

## **MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: LIVERPOOL AUGUST 2008**

Present: Roger Stough (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Antoine Bailly, Roberta Capello, Mike Carroll, Paul Cheshire, Graham Clarke, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Lay Gibson, Yoshiro Higano, Charlie Karlsson, Gunther Maier, George Petrakos, Neil Reid, Bob Stimson, Jean-Claude Thill, Jouke van Dijk.

**1. Apologies:** David Edgington, T. John Kim, Phil McCann, Mark Partridge

Roger Stough welcomed all council members to the meeting

**2. Minutes of last meeting:** Accepted

### **3. LRPC**

Bob Stimson reported on discussions at LRPC.

- i) The first item discussed was the slow process in getting universal membership operational in certain Sections. It was agreed that RSAI may need a new strategy for resolving non-compliance with universal membership. Yoshiro Higano and Graham Clarke are working hard to try and resolve this in relation to PRSCO. Roberta Capello would try in relation to ERSA.
- ii) It was reported that good practice suggests we should have a formal AGM at one of the 3 supra-regional meetings each year. This could be tied in with the awards ceremony. The ED and President would compile a one page report for the membership with key activities and events.
- iii) Bob reported on the need to begin to start the procedure for obtaining nominations for the next president (see also item 9)
- iv) There was a brief report on discussions with the Regional Studies Association and the possibilities for future collaboration. Some members of RSAI feel that ultimately one regional organization would serve the community better. Similar feelings were expressed in relation to other potentially 'competing' groups; i.e. the Spatial Econometrics Society' (see also item 9). It was agreed that Roberta Capello would explore opening discussions with the Econometricians.
- v) The LRPC congratulated Carlos Azzoni on a terrific World Congress in 2008. The Council added its congratulations. China would be the first choice for 2012 provided the Section was up and running by April 2009 at the latest. If not, an Eastern Europe venue would be appropriate.

### **4. Constitutional Changes**

Roger Stough reminded Council of the position on the voting process in regard to the changes to the Constitution and the concerns of a few members about the wording in relation to which Supra region(s) a section was entitled to join. Lay Gibson reiterated those concerns. Roger thought that a few, very minor changes could be made to ensure

the possibility of a Section joining more than one Supra region was clear and unambiguous (what was actually originally intended).

Action: Roger to make changes with Lay Gibson and David Plane and re-circulate to Council

In addition Roger circulated a document to Council with some guidelines for any future occasions when there may be a need for voting on constitutional amendments.

## **5. Publications**

### **i) Papers in Regional Science**

Jouke van Dijk reported that the editorial team was now working very well together. The journal too was doing well with a 10% increase in the impact factor score. Jouke also noted an increase in the page size which would allow 25% more articles to be published each year. In 2009 the number of pages would also increase. The merger of Wiley-Blackwell had produced some gremlins in the distribution process but it was hoped that these would be short-lived and the next edition would be available soon. A special edition edited by Antonio Paez was planned and the 3 plenary speakers at Liverpool had also agreed to send their articles to PiRS.

Roger Stough asked Jouke for his written thoughts on the future of the journal and some targets. Jouke confirmed he had done this and Graham Clarke agreed to send this to all Council members.

Antoine Bailly led the Council in offering congratulations to Jouke and his team on the excellent progress the journal is making.

### **ii) RSPP**

Mike Carroll outlined progress towards the production of 'Regional Science Policy and Practice' (RSPP) Volume 1 later this year. This was on target and the first volume should be ready for the New York meeting in November. The first edition would contain around 300 pages with production moving up to 600 pages by 2011. The web page was up and running now (at Blackwells) and the process for electronic submissions should be operational by mid September.

Council praised the outstanding effort of the editors to get the first edition ready on time with such a strong content.

## **6. New Section Development**

Yoshiro Higano reported the success of the Bangladeshi meeting in Dacca. He also asked Council to agree to them becoming an official section of RSAI. This was agreed, on condition that a welcome letter explained what was required of them in terms of universal membership. Yoshiro also reported that the December meeting in China had been postponed due to Post-Olympic game problems! This was to be rescheduled for April 2009.

Jean-Claude Thill reminded Council that RSAmericas was now the new official 3<sup>rd</sup> supra-region of which NARSC would become a member. The first Council meetings of RSAmericas would take place in New York in November and the first scientific meetings would be held in Cartagena, Columbia on the 12-13<sup>th</sup> February. The World Bank was also involved. There will also be a workshop before that meeting organized with the aim to re-energize the potential Colombian Regional Science association. This would work in a similar way to the Argentina meeting before the 2008 World Congress. It was reported that Geoff Hewings, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Yoshiro Higano and Jean-Claude Thill would liaise in relation to both Argentina and Colombia.

Paul Cheshire noted lots of enthusiasm in East Europe with 44 Romanian delegates present in Liverpool for example. Poland was set to host ERSA 2009. Gunther Maier noted also the strong participation of young scholars from East Europe. It was agreed we need to work hard to capture these emerging Sections fully into RSAI.

Roger Stough reported that he was hopeful of India coming on board following their January conference where they have at last promised to engage with universal membership.

## **7. Executive Director's Report**

Graham Clarke reported that he had had interest from Eveline van Leeuwen (Free University Amsterdam) to become the newsletter editor under the direction of Graham Clarke. Council agreed to this appointment. It was hoped the first newsletter would be ready for Christmas 2008. He also confirmed with Council that in New York we would need to elect officially the Executive Director (who finishes his second period of 3 year office) and the Treasurer. He also noted the need to elect two new at-large council members and agreed to start the nominations procedure in mid-September.

## **8. Prizes**

Graham Clarke reported that there had been no nominations for the Nijkamp or Kohno prizes despite reminders to the membership. Gunter Maier also noted only two applications for the student prize (despite many in previous years). It was suggested that we might create a nominations committee to review the process if no nominations are forthcoming.

## **9. Report on Forum for the Strategic Development of RSAI**

Roger Stough reminded Council of the groups formed in Sao Paulo and suggested a brief report on progress could be made for each in New York:

- i) Sub-committee formed to work on a strategic plan (STOUGH (CHAIR); CAPELLO (CO-CHAIR); CUADRADO ROURA, BATEY, T.J. KIM; THILL; AZZONI).
- ii) Sub-committee formed to produce document on branding and web development (STOUGH, CLARKE (CHAIR), CAPELLO, REID; VAN DIJK; KARLSSON, THILL, YOSHIRO HIGANO)

- iii) Sub-Committee formed to consider possibility of raising endowments and funding opportunities (HEWINGS CHAIR; STOUGH, CAPELLO, CLARKE, STIMSON, PARTRIDGE)

**So Chairs please activate discussion asap.**

Council returned to 2 items from LRPC report

a) The verbal report on the meeting with the Regional Studies Association. Reservations were expressed by some Council members of moving too far too quickly on this matter. It was agreed Roberta Capello would lead RSAI response.

b) The Nomination Committee for the President-elect was agreed as (STOUGH, STIMSON, AZZONI, CUADRADO-ROURA, TJ KIM, HIGANO, THILL, KARLSSON, HEWINGS, BATEY). Roger Stough to activate discussion.

## **10 AOB**

Carlos Azzoni reported 220 delegates at Brazil meeting with a number of papers to appear in 'Studies in Regional Science'.

## **11. Date of next meeting (New York)**

**LRPC – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 08.00**

**Council – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November 12.00**