

# MINUTES OF THE RSAI COUNCIL

Philadelphia, November 2003

Present: Antoine Bailly (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Franz-Josef Bade, Peter Batey, David Boyce, Manas Chatterji, Paul Cheshire, Graham Clarke, Steve Deller, Kieran Donaghy, Adrian Esperza, Aisling Reynolds-Feighen, Raymond Florax, Art Getis, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Geoff Hewings, Yoshiro Higano, Gideon Horn, John Madden, Yasuhide Okuyama, John Quigley, Jessie Poon, Jacques Poot, John Rees, Jorge Serrano, Rachel Smith (Blackwells), Robert Stimson, Jean-Claude Thill, Brigitte Waldorf.

**1. Apologies:** Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Andrew Krmeneč, Angelo Rossi

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

**3. Matters arising:** none

**4. President's remarks:** Antoine Bailly reported on the work of the Transition Committee during the summer months and the meetings with Blackwells (see item 5). He emphasized that we needed to make decisions at this Council meeting in order to make progress with the transition. He welcomed Rachel Smith from Blackwells.

Antoine congratulated Robert Stimson (University of Queensland) on his election to the post of Vice-President.

## **5. Report of Executive Director**

**5.1 Transition Committee:** Graham Clarke outlined the proposal for the 3 types of membership and the suggested price structure. He emphasized that it was now important to agree the detail of this proposal so that the information could be sent to all section heads after the Philadelphia meeting. He also thanked Rachel and Blackwells for their hard work on the proposals. The particular membership proposal was:

### **CATEGORY A**

Members receive the following services direct from Blackwells:

- The printed (hard) copy of PiRS
- Reduced rate subscriptions to other Blackwell journals, including Journal of Regional Science, along with contact details for the relevant publishers.
- Access to a new, sophisticated RSAI website, (as described later).
- Newsletter (printed version)
- Reduced rates at RSAI conferences
- Access to list of members

### **Proposed membership fee: 65 Euros**

**Category A, reduced rate** - as above, but at half the price of a full-member. The reduced rate would be offered to members in the developing world and students. Proposed membership fee: 35 Euros

### **Proposed membership fee: 35 Euros**

### **CATEGORY B**

Members receive the following services direct from Blackwells:

- Electronic copy of PiRS
- Reduced rate subscriptions to other Blackwell journals, including Journal of Regional Science, along with contact details for the relevant publishers.
- Access to a new, sophisticated RSAI website, (as described later)

- Electronic version of Newsletter
- Reduced rates at RSAI conferences
- Access to list of members

**Proposed membership fee: 30 Euros**

**Category B, reduced rate** - as above, but at half the price of a full-member. The reduced rate would be offered to members in the developing world and students.

**Proposed membership fee: 20 Euros**

**CATEGORY C**

Members receive the following services administered by their own RSAI Section or Supra-region:

- Electronic copy of PiRS
- Reduced rate subscriptions to other Blackwell journals, including Journal of Regional Science, along with contact details for the relevant publishers.
- Access to a new, sophisticated RSAI website, (as described later).
- Electronic version of Newsletter
- Reduced rates at RSAI conferences
- Access to list of members

**Proposed membership fee: 10 Euros**

Graham Clarke expressed the hope that the price of 10 Euros will be attractive to all individuals and sections that are currently not members of RSAI. He pointed out that although we would like to go even lower on price there are fixed costs associated with servicing each member's account. A lower price would mean we would lose money on each membership! However, for RSAI members we could remove the per capita fee/tax imposed at all regional science events provided that we got close to universal membership. This would provide a substantial additional saving for individuals and sections. Non-members, however, will still be liable for a fee of 25 Euros at regional science conferences.

There followed a wide-ranging debate. Peter Batey emphasized the support for the proposal from the long range planning committee.

The meeting voted unanimously to accept the membership paper.

**5.2 Timing of transition events:** Graham Clarke and Antoine Bailly reported that feedback from sections and supra-regions was desired by 1st April 2004, in time for reporting at the World Congress in Port Elizabeth.

**5.3 Outstanding service medal:** Graham Clarke proposed a new medal for outstanding service to RSAI (not necessarily academic service). The meeting asked to defer until Port Elizabeth where a paper on existing medals could also be discussed.

**5.4 Council members:** Congratulations were offered to Phil McCann on his election to the RSAI Council. Art Getis and Angelo Rossi, retiring members, were thanked for their splendid service to the Council. Antoine reported that a special session for Angelo Rossi would be held at ERSA conference in Oporto in August 2004.

**6. Papers in Regional Science**

Raymond Florax reported that the Papers continued to attract good submissions. Everyone was particularly pleased to see how well the Golden Anniversary edition looked. Raymond was now engaging with Blackwells on the look and format of the journal from 2005 onwards. He was also making progress with organizing the review process around subject area rather than geographical location of author(s)/reviewers.

The meeting unanimously voted to re-appoint Raymond Florax (European Editor, Editor-in-Chief) and Jacques Poot (Pacific Editor) and the President thanked them for their hard work.

### **7. Long-range planning Committee:**

Peter Batey reported on the most recent LRPC meeting. The LRPC had re-examined the Charleston paper (which recommended fundamental reform) and Peter was pleased to note that progress had been made on most issues. The most pressing need was now to examine the membership structure of RSAI Council to better reflect the growth of regional science across the World. In the short-term he recommended that more members could be co-opted to the Council. Antoine proposed that 3 new members be co-opted: Gideon Horn (South Africa), Carlos Azzoni (Brazil) and Manas Chatterji (India/China). This was unanimously agreed. In the long term it was recognized that more substantial reform may be necessary. A sub-committee to look into this issue was proposed and accepted. This would be made up of Peter Batey, Kingsley Haynes, Peter Nijkamp and Yoshiro Higano.

### **8. Port Elizabeth World Congress**

Gideon Horn outlined the provisional programme for Port Elizabeth, 14th-17th April 2004. Peter Batey reminded the meeting how successful an earlier symposium had been in Port Elizabeth. Various social events were also discussed, including a safari outing at the end of the Congress. The meeting wished the Congress all success.

### **9. RSAI in China & India**

Manas Chatterji reported that both sections were growing and wanted to be more a part of RSAI events. Council was asked to note the next Indian meeting in Darjeeling and Chinese meeting in Beijing. Antoine reminded Manas that China needed to have official status and this was best achieved through integration into PRESCO. Geoff Hewings suggested that a few persons from India and China attend the Port Elizabeth meeting in order to understand what an international meeting is like (with the possibility that future World congresses may be held in those countries).

### **10. Election of Council members and restructuring of RSAI**

Antoine thanked Jorge Serrano for his interesting paper on this topic. He also noted that much of the contents of the paper had been reflected in Peter Batey's report on Council restructuring. Jorge announced he was pleased to see the setting up of a sub-group to address these issues.

### **11. Archivist report**

David Boyce reported that the archives had been especially useful in helping to prepare his history of regional science in the Golden anniversary issue of papers in regional science. He had also passed some useful information to Trevor Barnes for a forthcoming article on the academic contribution of regional science.

### **12. AOB**

12.1 Graham Clarke circulated the accounts prepared by Andrew Krmeneč. The accounts looked healthy and reassured the Council that monies were available to help the restructuring process. Kieran Donaghy noted the additional expenditure needed for the golden anniversary issue of Papers in Regional Science.

12.2 Carlos Azzoni reported the next meeting of the Brazilian section was June 20-22 in Belo Horizonte. All welcome!

Next meeting: 15th April, Port Elizabeth.

Graham Clarke, December 2003