

## **MINUTES OF RSAI COUNCIL MEETING: LAS VEGAS, NOVEMBER 2005**

Present: Bob Stimson (chair), Carlos Azzoni, Antoine Bailly, Peter Batey, David Boyce, Graham Clarke, Kieran Donaghy, Raymond Florax, Lay Gibson, Kingsley Haynes, Yoshiro Higano, Maureen Kilkenny, John Madden, Phil McCann, T. John Kim, Jorge Serrano, Jan Oosterhaven, Jessie Poon, Jacques Poot, Roger Stough, Jean-Claude Thill, Brigitte Waldorf.

(Guests: Patricio Aroca (Chile), Jorge Bueno (Columbia), Antonio Paez, (McMaster, USA)

1. **Apologies:** Roberto Camagni, Roberta Capello, Paul Cheshire, Gideon Horn

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

3. **Matters arising:** None

4. **President's remarks:**

4.1 Bob Stimson remarked on the need for a Council meeting between November 2005 and August 2006. He suggested a teleconference should be set up in April/May. This was agreed.

4.2 Bob congratulated all those associated with the formation of three new RSAI sections: Malaysia and Chile (now officially accepted into PRSCO). It was hoped that a new Colombian Section would be next. It is anticipated that the India section would also join PRSCO.

5. **Report of Executive Director**

5.1 To meet the requirements for registration under the UK Charities Act, Graham Clarke asked Council to approve further changes to the Constitution in order to gain charity status in the UK (current headquarters of RSAI). This was agreed subject to the words 'no political bias' being retained somewhere in the Constitution. Also, it was agreed that the President and Executive Director could serve three terms on Council rather than two.

5.2 Following the nomination at the Tokyo meeting in August 2005 of Roger Stough as President Elect for 2005 and thus President for 2007 and 2008, Graham reported that NARSC had appointed Roger as one of its appointees to Council, and thus Roger's three year term would occur under that process.

5.3 Graham announced that of the three candidates for At-Large Councillors he had heard directly from only two to accept their nomination. This meant that the two nominees who had now formally communicated the acceptance of their nomination equalled the number of vacancies for Councillors-at-Large, and that an election ballot of members would not be necessary. Thus, Jessie Poon and Roberta Capello were duly appointed as Councillors at large for the years 2006, 2007, 2008.

Jan Oosterhaven asked Council to ensure in future there are more than 2 candidates so an election could be held by the membership. Phil McCann suggested that wider

canvassing of potential nominees be undertaken to entice members to stand for nomination to make the procedure of election of Councillors-at-Large be seen to be more democratic.

## **6. Long Range Planning Committee**

Antoine Bailly reported on a number of issues:

6.1 There had now been much discussion on the possibility of starting a new policy related journal. A Member Services Task Force had been set up in Amsterdam to take this forward, and a Report had been circulated and is open for discussion at this meeting. It is suggested that now Peter Batey and Raymond Florax be added to this team (see also item 9) in its pursuit of a strategy for developing that new journal.

6.2 There should be a deadline for set for Sections to decide on joining RSAI under universal membership. Graham Clarke would try (with Blackwells) to get all sections to be either joined or formally committed to become members by the end of 2005. The situation regarding any Sections not having joined by April/May 2006 would be discussed and reviewed at the next Council meeting and the status of those sections determined.

6.3 Peter Batey reported on this item. He reminded Council of the details concerning the paper on reorganisation of Supra-regional groupings (reported in full in the Amsterdam minutes). NARSC had agreed to support and welcome Latin American sections. Jean-Claude Thill reported that he hoped that a final document on the changes would be ready by next October/November. PRSCO also agreed to support the proposals but would further debate the change in name at their next meeting in Malaysia. Few changes were envisaged for ERSA at this stage.

These proposals from the Long Range Planning Committee were accepted.

## **7. Papers in Regional Science**

Raymond Florax reported that 2005 had been a year of transition with the move to Blackwells as publisher and the editorial office move to Purdue. Although there had been inevitable production delays in the year of transition he was confident that all 4 editions for 2005 would appear this year. The number of submissions continues to climb and in January 2006 a new on-line paper submission process would be in place.

Raymond also reported a number of items from the Editorial Board meeting. He urged the secretariat to get universal membership sorted as soon as possible so that as many people could have on-line access to the journal as possible. He also noted a number of appointments/reappointments were needed soon, and he asked Council to resurrect the publications committee to address this issue.

This was agreed, with the membership to be: Raymond Florax, Bob Stimson, Graham Clarke, Paul Cheshire, Roger Stough and John Madden.

David Boyce asked about increases in sales to libraries. Raymond replied that this was an integral part of Blackwell's plans for the expansion of the journal.

