

## **Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, Monterey, February 17, 2002**

Present: Bailly (Vice President and At-Large), Batey (Long-Range Planning Committee), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Getis (At-Large), Gibson (Long-Range Planning Committee), Haynes (Long-Range Planning Committee), Hewings (President and NARSC), Madden (At-Large), Poot (PRS Pacific Editor), Waldorf (NARSC). Regrets: Bade (ERSA), Dewhurst (At-Large), Johansson (ERSA), Kohno (PRSCO), Quigley (PRSCO), Rees (NARSC), Reynolds-Feighan (ERSA), Rossi (At-Large), Serrano-Moreno (PRSCO).

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:07 by President Hewings.
2. The minutes of the Charleston meeting were accepted as distributed. The proposed agenda was revised to move up discussion of the proposed
3. Resolution on Fellows of RSAI: The following resolution came (moved and seconded) from the President's committee on identification of Fellows of RSAI that had met in Charleston: i) (Purpose) The purpose of identifying Fellows of the RSAI is to recognize a small number of members of the Association who have made important research and scholarly contributions to the field of regional science, broadly construed. ii) (Procedure) Members of the RSAI are invited to apply to become Fellows, and are selected by a vote of the current Fellows. The vote of the Fellows will be organized and administered by the most recently inducted Fellow (or, in the case of several, by a small committee of that cohort selected by lottery). Once constituted, the Fellows may adopt nomination and voting procedures consistent with the purpose described above. iii) (Number of Fellows) The number of members eligible for selection as new Fellows in any year shall be no more than five percent of the RSAI membership on December 31 of the previous year, less the number of living Fellows at the time of the election. iv) (Transition) By adoption of this resolution, the RSAI Council shall name the initial membership of Fellows. This membership consists of the living past recipients of the Founder's Medal of the Association. These are: Walter Isard, Martin Beckmann, Jean Paelinck, and David Boyce. The first set of Fellows will select the second set of Fellows from among all persons nominated by any member of RSAI, excluding existing Fellows. v) (Review) Five years from the adoption of this resolution, the Council of the RSAI will establish a committee of three members to review the implementation of this resolution and to recommend changes, as appropriate. No more than one member of this review committee will be chosen from the Fellows of the Association.

Discussion: Getis inquired if the purpose was not to recognize lifetime achievement. Hewings replied affirmatively but added the qualification that the Fellow designation was to be made in recognition of purely scholarly achievement. He added that Council would have oversight but not influence decision making of the Fellows. Founder's Medal winners are a logical first group of fellows. Poot asked if there would be any special rights, privileges, or duties of Fellows. Hewings stated that the designation was an honorific only. Gibson queried if the number of annual inductees was limited. Hewings: no. Batey asked if the acronym of Fellows of RSAI should be FRSAI. Haynes suggested two amendments to the resolution: that the second item be revised to read: "Members of the RSAI are invited to apply to become Fellows, or may nominate any other eligible member of the Association, ..." and that an additional item (item vi) be added: "A fellow so designated may refer to himself or herself as a Fellow of RSAI or FRSAI."

Decision: Getis's motion for approval of the resolution as amended carried with unanimity.

4. President's remarks: Hewings observed that significant changes in the structure of the Association were in the works. He reported that the December meeting in Brazil drew over 200 participants. Most participants were young, although less than 30 were female. Hewings also noted that the formation of a Chilean section was imminent.

Discussion: Bailly noted that there would be an IGU meeting in Durbin in August that would provide an opportunity to reconnect with South African regional scientists.

5. Executive Director's report: Donaghy reported that discrepancies in mailing costs to RSAI in the last two years, noted in the treasurer's report presented at the meeting in Charleston, were due to a delay in the billing for mailing services by the mailing center at UIUC. He reminded Council that future meetings were scheduled for Dortmund on August 30th at 9:00 AM and November 14th in San Juan at 1:00 PM. The time for the Council meeting at the Acapulco PRSCO meeting (July 2-5, 2003) remains to be set.

