

# Minutes

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## **RSAI MEETING PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, 2019**

RSAI Council Meeting – Nov. 15, 2019, Thursday, 12.30 pm-2.30 pm, room Parkview West

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### **1. Apologies**

Mark Partridge welcomes Council, members ex-officio members and invited members.

Council members attending the meeting include: Mark Partridge (RSAI President); Amit Batabyal (Councillor-at-large); Peter Stenberg (NARSC representative); Neil Reid (NARSC ED and representative); Sandy Dell’Erba (NARSC representative); Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director) Joke Van Dijk (ERSA Representative); André Torre (ERSA President and Representative); Laurie Schintler (Councillor-at-large); Tomaz Dentinho; Eduardo Haddad (Incoming President); Budy Resosudarmo (Immediate Past President); Rosella Nicolini (Councillor-at-large); Roberta Capello (PiRS EiC).

LRPC members include Jean-Claude Thill and Budy Resosudarmo  
Invited members include Xiumin Li (RSAC Vice-President).

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the Lyon meeting**

The Council unanimously approves the minutes of the Lyon meeting.

### **3. 2020 Budget**

Andrea Caragliu explains the guidelines that led to the way the proposed budget have been drafted. Sandy Dell’Erba inquires about where 79,000 of expected costs for the World Congress originate. Andrea Caragliu provides a breakdown of such costs.

The Council approves the proposed budget unanimously.

In addition, Mark Partridge stresses that our journals are very inexpensive, and with open access revenues are likely to decline; as a consequence, he wonders whether this situation is financially sustainable.

Mark Partridge also says that the Chilean section will have troubles paying their fees because their main source of revenues has expired for the year being. The Council agrees to waive the dues of the Chilean section for the ongoing year.

### **4. Elections of Councillors-at-large**

Andrea Caragliu reports on the results of the online ballot. On the basis of a broad participation by members, a large relative majority goes to Dr. Daniela Luminita Constantin (Romanian Section/ERSA). The Council welcomes Dr. Constantin on board.

### **5. Nurturing Talent initiatives**

Mark Partridge explains the procedure for the selection of new proposals, and the composition of the committee; for 2019, this is made up of Mark Partridge (RSAI President), Eduardo Haddad (President Elect), André Torre (ERSA President and delegate), Neil Reid (NARSC Executive Director and Delegate), Serena Eréndira Errano-Oswald (LARSA President and Delegate), Rachel Franklin (PRSCO President and delegate), and Andrea Caragliu (Executive Director).

Andrea Caragliu explains that the Committee received eight (8) candidatures. It reviewed such candidatures received prior to the RSAI Council meeting and on the basis of the rules for the distribution of funds approved by the RSAI Council held in Goa, 2018, proposes the following allocation of funds:

Worskhop/Summer school	Supranational of reference	Dates	Amount requested	RSAI proposal
ERSA summer school Lausanne	ERSA	June 15-19, 2020	€ 5,000.00	€ 5,000.00
PRSCO summer institute Vietnam	PRSCO	July 29-31, 2020	€ 6,000.00	€ 3,000.00
Acores institute on oceans	ERSA	July 1-4, 2020	€ 3,000.00	€ 2,000.00
Data science, machine learning and BigData (Morocco)	ERSA	June 1-2, 2020	€ 3,800.00	€ 3,000.00
Iasi workshop for young researchers	ERSA	May 13-15, 2019	€ 5,000.00	€ 3,000.00
VU-Indonesia workshop on transportation economics	PRSCO	Jan. 13-Feb.7, 2020	€ 5,571.00	€ 4,500.00
India workshop "Resilience Studies in Regional Science"	PRSCO	TBD	€ 7,800.00	€ 2,500.00
<i>Thailand workshop Spatial Agent-Based Modeling</i>	<i>PRSCO</i>	<i>June/July 2020</i>	<i>€ 5,500.00</i>	<i>€ 3,000.00</i>
?	<i>NARSC</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>€ 1,860.00</i>

André Torre appreciates the process on behalf of ERSA. He also adds that the Vietnamese proposal could be complemented by a more detailed description of the proposed activities, but that he also expects PRSCO to support the organization of this event.