## **8. RSAI Accounts**

Dimitris Ballas presented the accounts to Council – see appendix A. Council was pleased to see a healthy balance. But now it was necessary to put into place an expenditure program related to RSAI promotion and new services to members. The President suggested that this be undertaken by the Finance Committee immediately after the financial outcome of the first year of the universal membership transition and partnership with Blackwell was known, and that was expected about April 2006. A budget incorporating an expenditure program for operations and member services innovations would be put to the next meeting of the Council.

Graham Clarke thanked Kieran Donaghy at Illinois for his hard work in closing and transferring accounts from the US. A small balance remained in the USA however for expenditure needed in the US (i.e., production of prize medals etc).

## **9. RSAI Task Force**

Bob Stimson presented the Report from the Member Services Task Force (Appendix B). This was well received and Council voted to agree all the action points proposed.

Most debate focused on the policy journal issue which was welcomed an initiative to serve the wider and more diverse membership of RSAI following the transition to universal membership.

Jan Oosterhaven urged Council to meet with ERSA as soon as possible so that no duplication of effort takes place. Peter Batey and Graham Clarke agreed to meet Paul Cheshire as soon as possible.

It was decided to ask Blackwell to provide advise to the Task Force on the role it might play vis-à-vis the new journal and for it to provide an assessment of market potential/viability.

The Task Force sub-group would have a virtual meeting in January to take matters forward. A budget of £20k was provisionally agreed for the Task Force group.

It was anticipated that a Development and business plan for the new journal be brought to the next meeting of the Council

## **10. Prizes**

Kieran Donaghy produced a list of current RSAI prizes. A Prizes Sub-Committee was set up to propose the two additional awards proposed in Report from the Member Services Task Force (Appendix B). That Sub-Committee will be: Bob Stimson, Roger Stough, Graham Clarke and Antoine Bailly.

Bob Stimson thanked Luc Anselin and David Boyce for all their efforts in process for selecting the RSAI Fellows and arranging for the awards.

Art Getis has agreed to be Chair of process for selecting RDAI Fellows for 2006. The call for nominations has already been made and nominations close in late January in 2006. Nominations made in previous years remain under consideration for 2006.

Antonio Paez (new co-ordinator of the dissertation prize) proposed some minor changes to the procedure for electing the Ben Stevens Fellowships. These were agreed.

## **11. AOB**

11.1 The Brazilian section announced their forthcoming meeting in Foz do Iguacu City, October 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2006

11.2 Roger Stough detailed the contents of an e-mail from Paul Cheshire asking if Council could release details of the resources available for new service provision in 2006. Phil McCann had received a similar request. Both Roger and Phil believed that the publication of accounts under item 8 had now resolved this issue.

11.3 Bob Stimson thanked out-going Councillors Antoine Bailly and Maureen Kilkenny for all their hard work.

11.4 For the appointment of Councillors for 2006/2007/2008, Council is pleased to welcome:

From NARSC – Roger Stough (also President Elect) for a first term; Jean-Claude Thill for a second term

From ERSA – Roberto Camagni for a second term.

From PRSCO – David Edgington for a first term.

11.4 The President invited Jorge Bueno to say a few words about RDAI in Columbia. Council looked forward to their full participation in future years

## **12. Date of next Council meeting:**

Teleconference to be arranged for April/May

Graham Clarke, November 2005

# Regional Science Association International

## UK accounts

2004

**Balance on 1 January 2004 (Pounds Sterling £):** **£200.00**

### **Receipts (Pounds Sterling £)**

Transfer from Busey Bank (13 July 2004) £76,112.19

Other receipts £317.97

**TOTAL** **£76,630.71**

### **Payments (Pounds Sterling £)**

RSAI Travel (9 September 2004) £325.36

RSAI Travel (9 September 2004) £10.00

RSAI Travel (17 December 2004) £942.52

RSAI Travel (23 December 2004) £372.96 RSAI Travel

(23 December 2004) £29.00

**TOTAL** **£1,679.84**

**Balance on 31 December 2004** **£74,950.87**

**PREPARED WITHOUT AUDIT – FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY**

Dimitris Ballas

Las Vegas, 10 November 2005

# Regional Science Association International

## UK accounts

### 2005

Current Account from 1 January – 17 October:

**Balance on 1 January 2005 (Pounds Sterling £):** **£74,950.87**

#### **Receipts (Pounds Sterling £)**

Transfer from Busey Bank (9 August 2005) £52,252.85  
Other receipts £4,877.00

**TOTAL** **£57,129.85**

#### **Payments (Pounds Sterling £)**

RSAI Travel (5 April 2005) £325.50  
RSAI Travel (5 April 2005) £10.00  
Transfer to Savings account (18 July 2005) £70,000.00  
RSAI Travel (13 October 2005) £592.91  
(13 October 2005) £475.54

**TOTAL** **£71,403.95**

**Balance on 17 October 2005:** **£60,676.77**

Savings Account (Business Base Rate Tracker Account) from 18 July – 10 November:

Opening balance 18 July 2005 £70,000.00

**Current Balance** **£70,000.00**

**TOTAL ASSETS IN UK ACCOUNTS ON 10 NOV 2005:** **£130,676.77**

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Dimitris Ballas

Las Vegas, 10 November 2005

# **Appendix B: Developing Existing and Initiating New Member Services for RSAI**

## **Report to the RSAI Council from the Member Services Task Force**

This Report from the Member Services Task Force to RSAI Council is for consideration and action as appropriate by the Council at its meeting at 12 noon on Friday 11 November during the NARSC meeting in Las Vegas.