6. Report from the Chair of the LRPC: Reporting in place of Kohno, Batey began by remarking that the Long-Range Planning Committee had discussed four issues at its meeting on the previous day: renewal of the printing agreement with Springer-Verlag (S-V), relaunching the Association in its 50th year, replacing of the Executive Director, and revising the structure of the Association. Batey reminded the Council that RSAI had entered into a commercial partnership with Springer-Verlag (S-V) to print the Papers in Regional Science in 1998. It is time to discuss renewal of this contract. Batey identified as the main items for negotiations with S-V: the number of pages per volume (600 pages is the desired number), format options for members (electronic, hard copy, and CD ROM), availability of back issues in the form of CD ROM, size of the payment to RSAI to subsidize editorial work, and the length of the contract (a two-year contract term is sought). Florax interjected that there was also a short-term issue: a special 50th anniversary issue planned for the North American meetings of RSAI in Philadelphia in 2003. Batey noted that plans were underway for a 50th anniversary celebration to begin in November 2003 and continue over the next 12 months at such venues as the World Congress in Port Elizabeth in 2004. A major part of the rationale is the need for the Association to reach outwards to areas not presently represented. In so doing, the Association will need to revise its structure to that Donaghy will have completed his second 3-year term as Executive Director in December 2002 and will be stepping down at that time. The LRPC is vetting candidates for the role, which will be a challenging one as the Association continues to make important structural changes. Batey concluded his report by remarking that the LRPC deemed this a good time to reconsider the administrative structure of the Association. He noted that RSAI membership arrangements had become quite complex and needed to be rethought. While uniformity cannot be imposed on a bottom-up organization, inefficiencies must be contained. How membership services are delivered must be addressed, as must the structure of the RSAI Council, in view of the increasingly spotty regional representation at Council meetings. Since only a small proportion of scholars active in regional science are members of RSAI, there is considerable scope for increasing the membership base. The LRPC will meet with section officers to consider how best to improve collection and service delivery. Whatever future state the Association assumes, the transition will be difficult.

Discussion: Hewings observed that all the points Batey had made were interrelated. He noted that the headquarters' role can be transformed, but that the Association should be prepared for alternatives. Hewings invited nominations for Executive Director (ED) be made to Batey and added that who became the next ED would be particularly critical, since it would be this person who would manage the transition of the Association to its new arrangement. Getis asked if there were any names on the table. Batey replied that three nominations had been made. Batey indicated that there was a need to return to the issue of renewal of the printing contract with SV and asked Council to authorize the publications committee of himself, Donaghy, Florax and Hewings to negotiate the items he had delineated in his report.

Decision: Council granted the authorization sought.

7. Report from the Editor-in-Chief of Papers in Regional Science: Florax reported that Jessie Poon has made a smooth transition to the North American editorship. Manuscripts for this year are adequate. Submissions are up in the Pacific and are being received with increasing frequency from Spain and Portugal.

Discussion: Getis inquired whether and how editors of different journals are dividing papers for the special 50th anniversary issues. Florax replied that historically there has been little coordination between editors of regional science journals on anything; coordination on the 50th anniversary accommodate new developments. Batey observed issues is possible but remains to be organized.

Old business: Bailly reported that Walter Isard would be awarded an honorary doctorate on June 7th in Geneva. He noted that at the end of January 2003, members of RSAI will be able to meet with governments ministers at the international planning meeting in France. Poot observed that the number of RSAI members outside North America may well rise and fall with the exchange rate of local currencies against the US dollar.

8. New business: Hewings identified three issues that require Council's attention: 1) where to bring South American and South African sections into the Association; 2) how to develop closer working relationships with the Indian regional science association; and 3) how to reorganize the RSAI Council so that it functions better as a representative decision making body in RSAI.

Discussion: Getis suggested that one way to deal with the first issue would be to change the nomenclature to reflect better configurations that are emerging. Another plan would be to bring new sections from South America and South Africa into existing conference organizations (NARSC, ERSA, and PRSCO) until there is a critical mass to form new conference organizations. Hewings suggested that representatives of the new sections might be invited to attend the next Council meeting to contribute to the discussion.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM.