

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: TOKYO, JULY 2005

Present: Bob Stimson (chair), Franz-Josef Bade, Peter Batey, Graham Clarke, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Yoshiro Higano, T. John Kim, Maureen Kilkenny, Jorge Serrano, Jacques Poot.

1. **Apologies:** Carlos Azzoni, Antoine Bailly, Peter Batey, David Boyce, Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Manas Chatterjee, Paul Cheshire, Kieran Donaghy, Raymond Florax, Gideon Horn, Geoff Hewings, John Madden, Phil McCann, Jan Oosterhaven, Jessie Poon, Jean-Claude Thill, Brigitte Waldorf.

Bob Stimson welcomed T. John Kim to his first committee meeting. Graham Clarke noted that we did not have a quorum and so other committee members would be e-mailed and asked to comment on recommendations.

2. **Minutes of last meeting:** accepted

3. **Matters arising:** none

4. **President's remarks:** Bob Stimson again thanked out-going President Antoine Bailly for all his hard work.

5. Report of Executive Director

Graham Clarke reported on four main issues:

i) progress with universal membership. 19 Sections (out of a total of 36) were now fully up and running in terms of receiving membership (and Papers where relevant) via Blackwells. 4/5 Sections were likely to be fully operational by the end of the year. The challenge was now to make sure that other sections (many in the developing world) also came on board asap. Yoshiro Higano agreed to help Graham Clarke bring in many of the PRSCO sections.

ii) all financial accounts in the US had now been closed with the exception of the funds for fellowships which would continue to be administered largely through NARSC. Kieran Donaghy was thanked for his support in this transfer of funds.

iii) changes were required in the constitution in order to meet UK Charity Commission Law. In particular, it was felt strongly that deputies for Council meetings should not be allowed. The meeting agreed these changes on ratification by other Council members.

Recommendation: to accept changes to RSAI Constitution

iv) Yasumide Okuyama (newsletter editor) had left West Virginia to return to Japan. The meeting thanked Yasu for all his hard work in producing the newsletter. Randy Jackson has agreed to resume the role of newsletter editor and the Meeting expressed its gratitude to Randy and his assistant Mary Lou Myer.

6. Papers in Regional Science

Jacques Poot reported that the first Blackwell's produced Papers in Regional Science is now available electronically. The first printed version should be ready mid August. He reminded Council that the editors had decided to move from a geographical mode of operation (with editors dealing with submissions from their own Supra regions) to one based on subject matter. This had now occurred, and the new European editor was also in place (Jouke van Dyke). The central submission system was also up and running. Finally Jacques reported the good news that Papers had the highest citation index for 2004 amongst regional science journals.

7. Election of President Elect

This had been an item for discussion amongst the long range planning committee and was dealt with under item 10

8. Report on 2008 Congress

This was deferred until Amsterdam

9. Report on Indian Symposium – Bangalore 2006

It was reported that the organisation of this event was gathering momentum. A call for papers had gone out and Peter Nijkamp had asked a number of Council members to organise special sessions. Bob Stimson thanked Peter and Yoshiro Higano for all their hard work

10 Long-range planning Committee:

Peter Batey and Bob Stimson reported on the most recent LRPC meeting (on behalf of Chair, Geoff Hewings). The Committee had discussed four main items:

i) Supra-regional organisation

Peter Batey discussed this item and agreed to summarise through a paper. The paper is enclosed below:

Supra-regional Groupings in the RSAI: Proposed Changes

1. The present structure of three supra-regional groupings within RSAI – NARSC, ERSA and PRSCO – dates from the early 1990s. Each supra-region was intended to serve as a hub for regional science activity. The groupings covered the vast majority of the RSAI sections that existed at that time, with the significant exception of India.
2. The introduction of universal membership and the growing aspiration to draw more of the developing areas of the world into a more inclusive RSAI has prompted this review of supra-regional groupings.
3. Supra-regional groupings will continue to play an important role, reflecting the fact that many regional scientists prefer to attend conferences and develop research networks in their own part of the world, rather than engage in worldwide activities. The conferences of the supra-regional groupings, in particular, are well established and attract large attendances from amongst the RSAI membership.

