
- ii) The Martin Beckman award for best paper in *Papers in Regional Science* in 2006 to Bernard Fingleton and Enrique Lopez-Bazo for “ Empirical Growth Models with Spatial Effects”.

Council offered its congratulations to all winners. Calls for nominations for 2007 to go out in next global RSAI e-mail.

Antonio Paez presented details of current procedure for the RSAI dissertation prize. He also tabled some proposals for the future. It was agreed to discuss this formally in Brazil and make some recommendations based around these ideas.

A sub-committee for receiving nominations and making a decision on the 2009 Founder's Medal was established and ratified by Council. The committee includes Roger Stough, Mark Partridge, George Petrakas and Yoshiro Higano representing RSAI Council; Ann Markusen, Jean Paelinck and Jacques Thisse representing The RSAI Fellows; and past Presidents Robert Stimson and Peter Batey.

Graham Clarke confirmed that John Madden and Jan Oosterhaven finish their terms of office and Council thanked them both for all their hard work and commitment to Council. For PRSCO T.J.Kim had been elected for a second term of office and for ERSA Paul Cheshire would serve again in 2008 (for at least one year). Gunther Maier had been elected to replace Jan Oosterhaven. Graham also reported there were 5 candidates for election to replace John Madden. The election would be held electronically before the end of 2007.

9. NARSC and Latin America

Jean-Claude Thill announced that NARSC had agreed to become part of a wider TARSC (The Americas Regional Science Council). The Constitution of NARSC (and RSAI) would need to be amended accordingly. Council welcomed this development as a very positive step to encourage new associations in Latin America.

Roger Stough also reported that a joint working committee between the Latin American Economics Association (LACEA) urban and regional track or group and RSAI has been formed and initial goals for joint activities have been identified. Jean-Claude Thill will lead the RSAI team and Tito Yepes, World Bank, will head the team for LACEA. Initiatives include paper sessions at LACEA annual meetings; joint paper sessions at RSAI meetings; a possible two day training program prior to the LACEA October 2009 meeting in Ecuador; and a RFP from the World Bank inviting proposals from teams composed of LACEA and RSAI members.

10. RSAI Congress in Brazil

In the absence of Carlos Azzoni, Graham Clarke reported there were 230 papers to date (7th November) with the promise of more to come. Carlos also asked for support in the refereeing of papers for the 'R' sessions. Council questioned whether such a session was necessary and Graham Clarke agreed to convey this information to Carlos.

The Council approved a request to set aside £10,000 pounds sterling for scholarships to support travel and participation of students and young scholars in major RSAI events: World Congress', Super Regional Section Conferences etc.

11. Finance

Dimitris Ballas presented the accounts below. These were accepted.

Regional Science Association International

2006

Balance brought forward (pounds sterling £): **£128,558.89**

Receipts (Pounds Sterling £)

Subscription fees payment from Blackwells	£8,774.00
Investment income	£3,380.30
Donations	£23.64
Other receipts	£68.17

TOTAL **£12,246.11**

Payments (Pounds Sterling £)

RSAI travel and subsistence	£3,465.65
Payment to Brazilian Section - RS Prize	£172.86
Financial support - Chinese Regional Science workshop	£1,166.18
Financial support - Malaysian RSAI conference	£1,073.98
Henton & Co – 2005 Accounts independent examination	£587.50
David Hill: professional advice on new journal	£500.00
Fellows plaques	£372.66
Bank Charges	£60.00

TOTAL **£7,398.83**

Closing Balance carried forward **£133,406.17**

The above accounts have been independently examined by Henton & Co.LLP , Chartered Accountants, St Andrews House, St Andrews Street, Leeds LS3 1LF. They have also been sent to the UK Competition Commission as part of our annual report.

12. Web developments

Roger Stough thanked Randy Jackson and his colleagues (especially Mary Lou Myer) for years of tremendous service to RSAI. However, Council felt it was now time to move the web to the HQ of RSAI (currently Leeds, UK). Graham Clarke would assume responsibility for this. A private party would be employed to build and maintain the site, in addition to student support for minor updating at Leeds.

Graham Clarke also reported that, as part of this process, an electronic newsletter would be re-introduced as part of the member service package.

13. AOB

- i) Graham Clarke to chair a new sub-Committee to review requirements that may be needed to make sure RSAI adheres to UK Charity Commission laws. It was suggested this should be made up of the current trustees: Graham Clarke, Peter Batey, Antoine Bailly and Paul Cheshire
- ii) Given item 9 above, plus other recent changes, a new sub-committee was formed to re-examine the RSAI Constitution. This committee will be chaired by Roberta Capello and include Bob Stimson, Roger Stough, Yoshiro Higano, Jean-Claude Thill and Paul Cheshire
- iii) Branding guidelines were adopted and RSAI Executive Director was asked to prepare a statement for the RSAI web page and to be circulated to all Super Regional and associated sections of the RSAI so that guidelines are standard and the various organizations know specifically what RSAI recommends. These guidelines will apply to all conferences, workshops, advanced institutes and web pages of the Super Regional sections and their affiliated sections.
- iv) The China section initiative organization meeting planned for December 2007 has been postponed until April of 2008. More on this as details are firmed up.

14. Dates of next meetings:

LRPC – Tuesday March 18th 8.30 Sao Paulo
Council – Tuesday march 18th 14.30 Sao Paulo
(future of RSAI activities – Sunday March 17th 9.00 – all invited)

Graham Clarke and Roger Stough December 2007