

MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING:PORTO, AUGUST 2004

Present: Antoine Bailly (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Franz-JosefBade, Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Graham Clarke,Raymond Florax, Yoshiro Higano, John Madden, Phil McCann, Jan Oosterhaven, Jacques Poot, Aisling Reynolds-Feighen, Robert Stimson, Brigitte Waldorf (and Judy Cornish, Blackwells)

1. Apologies: Peter Batey, David Boyce, Manas Chatterji,Kieran Donaghy, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Geoff Hewings,Gideon Horn, Jessie Poon, John Quigley, Jorge Serrano,Jean-Claude Thill.

2. Minutes of last meeting: accepted

3. Matters arising: none

4. President's remarks: Antoine Bailly opened the meetingby congratulating Raymond Florax and Brigitte Waldorf on their new jobs at Purdue University and welcoming Jan Oosterhaven as new ERSA rep (Paul Cheshire will also join the Council for 2005-2007). He expressed his regret that Beth Carboneau was not able to make the journey to Porto due to family commitments. Antoine reported that the principle of universal membership now seemed well accepted across the World. He thanked Judy Cornish and Blackwells for their huge support throughout the transition period. The names of the 4 new RSAI fellows were also available to be reported: Vernon Henderson, Luc Anselin, Peter Nijkamp and John Quigley. Council offered its warmest congratulations to these new Fellows. Luc Anselin has agreed to chair next year's group of nominees. All RSAI members will be encouraged (through the newsletter and Web) to send nominations to Luc. Finally, Antoine announced that this was his last meeting as Chair and that Bob Stimson would Chair the Seattle meeting.

5. Report of Executive Director

Graham Clarke reported that all RSAI monies (with the exception of the special Fellowship endowment and some miscellaneous accounts) had now been transferred to the UK bank account. He also explained that he was progressing with research into the possibility of charitable status in the UK/ Europe. A full application depended on materials being sent from Illinois (which was in hand). He also reported that more Sections had agreed to join RSAI under the new universal membership proposals. There were still many individual Sections to chase up but a fuller report was promised for Seattle. Congratulations to the Brazilian Section for paying in cash at the meeting!

Graham then reported on the information he had received on the sub-committees set up at recent Council meetings. Kieran Donaghy had sent information on prizes but a full discussion on these was postponed until Kieran could be present (hopefully in Seattle). The committees to look into the constitution and to review membership of Council reported that discussions were under way but no concrete proposals had been formulated as yet. John Quigley (in absentia) and Yoshiro Higano reported on their thoughts relating to the 2008 World Congress. This item will appear under section 7 of the minutes.

Finally, Graham requested that Council agree to the appointment of a UK based treasurer to support the new Leeds office (and to support Andrew Krmeneč who it was hoped would continue to monitor the remaining US endowments). He proposed Dr Dimitris Ballas (Department of Geography, University of Sheffield) and this was unanimously agreed by Council. Congratulations Dimitris.

6. Papers in Regional Science

Raymond Florax reported on the continuing improvement of paper submissions to 'Papers'. He also reported that there had been an excellent discussion on the future of the journal at the recent Editorial Board meeting. Before dealing with specific issues Judy Cornish (Blackwells) gave a

summary of their new marketing proposals. These were very well received. The main discussion points then revolved around:

- i) the poor submission rates to 'Papers' from geographers
- ii) the importance of universal membership for accessing as many regional scientists as possible
- iii) the possibility of abstracts being available in languages other than English
- iv) the importance of investing in new software to support the electronic submission and handling of papers by the editors and the tracking of the status of that paper (by authors) within the refereeing process
- v) the need to consider a restructuring of the workload of editors to reflect subject matter as opposed to the geographical location of the authors
- vi) the need to consider whether Blackwells should handle routine requests for permissions to reproduce materials within 'Papers'

Council agreed to expenditure related to item iv) and that Blackwells should handle all routine enquiries. It also agreed to resurrect the journal sub-committee to propose future changes to Council. The membership of that sub-committee would be Raymond Florax, Graham Clarke and Peter Batey.

Finally, it was agreed to support the idea of a future special edition of 'Papers' devoted to a strong geographical theme (possibly GIS).

7. Long-Range Planning Committee:

Graham Clarke reported on the most recent LRPC meeting (on behalf of Chair, Geoff Hewings). The meeting was largely focused on the 2008 World Congress and the relationship between RSAI and the Regional Studies Association. It was agreed that the next LRPC meeting would be devoted to the issue of increasing services to members.

Both LRPC and Council discussed the report by John Quigley and Yoshiro Higano relating to the 2008 World Congress. It was noted that there had been 4 offers to host the 2008 Congress: Art Getis (San Diego), Kingsley Haynes (Washington), Carlos Azzoni (Brazil) and Dr Pathak (India). Council unanimously agreed that the purpose of the Congress should ideally be to support regional science in new and/or expanding areas. Thus, Council thanked Art and Kingsley (in absentia) but voted to award the congress to the Brazilian Section. Carlos Azzoni thanked Council for its support and offered Sao Paulo as the local venue. This was agreed. To encourage the Indian Section, it was agreed that they would be invited to host an international symposium in India in 2006. If this was successful then there may be the opportunity to host a future PRSCO meeting (providing the Indian Section agreed to join PRSCO: at least whilst the future of the Supra regions was being discussed and evaluated). Bob Stimson and Peter Nijkamp both agreed to help any local organizing committee given their considerable research interests in India. Graham agreed to relate this news to Manas Chatterji as the Indian representative on Council.

The LRPC also reported that it had discussed the idea of building stronger links with the Regional Studies Association. Informal discussions had begun within a UK context and the UK Council members agreed to discuss and consider future long-term possibilities for collaboration on a more global basis.

8. Date of next council meeting: Friday 12th November 17.30 in Seattle

9. AOB

Graham Clarke asked all Council members to think about their ideal website and e-mail Graham with ideas for design and content asap.

Graham Clarke, September 2004