

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: SURFER'S PARADISE, JULY 2009

Present: Roberta Capello (chair), Patricio Arco, Mike Carroll, Graham Clarke, Yoshiro Higano, Phil McCann, Sam Park, Roger Stough, Jouke van Dijk.

1. Apologies: Carlos Azzoni, John Carruthers, Eduardo Haddad, Charlie Karlsson, T. John Kim, Gunther Maier, Mark Partridge, George Petrakos, Danny Shefer

Roberta Capello welcomed all council members to the meeting and thanked Roger Stough for all his hard work as previous President.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted

3. LRPC

Roger Stough reported on discussions at LRPC.

- i) There was a need to set up a search Committee to find possible candidates for the role of Executive Director to follow Graham Clarke's period of office. (see item 4 below)
- ii) The LRPC noted the success of the new developments in RSAmericas and South America generally. China and India still seemed more problematic. For India it was felt that if no commitment was imminent then a new tactic involving young scholars might be worth considering. Roger agreed to discuss possible ways forward with Geoff Hewings and Peter Nijkamp. Although China developments were also slow Yoshiro Higano felt that progress had been made (see item 8.2 below)
- iii) There was a discussion on the development of links with other regional science communities such as the Spatial Econometrics Society and Regional Studies Association (see item 10 below).
- iv) There was a discussion of the Fellowship proposal of Roberta Capello for Paul Krugman, given his recent outstanding Nobel Prize. It was decided to nominate him in the usual way. If accepted there was an opportunity to present his award at ERSA 2010 in Sweden where it was hoped he would be attending.
- v) Roger Stough apologized for not having had the opportunity to finish the constitutional edits. He promised to do this by the ERSA meeting.

4. Executive Director Search Committee

Roberta Capello suggested the following names: Capello, Stough, Higano, van Dijk, Haddad and Batey. This was agreed by Council subject to those in absentia also being in agreement. The issue of a professional ED was again voiced and it was agreed that this was part of the remit of the search committee to investigate these possibilities. Roberta agreed to start the process by producing a short report for this sub-committee.

5 RSAI World Congress 2010

Roberta Capello reported on her visit to Romania to talk to the local hosts. She reported the venue would be the West University of Timisoara and Council received a number of documents relating to the City and the conference venue. The region of Timisoara was noted to be especially interesting from the point of view of inward investment, especially from Italy. Roberta was very enthusiastic for the venue and the efforts of the local hosts to date. Daniella Constantin would be invited to ERSA Council meeting to give more details on the proposed event.

6. Publications

i) Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk reported that the size of the journal was increasing to 600-900 pages per year. Generally this reflected more submissions of good quality material. The main news for the journal this year has been the increase in its impact factor – now up to 1.3. Council offered their congratulations to Jouke and his team for this fantastic achievement. To cope with the increased workload and submissions in new economic geography Jouke and Robert suggested additional editors should be brought onto the team (see item 7 below)

ii) RSPP

Mike Carroll outlined the good progress towards the production of volume 2 of 'Regional Science Policy and Practice' (RSPP) scheduled for October 2009. He was now working with Wiley Blackwell for a strategy to obtain impact factor status. He noted the plan to move towards 4 editions in 2011 and suggested special editions would be likely at this stage. Richard LeHeron has expressed the desire to step down from the team and so Mike was asked to think of possible replacements for Lodz ERSA meeting. Roger Stough expressed disappointment that there were no volumes on display at the Blackwell stand at PRSCO meeting. Graham Clarke reported that a good marketing campaign will be in place at Lodz. A drinks reception has been planned (for both journals) at the RSAI lunchtime members forum. Roger Stough also made the observation that it was important for Council members to support the new journal with offers of papers or suggestions for others to be approached

7. Editors for Papers in regional Science

Roberta Capello informed Council that Jouke and his team was prepared to continue for another three year period and thanked them all for their hard work and success to date. She noted that as Phil McCann was moving from New Zealand to the Netherlands he would become the new European editor and that Takatoshi Tabuchi has agreed to take

over as Pacific Editor. Jouke would continue as Editor in Chief and Jim Le Sage as North American Editor. However it was felt that a 4th editor would be useful to help with submissions from Asia. Yoshiro Higano agreed to bring some suggestions to Lodz ERSA meeting.

8. New Sections

8.1 Patricio Arco reported on the inaugural RSAmericas meeting in Cartagena. It was felt to be very successful and there was a lot of support for further RSAI developments in Latin America. 2 groups were reported to be active in Colombia but it was hoped that they would provide a united proposal to join RSAI very soon. Patricio also reported much interest in Argentina and he promised to report back after his visit in September.

8.2 Yoshiro Higano reported that the dates for the China workshop had been finalized – 11-13th December in Beijing. There was now interest from various associations in China with regional interests. Yoshiro was hopeful that a Committee could be formed at that meeting to lay down the foundations for the new RSAI section. Council asked Yoshiro to make it clear that the future name must include regional science in the title.

8.3 Roger Stough offered to initiate a new strategy for reaching young scholars in India if the present strategy had made no progress by the ERSA meeting. That was imperative for a number of reasons, not least the decision needing to be made at Lodz on the venue of the next PRSCO meeting if it was not to be in India.

9. Executive Director's Report

- i) Graham Clarke reported that there had been one nomination for the Kohno prize for outstanding service to RSAI. It was agreed to award this for 2009 to Lay Gibson (Arizona) for his sterling work for RSAI, PRSCO, NARSC and the Western Regional Science Associations. There was again no nomination for the Nijkamp award and Council asked Bob Stimson and Peter Nijkamp to rethink the nomination process for this award. The Beckman prize had also been agreed by the Committee – congratulations to Fabien Candau of France. Gunter Maier, in absentia, reported that two applications for the student prize were currently being considered.
- ii) Graham Clarke reported that production for the next newsletter was on schedule. It was felt that not enough publicity had followed the production of the first newsletter, so hard copies would be produced and distributed at ERSA and NARSC.
- iii) Graham Clarke asked for any comments on potential new features for the Web to be addressed to him asap please as he was reviewing content and functionality with web managers.
- iv) The AGM style RSAI members forum had been set up for the Friday lunch time in Lodz. This would feature a series of short talks by the President, Executive

Director and the two journal editors. A drinks reception would be given by Blackwells.

10) Links with other associations

Roberta Capello reported promising first discussions with SEA and suggested we pursue the offer of Peter Batey to put together a set of working proposals to improve links to RSA. Phil McCann offered to help in this process. Graham Clarke agreed to ask Peter to do this.

11 AOB

None

12. Date of next meeting (Lodz)

LRPC – Friday 28th August 08.00

Members Forum Friday 28th August 12.30

Council – Friday 28th August 16.30