

Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, Wellington, December 8, 1997

Present: Amrhein (At-Large), Batey (President and ERSA), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Fukuchi (At-Large), Getis (for Isserman, NARSC), Gibson (PRSCO), Haynes (NARSC), Higan, (Observer), Kohno (for Yang, PRSCO), Munro (PRSCO), Nijkamp, (ERSA), Park (PRS Pacific Editor, ex officio), Poot (At-Large), Reggiani (At-Large), Stough (for Schaffer, NARSC).
Regrets: Bailly (At-Large), Cuadrado-Roura (ERSA).

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:09 AM by President Batey and the proposed agenda accepted. Batey noted that a proposal from Randall Jackson to develop a web site for RSAI News, was not in hand at the time of the meeting but would be on the agenda of the next meeting.

2. The minutes of the Buffalo meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. President's Report: Batey welcomed Stough to the council and reported on visits to Urbana (regarding publication issues) and Lugano/Ticino (regarding the Year 2000 World Congress) after the Buffalo meeting. He noted that the editorial offices of the Papers in Regional Science (PRS) had been moved from Stockholm to Amsterdam.

4. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy announced that the fourth issue of volume 76 of PRS would be in the mail before Christmas and that David Boyce had accepted the position as Archivist for the Association. He reminded councilors that future Council meetings had been scheduled for 2/18/98 in Monterey, 8/28/98 in Vienna, and 11/10/98 in Sante Fe. This is a crock of doo-doo how this is flowing

5. Update on World Congress Planning: Batey thanked Gibson for drafting and circulating a memorandum of understanding between RSAI and the local organizing committee (LOC) from Lugano/Ticino and confirmed that the World Congress will be held at the University of Italian Switzerland in late May of 2000. The chair of the LOC will be Rico Maggi. Maggi will raise funds to support travel to the Congress by regional scientists from less developed economies; but, Batey noted, additional support will be required to facilitate travel to the conference by younger scholars in particular. He urged Reggiani to confer with Maggi about how RSAI can work with the LOC on this issue and flagged it as an item to be discussed more fully at the forthcoming Council meeting in Monterey. Nijkamp reported that opportunities for a World Congress in South Africa (SA) in 2004 were continuing to be explored, albeit without any commitments. He noted that South African colleagues would be invited to the World Congress in 2000 and efforts would be made to organize an international symposium in SA in 1999 that might serve as a run-up to a World Congress in 2004. Nijkamp distributed copies of an E- mail message from Manie Geyer reporting on a meeting by the management committee of the South African Regional Science Association (SARSA) concerning the organization of such a symposium. A small committee consisting of Kohno, Nijkamp, Funk, and Bailly will begin to pursue the matter.

6. Report on the State of the RSAI Archives: Donaghy distributed a listing of the contents of the RSAI archives at Cornell University and read excerpts from a recent letter from Lorna Knight, the Cornell Archival Librarian, regarding a strategy for collecting organizational records. Donaghy noted that Knight was not able to shed light on what Barclay Jones's plans were for developing Cornell's holdings for the Association, but that David Boyce, the new archivist, would present such plans at a future meeting.

7. Report from the Editor-in-Chief of PRS: A progress report by Raymond Florax on issues concerning the transition of the editorship of PRS was distributed. In the report Florax noted that negotiations with Springer-Verlag on a publishing agreement had taken a favorable turn, that the details of publication for Volume 77 had been worked out in principle, and that the editorial team was confronting issues of decision-making about the acceptance of manuscripts, tracking the status of submissions, the desirability of thematically unified issues, and the composition of the editorial board. Florax also requested approval of funding for a part-time editorial assistant and matching funds for travel to editorial meetings by the super-regional editors. Batey thanked Florax (in absentia) for his report and suggested that Council should advise the PRS editorial team on a procedure for restructuring the editorial board so as to ensure a smooth transition.

8. Proposal to enter into an agreement with Springer-Verlag (S-V) to publish PRS: Batey reviewed the history of deliberations on whether or not to enter an agreement with a commercial publisher for PRS from the Arlington Council meeting forward, the findings of his report delivered in Rome and that of Amrhein's committee presented in Buffalo, the proposal from S-V considered in Buffalo, and a more recent offer from S-V dated 11/25/97. According to the terms of the most recent offer from S-V, S-V would provide a fixed number of copies of the journal to RSAI to meet the needs of its membership but take over the institutional trade. RSAI would be paid a fixed amount annually to cover editorial assistance and administration, while the price of PRS to institutional subscribers would be raised by about 25%. S-V would not sell subscriptions to individuals and would make an electronic copy of the journal available only to institutional subscribers. Batey observed that in spite of a higher price to institutions, the journal would still cost institutions far less than other publications in the field, such as the *Annals of Regional Science*. Batey proposed that S-V's most recent offer be accepted and that the committee of Batey, Donaghy, and Florax, which had been involved in negotiations with S-V, be authorized draw up an agreement. The proposal was approved. Amrhein cautioned the Council that, in entering into publishing agreements, it should maintain flexibility in publishing media and retain ownership of the contents of back issues of PRS.

9. Proposal of Support for Editorial Assistance and Matching Funds for Travel to Meetings by the Super-Regional Editors of PRS: Donaghy proposed that, in keeping with previous PRS managerial practice, funding for a part-time editorial assistant for Raymond Florax be approved. The proposal was approved without major discussion. Donaghy also proposed that the Editor-in-Chief and super-regional editors be provided with up to \$1,000 per year in matching funds for travel to editorial meetings. Discussion: Gibson and Haynes opposed the proposal arguing that the editorial activities constituted service to the Association, for which RSAI members had not been remunerated in the past. They suggested that the PRS editorial meetings be scheduled to coincide with super-regional meetings, as are the meetings of the editorial board of the *Annals of Regional Science (ARS)*. Amrhein responded that by not offering limited matching funds for travel, in a time of restricted University budgets, travel to super-regional meetings other than one's own might impose hardships on the families of the editors. Donaghy took exception to the urging that the meeting schedule of the editorial board of ARS be adopted as the model case, observing that ARS was not an official RSAI publication. If the Association intends PRS to be the 'flagship' journal of the discipline, he argued, then it ought to be willing to commit support for travel by those giving of their time to editorial activities to make this possible. The proposal was amended to stipulate that PRS editors be provided with matching funds up to \$1,000 per year for travel to RSAI super-regional meetings other than their own and was approved in this form.

10. Proposal of Matching Funds for Travel to Super-Regional Meetings by Needy Scholars: Citing a number of recent instances in which LOCs of super-regional meetings wished to subsidize travel to their meetings by needy scholars whose participation they valued, Donaghy proposed that matching funds of up to \$1,000 be provided by RSAI to LOCs of super-regional meetings for the purpose of making such subsidies. It will be incumbent upon LOCs to determine allocational criteria, of which they will inform RSAI Headquarters, along with the number and names of recipients of travel grants. The proposal was accepted with a three-year 'sunset,' at which time the arrangement will be reviewed, and must be renewed if it is to be continued.

11. Batey observed that, after seven years of service on the Council, this was Lay Gibson's last meeting. Batey expressed the Association's gratitude to Gibson for his many contributions.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.