

Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting, Lugano, Ticino, Switzerland, May 16, 2000

Present: Batey (Immediate Past President and ERSA), Dewhurst (At-Large), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Fischer (At-Large), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Hewings (Vice-President and NARSC), Higano (Observer), Getis (At-Large), Gibson (Observer), Kilkenny (At-Large), Kohno (President and PRSCO), Maggi (World Congress LOC), Rossi (At-Large), Stough (NARSC). Regrets: Bade (ERSA), Johansson (ERSA), Quigley (PRSCO), Rees (NARSC), Serrano Moreno (PRSCO).

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM by President Kohno.
2. The minutes of the Montreal meeting were accepted as published in the January 2000 RSAI News.
3. President's Remarks: President Kohno commended the LOC for their excellent work in organizing the congress and thanked them on behalf of the Association. He also welcomed Dewhurst to the Council and indicated that he would be making a major policy address in the opening ceremonies of the Congress and so would demur from presenting the same points at this meeting.
4. Report from the World Congress LOC: LOC Chairperson Maggi reported that the congress program included 236 papers by delegates from 33 countries. Subsidies were granted to ten delegates from Brazil, India, Iran, Mexico, the Philippines, Romania, and Russia.

Discussion: Stough inquired why so few young scholars had requested subsidies. Maggi speculated that perhaps information on the availability of subsidies was not well enough disseminated. Fischer asked how the distribution of subsidies compared with previous world congresses. Gibson responded that every meeting is different. Maggi added that some young scholars may have been intimidated.

5. Report from the Long-Range Planning Committee: Immediate Past President Batey informed the Council that after the South African symposium in January, he had formed a committee to consider candidates for the Association's Founder's Medal that is usually awarded at world congresses. The candidates must be senior academics who are outstanding scholars and current members of RSAI. Four candidates were considered and David Boyce was selected by the committee. Batey also brought forward from the committee a proposal to form a financial oversight committee that would comprise ideally three sitting council members, a former treasurer, and one member of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) who is not a sitting member of Council. The executive director and current treasurer would be ex-officio members of the committee. The oversight committee would be expected to meet sometime prior to November Council meeting at which the annual financial report is usually presented. The committee would focus on cash flow issues, the Association's long-term financial position, and review the contractual arrangement with Springer-Verlag.

Discussion: Fischer asked why the committee should be structured this way. Batey replied that the intent was to broaden the base of information and responsibility for making changes in dues schedules and other fees necessitated by changes in the operations of the Association, as well as to ensure continuity in oversight. Stough inquired if this step was really necessary. Donaghy observed that the constitution called for such a committee and that, in the opinion of the LRPC, such a committee might help to avoid rancorous relations between councillors from different super-regions to which financial matters could give rise. Getis asked if the representation by committee members who were sitting members of Council should be geographically distributed. Hewings replied that such representation would promote inclusiveness but that it is Council's prerogative to determine the composition of any of its committees as it sees fit.

Kilkenny asked who should be appointed and for how long. After some discussion, it was agreed that initially volunteers would be sought and that staggered terms would be best.

Decision: Batey asked for and received approval of the proposal to form a financial oversight committee. Rossi and Stough agreed to serve and Donaghy agreed to approach Peter Schaeffer, past treasurer, about serving. A third sitting councillor and LRPC member remain to be appointed.

6. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of Papers in Regional Science (PRS): Florax reported that with the approval of Council (obtained by e-mail prior to the meeting) the number of pages per volume of PRS would be increased in two steps to allow a gradual increase in the institutional subscription price. The increased costs of production and mailing associated with the expansion of the journal will be shared equally by RSAI and Springer-Verlag. Florax suggested that the committee of himself, Batey, and Donaghy, which had been involved in negotiations with Springer-Verlag, continue in that capacity. He noted that papers for two years of journal issues had been laid out, that the number of manuscript submissions from North America had declined, but that those from elsewhere had increased. Florax also observed that with increased submissions by non-native English speakers, support was needed to have language editing done in a professional way.