Mark Partridge elicits candidatures from China.

Jouke Van Dijk also agrees that the process went smoother with respect to previous years. He also adds that criteria should be set – are these Nurturing Talent initiatives meant to support keynote speeches or rather young scholars? Should they be separate from conferences held or back-to-back to them?

Mark Partridge replies a format for proposals should be uploaded online. He would also have a policy to decide in favor or against repeated applications. Jouke Van Dijk adds that criteria are important also for people submitting a proposal.

Roberta Capello adds that if money is made available, these issues will not represent a problem; if instead two or more competing proposals are presented, then preference should be directed towards new initiatives. Amit Batabyal adds that the Committee should decide on the basis of the pure quality of the proposal.

Budy Resosudarmo adds that RSAI should concentrate on the goal of the activities. Amit Batabyal adds that a format would definitely help on this respect. André Torre adds that RSAI should also choose whether to fund independent initiatives or instead prefer those backed up by congress organizers. Andrea Caragliu explains the complications that this procedure bears especially for institutions located in developing countries.

Eduardo Haddad says that the RSAI should show some flexibility, especially in the experience of developing countries. Jouke Van Dijk adds that summer schools are typically longer than a single day. Mark Partridge suggests to select whether we want to subsidize congresses or not, indirectly.

After this fruitful discussion, the RSAI Council unanimously approves the proposed allocation of funds.

## **6. Status of the World Congress**

Mark Partridge explains that to date 116 submissions have been received and that the deadline for early submissions has been moved to Jan. 21, 2020. Prof. Li reports that Paul Snow guarantees participation from Chinese scholars. Tomaz Dentinho proposes to open the call for applications. Mark Partridge replies that the LRPC suggests to hold the voting in Bolzano, during the 2020 RSAI Council to be held at the ERSA Congress. Sandy Dall'Erba asks whether the RSAI considers whether to merge the World Congress with a Supranational event.

Budy Resosudarmo proposes to add a schedule letting people know when things are going to be done.

## **7. Strategic planning**

Mark Partridge explains that in Sao Paolo in 2008 the Council, in response to the challenge by the Regional Studies Association, set up a committee to see how to restructure the RSAI itself. He proposes to set up a strategic planning meeting in a process, dealing with the challenges and opportunities, like the growth in numbers; the growth in supranationals (soon to be 5); having a professional staff doing everyday chores. The supraregional associations' relations with the RSAI are also unclear. Relations are often bilateral. The RSAI also deals with competition from the competing learnt societies, and wonders how to tackle that challenge in the future.

Mark Partridge also suggests to involve the supranationals in this process. Representatives could be selected among one representative from each supranational (plus one from the emerging Continental Asia suprasection), plus a member of the LRPC (to this goal, he proposes Jean-Claude Thill). Various meetings could be held, the first in PRSCO/Hawaai congress due March 2020. Qualified majorities will be required (e.g. 2/3) for any item on a report to be ideally delivered at the forthcoming NARSC Congress in San Diego, Nov. 2020.

Sandy Dell'Erba says that if we want to move to a professional help we should think of how much costs this would bear, for which a possible solution could be to share the costs of professional consultants already hired by other Associations (he makes the example of the American Planners Association). Another point is related to communication. A suggestion could be to put up minutes online.

André Torre adds that many items should be discussed related to the RSAI-Supranationals relations. Roberta Capello says it is good to think of where we are now. Still, we have to clarify what we want out of this costly exercise. In 2008, she reports she was involved in a similar exercise with Roger Stough and Peter Batey. The committee had a specific mandate, i.e. to deal with competition from other learnt societies. The committee was asked to jot down a white paper on that specific issue. She adds that

with such a broad mandate there would be too much material to be revised. She claims things are connected.

Jouke Van Dijk strengthens Mark Partridge's position: the main goal of this committee should be to define what the aim of the RSAI is. Then the strategy to reach the goal would come as a consequence, and, lastly, the way to finance such goal should also be discussed.

