

REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL: MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN PARIS, SEPTEMBER 2007

Present: Carlos Azzoni, Antoine Bailly, Peter Batey, Paul Cheshire, Roberta Cappelo, Graham Clarke (Exec. Dir), Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Yoshiro Higano, Jan Oosterhaven, Mark Partridge, Robert Stimson, Roger Stough (President) , Jean-Claude Thill, Jouke Van Dijk.

Apologies: David Edgington, T.J.Kim, Phil McCann, John Madden, George Petrakas, Jesse Poon

1. **Welcome:** Roger Stough welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed. There were no matters arising (not covered in matters below)

3. Long Range Planning Committee

Bob Stimson reported the discussion of the LRPC on the need to think through the future management and structure of the Council given significant changes in the development of RSAI. These were driven by new Sections appearing all over the World, the need to conform more closely to Charity Commission requirements in the UK (currently the official headquarters of RSAI) and fresh concerns over accountability, especially in relation to recent concerns over the nomination of future Presidents. These were issues that would be brought to future Council meetings. The LRPC had recommendations on the latter issue (see item 7 below). Bob Stimson also noted that LRPC had discussed branding (see item 6 below)

4. Papers in Regional Science

Jouke Van Dijk, reported on issues relating to Papers in Regional Science. He reported that the electronic manuscript submission and refereeing software ('Manuscript Central') was now working well. The number of submissions was around the 100 mark and that production was on schedule. A special edition on 'spatial econometrics' had been agreed, with Bernie Fingleton as guest editor. There were current discussions on increasing the size of Papers in order to speed up the time between acceptance and full publication, although pre-publication copies were now available on the web. Jouke noted the positive development of the launch of the Beckmann prize for best paper in Papers. The 2006 winner would be announced in Savannah.

Council thanked Jouke and his team for a very productive start to their period of office.

5. New Policy Journal

Roger Stough introduced this item and the latest detailed proposal from Blackwells and the potential editorial team. Council members welcomed the new proposal but there was considerable debate around:

i) Cost structures: generally Council felt that we should be able to negotiate a better financial model and there was some concern that there was an element of double counting in the management fees charged by Blackwells.

Action: Jouke van Dijk and Graham Clarke to go back to Blackwells and raise these concerns and attempt to re-negotiate. Jan Oosterhaven promised to provide Graham and Roger with the details of the deal that the IIOA has recently struck with Francis & Taylor regarding publishing Economic Systems Research

ii) Again concern was raised over Blackwells request for a 10 year deal. It was felt that a trial period should be adopted and the whole package then re-negotiated with Blackwells in 2009 (end of current contract period)

iii) Council welcomed the proposal from the potential editorial team but felt the current members did not reflect the world-wide membership as best it might. It was also felt that one or two of the current team could be replaced by those more directly engaged with policy research. There was however agreement that the Editorial Board should be selected from the 40 persons who volunteered their services in the call for interest sent out in spring 2007.

Action: Roger Stough to talk to editorial team and resubmit proposal as soon as possible following discussion with a new sub-committee: Roger Stough, Bob Stimson and Roberta Capello.

6. Branding

Roger Stough tabled a paper on branding which laid down the principles which conference organisers around the World should use in future publicity material and on conference packs etc. Council felt the wording of the document needed to be rather more conciliatory but that the spirit of the document was a step forward. It was suggested that this document could be reconstructed as a general support and advice document that could be sent out in future to all RSAI conference organisation teams.

In passing, Jan Oosterhaven complained that tabling papers which contained very late changes in this way was not good practise and in future this should be avoided.

Action: Roger Stough to revise document accordingly

7. Election of future presidents

Bob Stimson reported discussions at LRPC and suggested a new Nomination Committee should be set up. There was a long discussion over the membership of this group. It was felt that there should be representation both from the LRPC and each of the Supra-regions.

Action: Roger Stough to bring new document to the next meeting

8. World Congress 2008, Brazil

Carlos Azzoni reported on local arrangements.

Action: Roger Stough and Carlos Azzoni to put together the Scientific Committee and Graham Clarke to publicize the conference again to all RSAI members

9. Prizes

No new developments here. Calls will go out soon for 2007 Fellow nominations. Peter Batey reminded Council that a new sub-committee was required to decide on the next Founder's medal to be presented at the Brazil meeting 2008.

Action: Roger Stough to initiate new sub-committee

10. NARSC and South America

Jean Claude-Thill reported on the need to speed up the change from 'NARSC' to the Americans ('ARSC'). He felt that only minor changes would be required to RSAI constitution.

Action: Jean-Claude Thill and Carlos Azzoni to propose changes to Constitution for Savannah meeting following approval at NARSC meeting.

Roger Stough also reported on-going discussions with other research bodies in South America, specifically LACEA – Latin America Economics Association - which potentially could raise the profile of RSAI further in South America.

11. Website

Roger Stough noted that Council had made no progress in relation to Randy Jackson's proposals 12 months ago which outlined their minimum requirement to employ a postgraduate student on a more full-time basis. Roger felt that it might be appropriate to

give Randy and the West Virginia team a break from this onerous task after many years of excellent service. Paul Cheshire noted the opportunity to contract out this service in some way.

Action: Jean-Claude Thill and Graham Clarke to explore other potential sources.

12. AOB

Roberta Capello noted problems of certain ERSA sections and the Blackwells membership team.

Action; Graham Clarke and Roberta Capello to explore these issues with Blackwells.

13. Date of next Meeting – 9th November – 12.30 Savannah NARSC meeting

Graham Clarke
September 2007