

Minutes of RSAI Council Meeting at PRSCO Meeting, July 4, 2003, Acapulco, Mexico

Present: Antoine Bailly (chair), Franz-Josef Bade, Graham Clarke, Kieran Donaghy, Raymond Florax, Art Getis, Kingsley Haynes, Lay Gibson, Yoshiro Higano, Jessie Poon, Jacques Poot, John Quigley, Jorge Serrano, Brigitte Waldorf.

1. Apologies: David Boyce, Angelo Rossi, Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Aisling Reynolds-Feighen, Jean-Claude Thill, Adrian Esperza, John Madden. Geoffrey Hewings.

2. Minutes of last meeting: accepted

3. Matters arising: none

4. President's remarks: Antoine Bailly recapped on the need for change in the structure of RSAI as discussed in some detail at recent meetings in Croatia, Monterey, Dortmund and Puerto Rico. At the latter meeting a Transition Committee (TC) had been set up to propose changes to Council and to the membership. He outlined that this Committee had invited tenders for handling both membership services and the publication of 'Papers in Regional Science' and that it had met twice in London to review those tenders. He thanked that Committee for producing a proposal for discussion under item 9. This proposal would be further developed and discussed at Finland in August and at Philadelphia in November. However, he hoped that the basic principles could be agreed in Acapulco.

5. Long-range planning Committee: Kieran Donaghy and Kingsley Haynes reported on the most recent LRPC meeting. There were a number of proposals:

- i) Vice-President. The nomination from the LRPC was Robert Stimson from the University of Queensland, Australia. His skills were highlighted as including great experience in publishing in regional science and great experience with working with practitioners. It was agreed that he would represent RSAI very well across the globe. His nomination was accepted by Council and his name will go forward as a candidate for election in the next newsletter.
- ii) New Council members: Art Getis and Angelo Rossi have now completed their maximum six year Council periods. Antoine thanked them for their excellent contributions. Robert Stimson was nominated to fill one slot. Nominations for the second slot included Jack Parr, Marina Van Geenhuizen and Phil McCann. If these persons agree their names will go forward for election in the next newsletter. Action: Graham Clarke to invite these persons to stand.
- iii) There was a discussion on the number of RSAI committee meetings to be held each year in the future. After a debate it was agreed to keep the status quo. However, it was suggested that Graham should write to the three Super-regions to ensure that their nominations would be able to attend the required number of meetings. Action: Graham to write to Super-regions.
- iv) The LRPC raised the question of progress with arrangements for South African World meeting in April. Action: Graham to ensure details appear in next newsletter and that all is on track.
- v) Finally, Kieran passed round a copy of Walter Isard's new book on the history of Regional Science. This would be given to all conference participants at the Philadelphia North American Meeting in November as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. A CD/DVD with all the past papers of 'Papers in Regional Science' would also be available.

Antoine thanked the LRPC for its proposals.

6. Executive Director's Report: Graham Clarke began by informing Council that the ED's job was still very much a partnership between himself and both Kieran Donaghy and Beth Carbonneau in Urbana. This would remain the case until the full transition to a new publisher had been completed at the end of 2004. Graham reported on the visit of himself and Antoine Bailly to Urbana to understand better the organisation of RSAI. He thanked Kieran and Beth for their warm hospitality and continued support.

Kieran then reported latest membership figures stood at 1338 with second renewals about to go out (1666 last year). He also reported that finances were good. Graham was in the process of opening a UK bank account so that more day to day expenses could be switched to Leeds. There was a discussion on who should really be responsible now for finance. Although it was agreed that as much as possible be transferred to the Leeds bank account it was vital to keep an account open in Urbana to handle membership charges and wages until the end of 2004.

7. Papers in Regional Science: Raymond Florax reported that they had received 47 manuscripts so far this year and that they expected 100 by the end of the year. The pleasing increase in the number of submissions was supported by an increasing citation factor. An enlarged golden anniversary edition (officially 1st of 2004) would be available in Philadelphia. Raymond also reported the interesting exercise undertaken with Brigitte Waldorf to ascertain from Council members their perceptions of the leading books produced in regional science. These would form part of a new book review series looking back at key contributions.

Antoine thanked Raymond for his report and all his staff for their support.

8. Forthcoming Council meetings:

- i) Port Elizabeth (World) - 15th April likely date
- ii) Finland (ERSA) - 30th August 12:00
- iii) Philadelphia (North America) - 20th November 12:00

9. Transition Committee report: Graham Clarke outlined the proposal from the TC for a change in the handling of membership services and publication of 'Papers in Regional Science'. The paper was based on services that could be provided by Blackwells from their base in the UK. Council supported the general strategy and gave the TC permission to proceed actions with Blackwells. The main debating point was the level of service provision and the minimum price that could be charged. All Council members agreed with the principle of universal RSAI membership but also realised that if this was not cheap then sections would not subscribe. Two levels of membership at \$60 and at \$30 were proposed in the paper (with discounts for developing world and student members). An alternative strategy was to have one membership level (at \$20 or \$25 with suitable reductions for developing country and student membership) and for members then to pay on a pro rata basis for additional services. It was agreed that these two proposals be a feature of the revised document to be reviewed in the Council meeting at Finland and by all section heads for comments. It was also agreed that to sustain these cheaper prices all sections would have to agree to their members becoming full RSAI members. The level of basic services offered was also discussed. It was agreed that the basic cheap rate would give all members access to the website, an electronic newsletter and electronic access to the journal. Sections would also benefit from the elimination of fees paid to RSAI from their conferences and from the administration of membership fee collection (if required). Actions: Graham to revise document adding both proposals for further discussion and to produce a shorter version for section heads.

10. AOB: none

Graham Clarke, July 2003