Discussion: Stough remarked that expanding the journal was important since a backlog of papers may discourage good submissions. He also noted that the Annals of Regional Science was doing copy editing increasingly. Fischer remarked that extensive rewriting of papers may lead to reauthoring. Getis suggested that if copy-editors' services were required authors should be charged for them. Batey observed that PRS has always tried to incorporate papers from around the world. Fischer rejoined that the editors must be careful not to over-represent a particular region. Florax responded that the editors can only publish from what is submitted. Rossi remarked that he favored issues with papers on a variety of subjects by authors from different regions. Stough suggested that a small amount of funds might be allocated for copy editing.

Decision: Kohno charged the working committee of Batey, Donaghy, and Florax to negotiate terms of a contract renewal with Springer-Verlag.

7. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy reported that membership renewals for the year 2000 were running behind those for 1999 by about 100 members but that an increase was expected from attendance at the World Congress. He then distributed information showing that the Association had run a cash flow deficit of about \$2,500 in 1999 and reminded Council that, as had been discussed at the Montreal Council meeting, part-time office staff at RSAI headquarters needed to be rehired. To cover operating expenses Donaghy suggested that membership dues in all categories be increased by \$5 and that the per capita fees collected at super-regional meetings be increased by \$10 in 2001. He reasoned that this approach to revenue raising would likely affect membership the least.

Discussion: Stough asked if the proposed increases in dues and fees would be sufficient to cover anticipated shortfalls in revenues projected over the next few years. Donaghy stated that he thought they would be sufficient. Kilkenney observed that the Association's headquarters were understaffed by comparison to other scholarly societies. Getis asked if any cost saving measures were being taken by the Association. Donaghy indicated that some cost savings were anticipated from reductions in costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, as conference programs are no longer included and members elect to receive the newsletter electronically. Savings could also be realized by publishing the membership directory electronically. Getis proposed that future membership directories be published electronically.

Decision: Kohno asked for and received approval of the proposal to increase dues by \$5 and per capita fees collected at super-regional meetings by \$10 in 2001.

Donaghy reminded the council that future meetings were scheduled for August 29th at 9:00 AM in Barcelona and for November 9th at 9:00 AM in Chicago.

8. Report on Awards in Regional Science: Responding to Council's request at the Montreal meeting to provide information on awards given in regional science, Donaghy distributed a list of

awards with information on conferring bodies and eligible recipients. The list included the Founders' Medal, the William Alonso Prize, the Walter Isard Lifetime Achievement Award, the David Boyce Service Award, the Palander Prize, the Losch Ring, the Boudeville Award, the Geoffrey Hewings Young Scholar Award, the Epainos Prize, the Barclay Jones Dissertation Prize, the Tiebout Prize, and the Benjamin Stevens Fellowship.

Discussion: Hewings remarked that to his mind RSAI doesn't do enough to recognize the accomplishments of its members. He suggested that it confer the distinction of 'fellow' upon important contributors to regional science. Kilkenny stated that fellows should be highly visible scholars.

Decision: Kohno asked Hewings to head a committee that would make a formal proposal to Council in November on how fellows would be selected.

9. Nominations for At-Large Council Seats: Gibson reported that the LRPC recommended that Getis and Rossi, whose terms expire at the end of the year, be nominated with their consent to run for second three-year terms. He reasoned that their regular attendance at meetings and familiarity with the workings of Association and Council were important assets.

Discussion: Getis and Rossi agreed to stand for election again. Kilkenny lamented the dearth of women on the Council and in the Association in general. She urged council to make a concerted effort to increase participation by women in RSAI and its governance.

Decision: The nominations of Getis and Rossi were approved.

10. New Business: Batey reported that an international symposium was to be organized in Brazil. The organizing committee would include Juan Cuadrado-Roura, Vice-President Hewings, and President Kohno. Batey asked Council to recognize Kohno, Peter Nijkamp and the South African members of the LOC for the outstanding work they did in putting on the South African symposium on regional development.

Discussion: Fischer observed that Higano should also be commended for organizing the excellent post-symposium field trip in and around Cape Town.

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.