Mark Partridge replies that this must be a rather practical procedure. Rosella Nicolini agrees that the foundations of the Association should be scrutinized. Only then we would need a second step. In fact, if we go for a decentralized institutional setting, this means a higher coordination effort would be needed.

Amit Batabyal adds that the costs of professionalization would be substantial, as also suggested by his experience with other professional associations. Budy Resosudarmo talks on behalf of PRSCO saying that PRSCO is changing substantially, also through its splitting. The transition, also with a forthcoming new Executive Director, would be smoother if RSAI were a stable organization. Because of the state they are in, no proposal would come from PRSCO, arguably.

Tomaz Dentinho fears that if the RSAI opts for a different structure, people from developing Countries may find it hard to join. Mark Partridge replies that the committee would first have to agree on a joint proposal, to be discussed by the LRPC, the Council, and the Supranationals. Jouke Van Dijk adds that if we ask the Committee binary options, this may help. André Torre adds it is time to think together about the future of RSAI, especially in terms of governance. Will we elect the President on a rotation basis? Also, do we associate the World Congress with existing supranationals? Roberta Capello replies that this is too much to be discussed, but Mark Partridge says everything is interconnected and needs to be tackled simultaneously.

Roberta Capello adds the RSAI President should be attending these meetings, and she also wonders what role the LRPC would play in the light of this committee's activities. Mark Partridge replies that the Committee, appointed by the RSAI Council, will have to report to the RSAI Council in Morocco in 2020, at a meeting joint with the LRPC. He concludes he does not want to look like he has a conflict of interest. André Torre adds that this procedure should not be followed too quickly. One way out could be to have the Committee come up with a list of items to be discussed in Marrakech at the RSAI Council meeting to be held at the 2020 World Congress.

Mark Partridge summarizes that a Committee, possibly chaired by Jean-Claude Thill, will work towards presenting a set of themes that it would want to address. Jean-Claude Thill points out that priorities among them should be suggested. This body could not suggest to add fundamental changes to the Constitution, that changes only with the vote of the members. Sandy Dall'Erba adds that deadlines should be set for making the Committee work on a timely basis.

The Council unanimously agrees on the summary proposed and on setting up the Committee.

## **8. Replacement of Eduardo Haddad as Editor of PiRS**

Roberta Capello explains that Eduardo Haddad stepped down as PiRS editor because of his incoming position as RSAI Vice-President. She asked Julie Le Gallo to cover the same themes and if the Council agrees she is ready to take up the job. The Council unanimously approves the new Editorial Board for PiRS.

## **9. Awards**

### **❖ Kohno Award (Budy Resosudarmo)**

Budy Resosudarmo reports the Council that there is no candidature for the present year, and he adds that candidatures are welcome.

### **❖ Jean Paelinck Award (Roberta Capello)**

Roberta Capello reports about the process that will lead by the Fall term to the selection of the awardee of this prestigious biannual award.

### **❖ RSAI dissertation competition (Laurie Schintler)**

Laurie Schintler reports that less applications (5) were received w.r.t. previous years. She will report to the Council about the outcome of the selection process as soon as it is done.

### **❖ Stan Czamanski award (Laurie Schintler)**

Laurie Schintler reports that one application only was received, but that the one received was qualitatively good. She also suggests to move the deadline to the same deadline as the dissertation award. Also, some misperceptions seem to exist about the award, which is not about the man per se. Neil Reid adds that the funds committed for the award are running out. Sandy Dall'Erba suggests to maintain the award without any money involved. Laurie Schintler also suggests to merge the two committees.

## **10. Diversity in RSAI: collecting data on gender and age**

Andrea Caragliu explains that these data will be collected by the RSAI, ensuring full privacy of the members, upon registering new members each year.

## **11. Amendment of RSAI By-Law 6: deadline for the RSAI Treasurer**

Andrea Caragliu proposes to review the by-law 6 discussing the duties of the RSAI Treasurer. This is the only position that still has no deadline. He proposes to set it to three years as the ED, for guaranteeing transparency and accountability. The Council unanimously agrees.