The report canvasses a number of issues which the Council needs to address in improving existing and potentially initiating new member services. It makes a number of proposals and eight specific recommendations, some of which are amenable to implementation immediately and in early 2006, and some of which will need to be pursued through further deliberation by the Task Force with a view to a detailed strategy and implementation plan being brought back to the Council at its meeting in association with the ERSA Conference in August 2006.

### **1. Establishing the Member Services Task Force**

1.1 At the Amsterdam meeting of the RSAI Council held on 27 August 2005 in association with the ERSA 2005 Congress, it was resolved to form a Member Services Task Force to develop a strategy and to recommend specified proposals for new member services to be provided by RSAI.

1.2 The Task Force comprises:

- Robert Stimson, RSAI President
- Antoine Bailly, RSAI Immediate Past President
- Roger Stough, the Council nominee as RSAI President Elect
- Graham Clarke, RSAI Executive Director
- Paul Cheshire, representing ERSA
- Maureen Kilkenny, representing NARSC
- John Madden, RSAI Council.

1.3 The role of the Task Force is to develop a comprehensive strategy for RSAI Member Services and to recommend to the RSAI Council at the ERSA meeting in August 2006 a set of specific proposals and mechanisms for implementing action for expanded and new member services.

1.4 The Task Force was asked to provide a Report to the RSAI Council at the NARSC meeting in November 2005.

1.5 A part of the considerations of the Task Force was to be the issue of a new journal in Regional Science Policy and Practice (See 5 below). The intent was for the Task Force to report to that meeting of the Council proposing a procedure to pursue the development of a detailed strategy and implementation procedure if it is deemed to be desirable and feasible for RSAI to undertake such an initiative. That will require the formation of a specialist sub-committee of the Task Force to work on the details and to report back to the Council with a detailed recommendation at the Council meeting during the ERSA Conference in August 2006.

1.6 The task Force has conducted its business through email correspondence and the development of draft documents incorporating feedback from members of the Task Force proposing ideas and suggesting amendments to drafts.

### **2. Background**

2.1 As part of the discussions with the three supra-regional organisations of RSAI (NARSC, ERSA, PRSCO) and with RSA Sections to negotiate and implement the arrangements for universal membership of RSAI, it was implicit that, following the successful operation of those new

arrangements with Blackwell, the RSAI Council would then turn attention in 2005 and beyond to developing new member services to meet the needs and expectations of a larger and more diverse international membership of RSAI. Of course there is an on-going need to be reviewing member services and considering how they may be enhanced.

2.2 It is now the appropriate time to commence that process and to develop a strategy during 2005/06 for implementation from 2006/07.

### **3. The range of RSAI Member Services which should be considered for further development and/or as new initiatives**

3.1 Current RSAI member services include:

- (a) Through the arrangements with Blackwell, on-line access of RSAI members to *Papers in Regional Science* and the RSAI Newsletter.
- (b) The RSAI web-site.

***Recommendation 1: 'Papers in Regional Science' and the 'RSAI Newsletter', and the RSAI web site, are crucial established member services and should continue and be enhanced, with specific attention being given to how to improve and further develop the RSAI Newsletter and RSAI web-site.***

3.2 Possible new initiatives for additional member services might include the following:

- (a) A new journal in the field of Regional Science Policy and Practice.
- (b) International study groups on specific topics.
- (c) Joint ventures between RSAI and the supra-regional groups (NARSC/ERSA/PRSCO) and local Sections of RSAI.
- (d) Web site "chat rooms" for special interest groups.
- (e) Services which specifically meet the needs of non-academic members of the RSAI.
- (f) Collaborative ventures with other professional associations where symbiotic and mutually beneficial outcomes are apparent.
- (g) Additional RSAI awards to recognise excellence and service within RSAI and by policy leaders and practitioners in the fields of regional development and planning and the application of regional science approaches, including "best practice" case studies.

In addition, while recognising that English is the official language for RSAI "international" meetings, activities and publications, it might be possible to provide a limited multi-language service for appropriate activities and publications to meet the needs of the diverse language groups within the overall RSAI membership, especially for the French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese speaking groups.

