

Minutes of RSAI Council Meeting, August 29, 2000, Barcelona, Spain

Plenary Address by NARSC President, Ann Markusen. Her talk, entitled "Two frontiers for Regional Science: regional policy and interdisciplinary research," urged regional scientists to play a larger and more visible role in policy discussion and to recognize that regional science expertise is needed beyond our traditional spheres of research.

The meetings were held at the Midland Hotel situated just one-half block from LaSalle Street, in the heart of Chicago's renowned financial district. Paper sessions ran in blocks of 100 minutes, with no more than 9 sessions concurrent on either Friday or Saturday. By the close of the conference on late Saturday afternoon, more than 270 persons had registered with 30% hailing from other than North America. The meetings also attracted a sizeable student contingent. The hotel itself was in many respects an ideal venue. With only ten rooms configurable for conference activities, ours' was the only major event scheduled in the hotel for those three days. Program participants and guests enjoyed unopposed access to hotel amenities in an atmosphere truly conducive to scholarly exchange.

The 2000 North American meetings of the RSAI were hosted by the Mid-Continent Regional Science Association and Northern Illinois University.

MINUTES OF THE RSAI COUNCIL MEETING, BARCELONA, SPAIN, AUGUST 29, 2000

Present: Bade (ERSA), Badija (LOC), Batey (Immediate Past President and ERSA), Cuadrado-Roura (Observer), Dewhurst (At-Large), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), van Dijk (Observer), Fisher (At-Large), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Hewings (Vice President and NARSC), Johansson (ERSA), Kohno (President and PRSCO), Parellada (LOC), Poot (PRS Pacific Editor), Quigley (PRSCO), and Rossi (At-Large). Regrets: Getis (At-Large), Kilkenny (At-Large), Rees (NARSC), Serrano-Moreno (PRSCO), and Stough (NARSC).

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by President Kohno.

2. The minutes of the Lugano meeting were accepted as distributed.

3. President's Report: On behalf of the Association, Kohno thanked Parellada and Badija and the rest of the LOC for their excellent work in organizing the Congress. He then suggested that the Association may wish to consider establishing a new category of membership for states or nations. He noted that other scholarly associations had such a category of membership and that it seemed to be helpful in attracting substantial contributions from national science foundations. He observed that a change to the constitution of RSAI might be necessary to accommodate the introduction of such a membership category.

4. Report of the LOC: LOC Chair Parellada commented on the program of the congress in general. He observed that the level of participation was quite high with more than 500

delegates and 350 papers. The Scientific Committee had established parallel sessions within each of the homogeneous thematic areas. Plenary sessions would be similar to keynote lectures. The program had been revised to account for discrepancies between abstracts accepted and papers received. He observed that it was not possible to produce prior to the congress a CD-ROM with all papers, since some were not available until the congress was underway. Parellada suggested that in future it may be advisable to consider for inclusion in the program only completed papers submitted to the Scientific Committee. He also suggested that the EPAINOS prize winner be chosen from young investigators presenting papers at the congress.

Discussion: Cuadrado-Roura observed that few young investigators had submitted papers for consideration of the EPAINOS prize. Fischer suggested that the paper selection process might be timed to coincide with the EOC meetings and remarked that the paper selection process suggested by Parellada went against past practices of European congress program committees. Dewhurst asked for opinions from non-Europeans. Quigley discussed the WRSA and PRSCO models of paper selection for programs, in which only completed drafts of papers were considered under the former and abstracts were considered under the latter. Bade suggested that the scientific committee might consider distinguishing between invited and submitted papers. Poot observed that to the extent one purpose of congresses was to attract neophyte scholars, the paper selection process should reflect the fact that funding for travel to congresses by such scholars is often withheld unless they are on the program. Bade reflected that it might be good to limit the number of submitted papers. Johansson opined that the scientific committee should ask itself how it can accept a large number of submissions of mixed quality but reward good contributions in a positive way. Hewings discussed the history of program development at North American meetings. In the early days, the 'same old crowd' was invited back each year, but young scholars were marginalized. He favors the requirement that everyone who presents a paper at North American (and WRSA) meetings must also discuss one. Fischer observed that opinion on the use of discussants at European congresses has moved between two poles in recent years. In his opinion, it is good to have both a section chair and a discussant. Cuadrado-Roura remarked that, while the goal of inclusiveness is laudable, there is potential for runaway growth in program size. So the question is how to keep congress programs manageable (in the sense of taking up no more than three days' time). Johansson observed that Hewings's remarks might be taken as a suggestion that papers presented by younger scholars should be discussed by senior scholars acting as mentors. Hewings noted that in fact this was what transpired at 'early-bird' sessions at North American meetings, before papers by Ph.D. students became incorporated directly in program sessions. Van Dijk stated that for him the biggest issue was how to get the LOCs to organize meetings at all when some sections are small and inactive.

