

## **REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL: MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN VANCOUVER, MAY 2007**

Present: Antoine Bailly, Peter Batey, Paul Cheshire, Roberta Cappelo, Graham Clarke (Exec. Dir), Juan Cuadrado-Roura, David Edgington, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Yoshiro Higano, Charlie Karlsson, T.J.Kim, Phil McCann, Jan Oosterhaven, George Petrakas, Robert Stimson, Roger Stough (President)

Apologies: Carlos Azzoni, Mark Partridge, Jesse Poon, Jean-Claude Thill, Jouke Van Dijk

1. **Welcome:** Roger Stough welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked local organiser David Edgington for his considerable efforts putting together the Vancouver PRSCO conference. He also thanked outgoing president Bob Stimson for two years of very dedicated service to RSAI during which time many new developments have been moved to the implementation stage.

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** these were agreed, but any final changes to be sent to Graham Clarke asap.

### **3. Publications:**

3a: Phil McCann, in the absence of Jouke Van Dijk, reported on issues relating to Papers in Regional Science. He reported that the electronic manuscript submission and refereeing software was now in place and working well. The number of submissions was well up on 2005-2006 and the publication timeline was back on schedule. It was also reported that the editors had agreed to take charge of submissions based on an equal workload basis and/or individual specializations. Graham Clarke reported that since the Blackwells partnership institutional subscriptions had gone up by 55% since 2005 to 2506 libraries around the World.

3b: Roger Stough reported to the Council that a detailed proposal from Blackwells relating to the new policy journal had been received. This was tabled at the meeting. In addition, Graham Clarke reported that the call for editors and editorial teams had produced one team bid and individual interest from other 40 persons around the World. Council members were delighted to see such an enthusiastic response. Other names were also suggested at the meeting, especially colleagues from 'applied' institutions such as the World Bank.

A number of the issues in Blackwell's proposals were discussed and it was decided to set up a sub-committee to bring a revised and full proposal (including editorial team) to the Paris meeting: the committee would be Roger Stough, Bob Stimson, Graham Clarke, Phil McCann, Yoshiro Higano and Jouke van Dijk.

It was also agreed that RSAI should use its resources to subsidise production and distribution to its members and that there would be no increase in the 10 EURO subscription rate for the foreseeable future.

#### **4. Report of the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)**

Bob Stimson prefaced his remarks by reminding Council that the LRPC is purely advisory and it is the RSAI Council that ultimately decides on all matters raised. He noted how useful the advice of past presidents had been during his tenure.

4a: The first item discussed at the LRPC had been the issue of branding. It was good to see joint branding at PRSCO in Vancouver and this should be the same at ERSA in Paris. The three Supra-regions were also urged to make sure any joint awards were clearly branded as such at future award presentations. Roger Stough agreed to develop a proposal for branding guidelines for all RSAI super-regional members web sites and events that would be presented at the ERSA meetings in Paris, 2007.

4b: The nomination process for Fellows had gone very well this year and thanks were offered to Luc Anselin as the Chair of that Committee. Roger Stough informed Council that the new Fellows this year were Professors:

- Kanemoto:
- Kelejian:
- Nagurney:
- Papageorgiou:
- Wilson

Council offered their congratulations. Calls for Nominations for 2008 will go out later this year. Bob Stimson also reminded Council that we need one new At-Large member for 2008. Graham Clarke will ask for nominations from the membership in time for the Paris meeting.

4c: LRPC had discussed the Blackwells proposal for the new journal in some detail but this item had been discussed already (see item 3b)

4d: LRPC also discussed the potential candidates for the next RSAI President to replace Roger Stough in 2009. This item was discussed under item 5 below.

**5. Election of next president of RSAI:** Roger Stough reported that the LRPC had proposed one candidate for President - Roberta Capello from Italy. Members of the Council also proposed a second candidate in Roger Vickerman from the UK. The strengths of each candidate were discussed at length and a vote was called in a secret ballot. The winner was Roberta Capello and she was duly elected President-elect. Council congratulates Roberta on her appointment and looks forward to working with her.

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

6a: Graham Clarke presented the accounts for 2006 as agreed with our UK accountants. This was for information only at this stage.

6b: Graham Clarke noted the difficulty in getting certain sections signed up to universal membership. This was both a problem of their limited finances and sometimes of producing lists of e-mails. Graham agreed to focus more intensely on this in 2007, especially with Yoshiro Higano and PRSCO.

6c: Graham Clarke noted that there were no nominations as yet for the Peter Nijkamp prize for young scholars from the developing world. Could all Council members give this some thought and nominate any potential candidate.

## **7. AOB**

A number of Council members felt the procedure for electing the next president was not very clear or transparent. Council was reminded that it is clear from the Constitution that Council itself is in charge of electing its next President. However, a sub-committee was set up to investigate the nomination process: it was agreed that this Committee would be Roger Stough, Bob Stimson, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Paul Cheshire and Yoshiro Higano. It is expected that the results of this committee's work will produce a guidelines document relating to future selections of presidents and that this will be presented at the next council meeting in Paris.

## **8. Date of next Meeting - 1st September, Paris 16.00**

**Graham Clarke**  
**June 2007**