

Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, Seoul, Korea, July 12, 1999

Present: Batey (Immediate Past President and ERSA), Choo (PRSCO16 LOC), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Fischer (At-Large), Gibson (Observer), Haynes (NARSC), Higano (Observer), Kilkenny (At-Large), Kohno (President and PRSCO), Park (PRSCO16 LOC), Poot (PRS Pacific Editor and At-Large), and Quigley (PRSCO).

Regrets: Bade (ERSA), Cuadrado-Roura (ERSA), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Getis (At-Large), Isserman (NARSC), Rossi (At-Large), Stough (NARSC), and Yang (PRSCO).

1. President Kohno called the meeting to order at 9:20 A.M. The proposed agenda was adjusted to include a report from the PRSCO16 LOC.

2. The minutes to the Sante Fe meeting (printed in the January 1999 RSAI News) were accepted with the following corrections: in the list of participants Nijkamp should be identified as an observer, not an ERSA representative; and in item 10 Brian Wells should be identified as a rector, not a proctor.

3. President's Report: President Kohno thanked Professor Sam Ock Park and Dr. Sungjae Choo for hosting the PRSCO meeting and for making arrangements for the Council meeting. Noting that this was the first meeting of his presidency, Kohno identified the need to build the membership base of RSAI as one to which he would be directing much attention during his term. He then presented prepared remarks in which he suggested that membership might be increased if membership fees paid to RSAI could be adjusted so that the total sum of fees paid by regional scientists to sections, superregional organizations, and RSAI were equalized after being normalized by the per capita incomes of their respective countries. He indicated that a concrete proposal would be forthcoming. Kohno's ideas were discussed briefly. Donaghy suggested that discussion of any changes to revenue collection mechanisms should be postponed until the November council meeting at which the treasurer's report would be presented.

4. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy also thanked the representatives of the PRSCO16 LOC for their good work in organizing the meetings and welcomed Manfred Fischer,

Maureen Kilkenny, and John Quigley to the Council. He announced that the RSAI headquarters offices were being moved to a new location on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign and asked for patience with any interruption of service over the transition period. He noted that issues 1 and 2 of the present volume of Papers in Regional Science had been mailed, that the August issue of RSAI News would go out in early August, and that the membership directory had been distributed earlier in the year. He apologized for the manner in which some surnames had been alphabetized in the directory. Quigley inquired whether the membership directory could be made available to members in electronic form. Donaghy indicated that in previous years availability had been restricted to conference organizers in order to limit commercial use of the list. He was urged to post the list electronically to facilitate communications between members and perhaps reduce publishing costs. Donaghy conveyed information from Andrew Isserman that the April issue of International Regional Science Review is out and the August issue is at the printers, that the journal would be going to four issues a year instead of three in 2000, and that Isserman would welcome ideas from any RSAI section officer concerning how to make subscription to IRSR by their members easier. He also conveyed news from the Stevens Fellowship Committee that it had attracted donations sufficient to begin offering a fellowship in 2000 to a student pursuing a dissertation in regional science at a North American institution. He announced that upcoming meetings of the RSAI council were scheduled for Monday, August 23, 1999 at 9:15 AM at the ERSA congress in Dublin, Thursday, November 11, 1999 at 9:00 AM at the NARSC meeting in Montreal, and Thursday, May 15, 2000 at 2:00 PM at the World Congress in Lugano.

Noting that some ANZ section members had not yet received the May issue of RSAI News, Poot inquired if the newsletter might be delivered in an alternative medium. Quigley suggested that it could be distributed as a pdf file attachment via e-mail. Donaghy agreed to follow up on the suggestion.

5. PRS Editor's Report: Pacific Editor Poot reported that production of Papers in Regional Science is going very well. Issue 3 should

appear in early August and issue 4 sometime in October. All the accepted manuscripts for issue 4 are with the printer and everything is at the proofreading stage. All slots for full-length articles have been filled for next year, but openings remain for research notes, comments, and book reviews. Poot reported that 46% of the papers were submitted by Europeans, 43% by North Americans, and only 1% by regional scientists in the Pacific/ Oceania region. He emphasized that efforts should be made to encourage RSAI members in the latter region to submit papers for publication.

