

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: SAO PAULO, MARCH 2008

Present: Roger Stough (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Dimitris Ballas, Roberta Capello, Mike Carroll, Graham Clarke, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Yoshiro Higano, Gunther Maier, Mark Partridge, George Petrakos, Neil Reid, Bob Stimson, Jean-Claude Thill.

1. Apologies: Paul Cheshire, David Edgington, Charlie Karlsson, T. John Kim, Phil McCann, Jouke van Dijk.

Roger Stough welcomed all council members, especially Gunther Maier for the first time, and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

2. Minutes of last meeting: Accepted, with the correction of the university affiliation of Juan Cuadrado-Roura which was wrongly stated.

3. Matters arising: None

4. LRPC

Bob Stimson reported on discussions at LRPC. The LRPC had particularly welcomed Mark Partridge as a representative of Council (TJ Kim not able to attend). Much of the discussion was around matters below on the agenda. In relation to other matters there was a useful discussion on potential future funding sources, especially endowment possibilities (see item 9 below). Bob also reported on the desire to involve the RSAI Fellows more in RSAI conferences, especially sessions organized with young scholars. Finally, Bob expressed the hope that the 2012 World Congress could be held in China if developments advance to plan.

5. Policy Journal

Mike Carroll and Neil Reid outlined progress towards the production of 'Regional Science Policy and Practice' (RSPP) Volume 1 later this year. The editorial team (approximately 10 persons from each supra-region) was now in place and the scope and call for papers had been produced (the team is based largely on the call for interest put out to the membership last year). There were now commitments from various authors for volume 1 which would also contain an editorial piece by Mike and his colleagues. A number of mock-ups were currently being considered for the cover. The aim was still to try and get the first edition ready by the time of the North American meeting in New York, although some extended flyer/extended contents would be available at the ERSA conference in Liverpool. Officially, however, Jan/Feb 2009 would be the publication date of the first edition.

Council also agreed to accept the latest contract from Wiley-Blackwells (WB) for the production of both PiRS and RSPP. The contract specifies an additional 60%-65% of space for publications in PiRS (size of the pages in PiRS will increase 20% and the number of pages will increase from 600 to 900 per year). RSPP will have 300 pages allocated to it for

each year of the first two years of the contract, and WB will continue to collect the 10 Euro capitation membership fee from the sections and operate the RSAI journal related web site.

6. Papers in Regional Science

Jouke van Dijk was unable to attend but Council considered a paper from Jouke which argued for an increase in editorial office expenses. The consensus view was that as PiRS is the flagship journal of RSAI, Council should support Jouke and his colleagues in their attempts to improve circulation and quality. However, it was agreed that in return Jouke be asked to produce some targets for the journal and that council monitor the future progress in attaining these over the next three years.

7. Executive Director's Report

Graham Clarke reported that

i) the new Fellows for 2008 are:

T.R.Lakshmanan
Daniel McMillen
John McDonald
Jan Oosterhaven
Harry W. Richardson
Roger Stough
Takatoshi Tabuchi

Congratulations to one and all!

ii) Antoine Bailly had been awarded the 2008 Founder's medal – the Council gave its congratulations to Antoine

iii) Charlie Karlsson had been elected as Councillor at large for 2008-2010.

iv) Gunther Maier had agreed to Chair the Committee for the student prizes

v) From 2008 the new Trustees of the RSAI would be: Bob Stimson (Queensland), Peter Brown (Liverpool) and Andres Rodrigues-Pose (LSE), with Graham Clarke remaining in post. These new trustees were approached by the out-going trustees in line with regulations of the UK Charity Commission. Council thanked these persons for agreeing to take on this duty.

8. NARSC and Latin America

Jean-Claude Thill reported that NARSC has approved the formation of the new Regional Science of the Americas. The constitution is currently being changed accordingly (Thill and Azzoni). There would be a meeting in February 2009 in Cartagena in Columbia to launch the new Supra-region. It was hoped to attract 100/200 delegates.

It was also reported that a recent meeting in Buenos Aires of the potential new section in Argentina had gone very well and there was a lot of energy in this region. Yoshiro Higano and Jean-Claude Thill were encouraged to take this forward with the help of Juan Cuadrado-Roura who had done much to facilitate the meeting in Buenos Aires and regional science generally in South America..