## **12. Proposal of restructuring of the RSPP Editorial Board**

Tomaz Dentinho (RSPP EiC) explains he wants the editors to be extended by six with more people on board, leveraging on special issues, keeping an eye to the fact that Wiley does not impose a limit to the number of issues per year. Tomaz Dentinho reports RSPP is still missing Asia coverage. The Council votes unanimously in favor of the new team.

## **13. RSAI Application for the UN-Habitat program in Ethiopia**

Tomaz Dentinho explains the Council about this possible opportunity for joining initiatives in Africa, where the coverage of RSAI local sections is very limited. The Council approves.

## **14. Abolition of RSPP best referee award**

Tomaz Dentinho proposes to abolish the award because it did not serve well the purpose of eliciting the referees' work. The Council unanimously agrees on dropping the award.

## **15. Request of RSAI sponsorship for the International Congress Rhegion UN 2020-2030**

The RSAI Council endorses (non-financial) support to this initiative.

### **16. Report of the RSAI Archivist**

Mark Partridge explains Peter Batey's proposal. The Council unanimously approves.

### **17. Proposal for the RSPP Special Issue Award**

Tomaz Dentinho explains

### **18. AOB**

None to be reported.

### **19. Next meeting**

Andrea Caragliu tells the Council that the 2020 RSAI Council meetings will be held in:

- ❖ Marrakech, World Congress (June 2-5, 2020)
- ❖ Bolzano, ERSA Congress (Aug. 25-28, 2020)
- ❖ San Diego, NARSC Congress (Nov. 11-14, 2020)

At 2.42 Mark Partridge adjourns the Council.

## Annex 1: RSAI Council Members

### 2019 RSAI Council Members

	Name	Member	Period	
1	Mark Partridge	President	2019-2020	<a href="mailto:partridge.27@osu.edu">partridge.27@osu.edu</a>
2	Eduardo Haddad	Elected and Vice	2019-2022	<a href="mailto:ehaddad@usp.br">ehaddad@usp.br</a>
3	Rachel Franklin	PRSCO President	2019-2020	<a href="mailto:rachel.franklin@newcastle.ac.uk">rachel.franklin@newcastle.ac.uk</a>
4	Lily Kiminami	PRSCO Representative	2018-2020	<a href="mailto:kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp">kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp</a>
5	Brian Kim	PRSCO Representative	2019-2021	<a href="mailto:briankim66@snu.ac.kr">briankim66@snu.ac.kr</a>
6	Neil Reid	NARSC Executive Director	2018-2020	<a href="mailto:neil.reid@utoledo.edu">neil.reid@utoledo.edu</a>
7	Peter Stenberg	NARSC Representative	2019-2021	<a href="mailto:nordacad13@gmail.com">nordacad13@gmail.com</a>
8	Sandy Dall'Erba	NARSC Representative	2019-2021	<a href="mailto:dallerba@illinois.edu">dallerba@illinois.edu</a>
9	Andre Torre	ERSA President	2019-2022	<a href="mailto:andre.torre@wanadoo.fr">andre.torre@wanadoo.fr</a>
10	Francisco Carballo Cruz	ERSA Representative	2017-2019	<a href="mailto:fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt">fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt</a>
11	Jouke Van Dijk	ERSA Representative	2019	<a href="mailto:jouke.van.dijk@rug.nl">jouke.van.dijk@rug.nl</a>
12	Serena Erendira Serrano	LARSA President and RSAI Treasurer	2018-2020	<a href="mailto:sesohi@hotmail.com">sesohi@hotmail.com</a>
13	Jaime Bonet	LARSA Representative	2017-2019	<a href="mailto:jbonetmo@banrep.gov.co">jbonetmo@banrep.gov.co</a>
14	Eduardo Haddad	LARSA Representative	2017-2019	<a href="mailto:ehaddad@usp.br">ehaddad@usp.br</a>
15	Amit Batabyal	Councillor at large	2018-2020	<a href="mailto:aabgsh@rit.edu">aabgsh@rit.edu</a>
16	Sumana Bandyopadhyay	Councillor at large	2018-2020	<a href="mailto:sumona_bm@yahoo.com">sumona_bm@yahoo.com</a>
17	Rosella Nicolini	Councillor at large	2018-2020	<a href="mailto:Rosella.nicolini@uab.cat">Rosella.nicolini@uab.cat</a>
18	Maria Abreu	Councillor at large	2019-2021	<a href="mailto:ma405@cam.ac.uk">ma405@cam.ac.uk</a>
19	Laurie Schintler	Councillor at large	2017-2019	<a href="mailto:lschintl@gmu.edu">lschintl@gmu.edu</a>
20	Andrea Caragliu	Executive Director	2019-2021	<a href="mailto:andrea.caragliu@polimi.it">andrea.caragliu@polimi.it</a>