6. Update on the year 2000 World Congress: Donaghy distributed copies of a report sent by Rico Maggi, Chairman of the World Congress LOC. Summarizing, Maggi reported that all is going very well. The call for papers has already elicited submissions of abstracts and the home page (at <http://www.lu.unisi.ch/wc2000-RSAI>) is active and can be accessed from the RSAI homepage. What is perhaps most important, financing has been assured and the LOC has been successful in raising a significant sum for the department of foreign affairs in Berne, which will allow the LOC to subsidize the participation of up to 30 scholars from developing countries. The LOC requests feedback from the council on which countries should be included. Maggi further reported that communications with theme coordinators was imminent and that planning for the social part of the congress was in full development.

In the discussion of Maggi's report, Fischer suggested that it would be important to develop information on travel to the congress soon--e.g., on whether participants should fly into Milan or Zurich. Kohno charged Batey with assembling a committee to work with the Lugano LOC in developing criteria for awarding subsidies for travel to the World Congress, emphasizing participation from India, Eastern Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Latin America.

7. PRSCO16 LOC Report: Park and Choo reported that they expected 105 papers to be presented at the conference in 32 main paper sessions and 5 special sessions. They anticipated 162 participants in all, including 71 local Korean participants.

8. Update on the January 2000 Symposium on Regional Development Policy in Port Elizabeth, South Africa: Donaghy distributed the call for papers that had been circulated by Peter

Nijkamp. In brief, Technikon, Port Elizabeth, South Africa, will host the symposium on January 24-26, 2000. Titles and abstracts of papers proposed by foreign participants should be sent to Nijkamp by August 15th.

9. Update on relationships with regional scientists in Mexico: Higan and Gibson reported that the AMECIDER conference in Hemosilo, Mexico had been very successful, drawing over 200 participants. Next year's conference will be held in conjunction with a PRSCO institute in Mexico City, June 14-16.

10. Report of nominations from the Long-Range Planning Committee: Batey reported that potential candidates for the position of vice-president and at-large councilor were being approached and that the approval of RSAI Council members would be sought by e-mail within a week or two of the meeting.

Kilkenny inquired about the rules of the nomination process for super-regional representatives to ascertain that superregional conference organizing committees may use any method they wish, including open ballot, to select representative to the RSAI Council. Kilkenny announced that NARSC would consider in November a proposal that all future NARSC representatives to RSAI Council be elected by ballot of NARSC-RSAI members, to encourage attendance and accountability of the representatives and to increase the sense of enfranchisement among RSAI members through their representatives. Batey remarked that the role of the Long-Range Planning Committee was to nominate slates of candidates for Council to approve. Quigley observed that an informal committee is needed to identify people who will make a commitment to do the work.

11. RSAI Fee Collection for 1997 and 1998: President Kohno noted that he would be studying fee collection figures for the last two years in developing a proposal concerning the equalization of fees (discussed in item 3 above). Kilkenny noted that care must be taken in the design/analysis of an adjusted fee schedule, since participants with the highest ability to pay may also be those with the lowest elasticity of demand. In such a case attempts to increase fees could actually reduce revenues. Fischer agreed that exchange rates needed to be taken into account in such places as Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe. Quigley commented that the Econometric Society offers a discounted rate

on subscriptions to *Econometrica* upon request. Haynes suggested consideration of reduced rates for members of an institution that subscribes to PRS. Gibson observed that some cultures are just not joiners, regardless of membership fee structures. There was pervasive agreement that the upcoming World Congress would provide an excellent opportunity to build membership.

12. Other business: The council discussed what feedback to give the World Congress LOC on the subsidization of participation by scholars from developing countries. President Kohno asked Batey to form a committee that would establish criteria for funding participants. It was suggested that scholars from certain areas, such as the Mediterranean and India, be targeted and that themes for paper sessions, to which scholars might be invited to contribute, be considered.

Kilkenny suggested consideration of a virtual institute on subjects in regional science. Fischer noted that problems lay in the implementation of intelligence. Haynes observed that the World Bank was already engaged in virtual conferencing. Donaghy suggested that Kilkenny might propose a session on the organization and implementation of a virtual institute for the World Congress.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35.