Jean-Claude Thill and Roger Stough also reported on discussions with the Latin America and Caribbean Economics Association (LACEA) on potential future collaboration. To date joint sessions have been organized at the upcoming LACEA meeting. Roger Stough suggested that monies for young scholars to attend might be forthcoming from the World Bank and other groups.

9. Report on Forum for the Strategic Development of RSAI

Roger Stough reported on the meeting of the Forum (all Councillors and members of the LRPC were invited) which took place on Sunday 16th March. Lots of good ideas were raised and these are summarized below with action points where appropriate:

- i) Peter Batey reflected on the development plan initiated in Charleston in 2001. He felt that RSAI had gone along way to implementing this plan with no little success. It was felt that there was a need, however, to build on this plan and create a new development plan for all RSAI members to see and follow over the next few years. The plan of the Royal statistical Society was mentioned as a good potential model to follow. Action: Sub-committee formed to work on the plan (STOUGH (CHAIR); CAPELLO (CO-CHAIR); CUADRADO ROURA, BATEY, T.J. KIM; THILL; AZZONI).
- ii) Branding was raised as an important issue. Recent conferences at Savannah and Sao Paulo had proved excellent in respect to RSAI and local branding. However, there is a need to produce a 'good practice guide' for the web and to send to all future conference organizers. Action: sub-committee formed to produce document on branding and web development (STOUGH, CLARKE (CHAIR), CAPELLO, REID; VAN DIJK; KARLSSON, THILL, YOSHIRO HIGANO)
- iii) The web was seen as an important tool to develop regional science. Graham Clarke reported on the transfer of the web to Leeds and the new developments and asked for particular suggestions for new web pages. The ability to browse key information in different languages was raised. Action: comment on web development to Graham Clarke who will explore multi-language text versions.
- iv) Sally Hardy, Executive Director of the Regional Studies Association (RSA), made a short presentation on possible future joint initiatives. These included joint sessions at RSA and RSAI conferences beginning with Liverpool 2008. She also outlined a specific proposal for a potential new journal aimed at postgraduate students. Action: It was agreed to form a sub-committee to take discussions onwards (STIMSON -CHAIR, PETRAKOS, CAPELLO, PARTRIDGE, STOUGH, BATEY).

- v) Geoff Hewings raised the issue of endowments and funding opportunities. He also noted the need to spend 5% each year (at least) of remaining endowment funds in North America (under new US tax law). Action: HEWINGS CHAIR; STOUGH, CAPELLO, CLARKE, STIMSON, PARTRIDGE]

10 Report from the 'constitution' committee

Roberta Capello presented changes in the RSAI Constitution based on the work of the RSAI Constitutional Committee. A copy of the Constitutional proposal was circulated to the Council for its review prior to the meeting in Sao Paulo. The proposed changes include the creation of by laws enabling more flexible adaptation of RSAI to change, e.g., creating new supra regional organizations of the RSAI as new sections in new world regions are created or need to be changed to fit new circumstances, e.g., as in the case of the new Regional Science Association of the Americas. It also proposes a clear articulation of procedures for electing/appointing Council members and officers, e.g., the President of RSAI, treasurer and several other items. Council agreed to a clause in the new constitution that is consistent with that in the old: that a new section may become a member of RSAI by joining one or more supra regional organizations. Given that Council approved the proposed changes the next step is for it to be voted on by RSAI members. The proposal will be circulated by the executive director to all members of RSAI for voting in the near future. A strong vote of thanks was proposed to Roberta and the members of the Committee for the work that has been done to develop the proposal.

11. Reports on new sections

Yoshiro Higano reported on developments regarding the creation of a China section of regional science. A meeting is scheduled for December 12-14, 2008 where agreement will be sought from a large number of stakeholder associations in China to support the development of this new section. Yoshiro has worked diligently and tirelessly to bring the process in China to this point and he was thanked for his considerable efforts. Yoshiro also reported that the new Bangladesh section created in 2007 will host the PRSCO Summer Institute later this year.

Preliminary discussions on a site for the 2012 World Congress were begun but put on hold until we see if China will form a section this year. If so then earlier discussion at LRPC was to support having the next Congress in China. Council will need to further discuss this matter at the Liverpool and New York conferences.

12. Date of next meeting

LRPC – Friday 29th August 08.00
Council – Saturday 30th August 16.00