5. Report of the Chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee: Batey commented on the World Congress in Lugano, noting that the LRPC was pleased with the venue, the size of the program, and level of participation. The Founder's Medal, which traditionally has been awarded at World Congresses, was conferred on David Boyce in recognition of his many contributions to the development of Regional Science. Batey observed that the Congress attracted 87 new members to RSAI and that we must now work to retain them. Reflecting also on the successful international symposium in South Africa in January, Batey suggested that scheduling international symposiums to fall between World Congresses, which are held every four years, might be a good idea. He noted that the LRPC would like to nail down a date for a symposium in Brazil and suggested that one or two organizers of the South African symposium be invited to Chicago to explore the option of putting on the next World Congress in South Africa.

Discussion: Dewhurst asked 1) if there was any fall-back position on World Congress sites, and 2) how new members of RSAI were brought in at World Congresses. Batey remarked that sites other than South Africa would be considered for the next World Congress. Donaghy commented that new members brought in at World Congresses were encouraged to join a section, if one was organized in the area they resided. Bade remarked that he had not observed an increase in the German speaking section after the Lugano conference. Rossi remarked that this was due to the fact that the new member list had not yet been passed on to RSAI headquarters. Hewings noted that negotiations on the Brazil symposium were proceeding and that a one and one-half day program, coinciding with that of another meeting, was under consideration. Rossi observed that attendance at the Lugano World Congress by more young people from developing countries could have been funded. He urged Council to appoint someone to solicit names of qualified scholars, noting that the web-site solicitation approach employed in Lugano did not succeed. Bade opined that international symposia create an unreasonable demand on scholars to produce papers. Poot observed that participation at the recent PRSCO Institute in Mexico City seemed to suffer from this demand. Batey remarked that the ERSA Summer Institute in Turkey may also have suffered from the competing demand of other institutes. On the other hand, Poot observed, the PRSCO Institute was reasonably successful and the hosting of a larger PRSCO Conference in Mexico is being discussed. He noted that the institute featured simultaneous translation and parallel tracks of paper presentations in English and Spanish. Cuadrado-Roura remarked that English may not be the appropriate conference language in Latin America or South America. Hewings observed that the adoption of English as an official conference language is not mandated by the RSAI constitution.

Action: Kohno asked for and received Council's approval to invite the organizers of the South African symposium to the next Council meeting in Chicago.

6. Report from the PRS Editor-in-Chief: Florax recapped the

major points of his report made to Council in Lugano. He noted that fourth issue of the current volume was in the proof-reading stage and that the issue would include speeches by Batey and Boyce from the Founder's Medal award ceremony. Submissions of manuscripts remain stable. Florax observed that there were no clear procedures for replacing super-regional editors or altering the composition of the journal's editorial board. Appropriate procedures would need to be discussed at a future Council meeting.

7. Report of the Executive Director: Donaghy reported that the Association was in a good state of health and thanked Rossi and his World Congress LOC for expanding the RSAI membership base. He noted that the Papers in Regional Science continued to be shipped on a regular schedule but that the August newsletter would be a little late, due to a transition in editorship. He reported that about 35% of RSAI members now received the newsletter in electronic format. Donaghy reminded that Council that the dates of the next three Council meetings were November 9th at the NARSC meeting in Chicago, July 1st at the PRSCO meeting in Portland, and August 28th at the ERSA congress in Zagreb.

Discussion: Bade asked if the increase (from 60 to 65 \$US) in membership dues and the increase (from 15 to 25 \$US) in per capitation fees collected at super-regional meetings, approved by Council at the Lugano meeting, had been discussed with ERSA officers prior to Council's action. Donaghy noted that, while determination of annual membership dues and per capitation fees collected at super-regional meetings came under the purview of RSAI Council, the need to increase operating revenues via dues and per capitation fees had been discussed at the Montreal Council meeting (and recorded in the minutes) prior to the Lugano meeting at which action was taken. As the recorded attendance confirms, ERSA's representatives to Council were present at both the Montreal and Lugano meetings.

8. New business: Hewings reported that he and David Boyce were continuing to explore establishing criteria for recognizing Fellows of RSAI and that they would make a report at the Chicago meeting. Poot encouraged councillors to commit early to the PRSCO meeting in Portland and Quigley noted that the WRSA web site had information on the meeting.

9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.

MINUTES OF THE RSAI COUNCIL MEETING, CHICAGO, NOVEMBER 9, 2000

Present: Bade (ERSA), Batey (Immediate Past President and ERSA), Boyce (Archivist), Carbonneau (Assistant Executive Director), Cuadrado-Roura (Observer), Dewhurst (At-Large), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Esparza (Observer), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Getis (At-Large), Gibson (Observer), Haynes (Observer), Hewings (Vice President and NARSC), Higano (Observer), Johansson (ERSA), Kilkenny (At-Large), Kohno (President and PRSCO), Krmeneč (Treasurer), Quigley (PRSCO), Rees