4. The RSAI is encouraging the establishment of new sections, notably in China, South Africa, the Mediterranean region and Latin America. It is also committed to re-engaging with the Indian Section, which in recent years has operated largely in isolation.
5. In proposing changes to the present structure, it is important to retain the advantages of several features of the current arrangements and to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility to accommodate a range of preferences and practices among RSAI sections. Moreover, given the pace at which the RSAI is developing, it is sensible to regard the new arrangements as transitional and to plan to review them in five years time. By then there may be a good case for further restructuring involving the creation of more supra-regions.
6. Each of the current supra-regions will now be examined in turn. In the **PRSCO** supra-region there is a well-established practice of fostering new sections. In the next few years, PRSCO can expect to be involved in the formation of new Latin American sections, a China Section, and new sections in other Asian countries. Following recent discussions, the Indian Section has applied to join PRSCO.
7. To accommodate this substantial expansion, and to better represent its emerging geographical coverage, we propose that PRSCO be transformed into the **Asia-Pacific Regional Science Conference Organisation: A-PRSCO**.
8. In the **Americas**, there is the prospect of several new sections being formed in Latin America. Sections already exist in Brazil and Mexico, and a new section is on the point of being formed in Chile. Such sections may benefit from participation in PRSCO (and its successor, A-PRSCO), as well as from developing stronger links with the present NARSC.
9. To facilitate these links within the Americas, we propose that NARSC be transformed into **TARSC (The Americas Regional Science Council)**. Such a change would enable all regional scientists, whether they be from North or Latin America, to participate on an equal basis.
10. In **Europe**, ERSA has grown rapidly as a result of its success in establishing new sections in eastern, central and southern Europe. Around the Mediterranean rim there is the likelihood that sections will be formed in a number of North African countries, possibly in Egypt and Morocco. Already the Israeli Section is a member of ERSA, setting a precedent for the inclusion of non-European sections with some affinity with Europe. A South African Section, with some existing links with Europe, was established three years ago.
11. We propose that in the next five years ERSA addresses the issue of incorporating more non-European sections, fostering their development in much the same way as it has done for new sections within Europe. The experience of PRSCO in establishing new sections may also prove valuable in this respect.
12. It is strength of the current arrangements in RSAI that some sections participate in more than one supra-regional grouping. For example, the WRSA and the Canadian Section are affiliated with both NARSC and PRSCO. We propose that the choice of which supra-region to join be a matter for an individual section. A section, faced with a choice of two groupings, may choose to affiliate with either or both. Nevertheless, we would anticipate that the vast majority of existing sections would want to maintain their present allegiance(s).
13. It is important that the RSAI Council reflects the expansion of the supra-regional groupings. We propose that three additional places on Council be created by cooption. Two of these places would be filled by representatives from India and China, nominated by A-PRSCO, while the third would be a representative from the Latin American sections, nominated by TARSC.
14. These proposals, assuming they are adopted, will come into operation in January 2006. Consultation will be undertaken between August 2005 and the Las Vegas NARSC meeting in November 2005, leading to a final decision by the RSAI Council in Las Vegas.

Peter Batey, on behalf of the RSAI LRPC

Recommendation: to be discussed by existing Supra-regional Councils for further debate in Amsterdam

ii) There was discussion amongst LRPC and Council over future at-large candidates. Three names were discussed for the 2 posts available from 2005. Graham Clarke was asked to discuss this with the three candidates and report back to next meeting

iii) After discussion the preferred candidate for President elect was Roger Stough. NARSC would be asked if they were happy to propose Roger for NARSC rep from 2005. Graham Clarke to again report back to Amsterdam meeting

iv) There was some discussion about possible future changes to the RSAI constitution to allow potential Presidents to serve more than 6/7 years on Council. It was felt that some excellent potential candidates were now ruled out under present rules as they had served previous two terms on Council. A possible solution is to amend the constitution to allow more than 2 terms for officers only.

11. Date of next Council meeting:

ERSA Conference, Amsterdam, Saturday 27th August at 11.00am

AOB

Jorge Serrano asked about a discussion on new services Council could support. It was agreed that this will be an agenda item in Amsterdam

Graham Clarke August 2005