

Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, Monterey, February 18, 1998

Present: Bailly (Observer), Batey (President and ERSA), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Getis (At-Large), Gibson (Observer), Haynes (NARSC), Isserman (NARSC), Kohno (Vice-President and PRSCO), Munro (PRSCO), Rossi (At-Large), Stough (NARSC); Regrets: Amrhein (At-Large), Reggiani (At-Large), Poot (At-Large), Roura (ERSA), Yang (PRSCO).

1. President Batey called the Meetings to order at 9:15 AM and the proposed agenda was accepted.

2. Minutes of the Wellington meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. President's report: Batey indicated that substantial progress had been made in negotiations with Springer-Verlag concerning future publication of Papers in Regional Science (PRS). He also announced that Kohno had been elected Vice-President by the membership and would assume the Presidency in 1999.

4. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy conveyed apologies from Jackson (RSAI News Editor) for typographical errors in the January issue of the newsletter. He announced that the Council meeting in Vienna would occur on the morning of August 27th, and the Council meeting in Sante Fe would occur on the morning of November 12th.

5. Update on World Congress planning: Angelo Rossi presented Rico Maggi and the LOC's programming ideas and circulated information on conference facilities in Lugano. The question of how to involve young scholars from less developed countries (LDCs) in the Congress was raised. In the discussion that ensued, Bailly suggested holding a meeting on the issue at the Vienna Congress. Haynes urged that participation by regional scientists from India be sought in particular. Isserman suggested that each of the three superregional conference-organizing committees sponsor scholars from particular LDCs. Bailly announced that he had organized a three-day conference in South Africa to be held in early 1999.

6. PRS Editor's Report: Florax announced that Park had stepped down as Pacific editor of PRS, effective January 1st, and that Poot had agreed to assume the role. Batey asked for and received Council's unanimous approval of Poot as the Pacific editor. Florax reported that submissions were up in the United States, that the 1999 volume was rounding nicely into form, and that he and his co-editors were working to shorten the turn-around time on submissions. Florax then presented criteria to be used for selecting a new editorial board of the journal: indisputable scholarly status, subject area representation, regional representation, institutional knowledge, cross-reference to other journals, and willingness to scout and referee papers and attend an annual meeting. The question of how many members would be appropriate was raised. Gibson suggested that there be about twenty members in all with sixteen meeting the first three criteria and four meeting the last three. He urged that four Council members be included on the editorial board. Isserman observed that since Council is the oversight body, four Councilors might not be necessary. Batey proposed that an ad hoc committee comprising him, Donaghy, Florax, Haynes and Kohno evaluate a list of thirty names and circulate recommendations to the full Council for approval. Council consented. Munro countered that council should endorse the criteria for editorial board selection but leave the selection to the committee. Council endorsed the criteria.

7. RSAI and IRSR Relationship: Isserman queried where Council stood on the issue of including the International Regional Science Review (IRSR) in the membership package. Donaghy noted that while the inclusion of the journal was approved at the Rome Council meeting, uncertainties over financial aspects of publishing PRS led Council at the Buffalo meeting to decide to defer implementation. Isserman noted that both he and Luc Anselin would be leaving the University of West Virginia and would be looking to move the journal as well. Batey urged Donaghy and Isserman to meet separately to explore ways in which RSAI and IRSR could work more closely together until such time as the financial uncertainties resolved.

8. Proposal to establish an RSAI News Web Page: A proposal from Randall Jackson to establish a web page for RSAI News, including a list of items that would be posted and an operating budget, was distributed. Getis proposed that all items on the list other than membership directories be posted. He also proposed that funding be allocated for development of the web page and that progress be reviewed for approval of continued funding at the Vienna Council meeting. Both proposals were approved.

9. Report on RSAI membership requirement at superregional meetings: A report examining suggestions by Peter Nijkamp on the membership requirement for participation in superregional meetings—commissioned by Batey at the Rome meeting from the committee of Donaghy, Gibson, Poot, and van Dijk—was distributed. The report reviewed the discussion at the Rome meeting and drew implications for the Association of several interpretations of Nijkamp's suggestions. While alternative views of the matter were aired, no action was taken to revise the existing policy.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.