### LRPC Members

1	Peter Nijkamp	President	1991 – 1992	<a href="mailto:pnijkamp@feweb.vu.nl">pnijkamp@feweb.vu.nl</a>
2	Lay J. Gibson	President	1993-1994	<a href="mailto:ljpgibson@ag.arizona.edu">ljpgibson@ag.arizona.edu</a>
3	Kingsley E. Haynes	President	1995-1996	<a href="mailto:khaynes@gmu.edu">khaynes@gmu.edu</a>
4	Peter W. J. Batey	President	1997-1998	<a href="mailto:pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk">pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk</a>
5	H.Khono	President	1999-2000	
6	Geoffrey J.D.Hewings	President	2001-2002	<a href="mailto:hewings@uiuc.edu">hewings@uiuc.edu</a>
7	Antoine Bailly	President	2003-2004	<a href="mailto:antoine.bailly@unige.ch">antoine.bailly@unige.ch</a>
8	Robert J. Stimson	President	2005-2006	<a href="mailto:rstimson@unimelb.edu.au">rstimson@unimelb.edu.au</a>
9	Roberta Capello	President	2009-2010	<a href="mailto:roberta.capello@polimi.it">roberta.capello@polimi.it</a>
10	Yoshiro Higano	President	2011-2012	<a href="mailto:higano@jsrsai.jp">higano@jsrsai.jp</a>
11	Jean-Claude Thill	President	2013-2014	<a href="mailto:Jean-Claude.Thill@uncc.edu">Jean-Claude.Thill@uncc.edu</a>
12	Andres Rodriguez Pose	President	2015-2016	<a href="mailto:a.rodriguez-pose@lse.ac.uk">a.rodriguez-pose@lse.ac.uk</a>
13	Budy Resosudarmo	President	2017-2018	<a href="mailto:budy.resosudarmo@anu.edu.au">budy.resosudarmo@anu.edu.au</a>
14	Mark Partridge	President Elected	2017-2020	<a href="mailto:partridge.27@osu.edu">partridge.27@osu.edu</a>

### RSAI Ex-Officio Members

1	Roberta Capello	Editor in Chief of PIRS	<a href="mailto:roberta.capello@polimi.it">roberta.capello@polimi.it</a>
2	Tomaz Dentinho	Editor in Chief of RSPP	<a href="mailto:tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt">tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt</a>
3	Peter W. J. Batey	Archivist	<a href="mailto:pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk">pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk</a>
4	Martjin Smit	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:M.J.Smit@uu.nl">M.J.Smit@uu.nl</a>
5	Graham Clarke	Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:G.P.Clarke@leeds.ac.uk">G.P.Clarke@leeds.ac.uk</a>
6	Hiroyuki Shibusawa	PRSCO Executive Director	<a href="mailto:hiro-shibu@tut.jp">hiro-shibu@tut.jp</a>
7	Francisco Carballo Cruz	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt">fcaballo@eeg.uminho.pt</a>
8	Elisabete Martins	Finance Director	<a href="mailto:Elisabete.martins@apdr.pt">Elisabete.martins@apdr.pt</a>

### Invited Members

1	Xiumin Li	RSAC Vice-President	<a href="mailto:lixm@nenu.edu.cn">lixm@nenu.edu.cn</a>
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