***Recommendation 2: From the 2006 volume of 'Papers in Regional Science', there should be incorporated within the on-line version of the journal abstracts of papers in several languages to reflect the diverse language groups represented in the membership of RSAI.***

***Recommendation 3: A sub committee of the RSAI Council should be established to draft a policy and guidelines for the implementation of two new RSAI awards: a RSAI Service Award; and a RSAI Medal for Public Service Commitment to Regional Development.***

### **4. Developing the RSAI Web-Site**

4.1 Specific issues to address for the short-term development of the RSAI web-site include the following:

- (a) Improving the integration between Blackwell, RSAI Council/Secretariat, and the RSAI web-master for the development and operation (including management) of the web-site.
- (b) Providing on the RSAI web site direct links to the web sites of the supra-regional bodies (NARSC, ERSAs, PRSCO) and the web-sites of local Sections of RSAI, and similarly providing links the other way.



4.2 The RSAI web site incorporates a range of functions which include the following, and these might be improved in the ways suggested:

- (a) A directory of RSAI members through a 'type-in name' mode of access, which could be improved by also having a facility to access the full listing of members, with details of their email contact, and a summary of their expertise and research interests. It would be useful for there to be a facility whereby a user of the web site might be able to search for persons with expertise in specified fields.
- (b) A calendar of RSAI conferences, which needs to be enhanced with links to the web sites for registration for those events.
- (c) A notice board for up-coming regional science meetings/events, which might be enhanced with provision of a "pop-up" notice on the home page upon entry to the web site.
- (c) A notice board for 'job vacancies', which needs to be expanded to include non-academic positions in the public and private sectors.

***Recommendation 4: The RSAI Executive Director negotiate with Blackwell to determine the arrangements necessary to implement the innovations set out in 4.2 of this Report, and arrange to put in place the mechanisms for their implementation in 2006.***

4.3 The RSAI web site might be developed to incorporate new facilities, including the following:

- (a) A 'standardised' RSAI conference registration facility for the RSAI supra-regional organisations and Sections that want to participate, and/or links to the NARSC/ERSA/PRSCO and Section conference registration web-sites. The RSAI Executive Director should liaise with the supra-regional organisations and the local Sections of RSAI to discuss this matter.
- (b) Providing the facility for 'chat rooms' for regional science interest groups.
- (c) Hosting of 'News Notes' on regional development and planning policy and practice through a "gate-keeper" to ensure quality control for access by researchers, policy and planning bureaucrats and consultants.

***Recommendation 5: The RSAI Executive Director liaise with the President and Executive Secretary of the three supra-regional organisations of RSAI and with the local Sections of RSAI to determine the need for initiatives from the RSAI Council with respect to the matters raised in Section 4.3 of this Report, and provide feedback to the Council during the first half of 2006.***

## **5. A new journal initiative in regional science 'policy and practice'**

5.1 The notion of a regional science 'policy and practice' journal initiative does potentially represent an important step in the necessary development of additional member services to cater for the now more diverse membership of RSAI, which includes regional development and planning policy and practice bureaucrats and consultants in addition to academic researchers and teachers. In addition, it needs to recognise that the academic membership of RSAI includes a very substantial number of researchers and teachers who undertake work applying regional science approaches to policy and practice in regional development and planning. Thus, the matter needs to be given serious deliberation.

5.2 This initiative would require careful consideration through a feasibility evaluation and subsequent detailed planning for implementation if the indication is that such an initiative is feasible and desirable. That should include a formal evaluation of the following:

- (a) market potential and commercial viability
- (b) orientation, scope and focus
- (c) editorial policy
- (d) contract arrangements with a publisher
- (e) the possibility of collaboration with another professional association (s)

To assist the RSAI in undertaking that evaluation and formulation of a strategy and plan for implementation, it may be necessary to hire the professional services of an appropriate consultant to provide independent advice.

5.3 Principles which are important and should guide the development of a formal strategy for such a new journal initiative include the following:

- (a) A new journal - whatever its ultimate name might be - will need to have a truly international perspective to reflect the 'global focus' of RSAI in developing regional science. The Editorial Board structure of *Papers in Regional Science* might provide a model to replicate with an Editor in Chief and three Editors from the supra-regional organisations (NARSC, ERSA and PRSCO).
- (b) An explicit editorial policy will be required which emphasises the focus on the application of regional science methods in a policy/practice context for regional studies and planning, and especially in the field of local and regional economic and community development policy, planning and practice. Papers that demonstrate public policy development and program implementation and business applications using regional science theory and methods and case providing 'best practice' case studies would be particularly sought.
- (c) Quality control for contributed and solicited papers would be assured through the normal refereeing procedures would be used.
- (d) Contributed papers would be encouraged not only from academic researchers - especially in collaboration with public policy and program bureaucrats and with private sector people - but also from policy and program bureaucrats and private sector consultants. However, it may also be desirable and feasible to include sections that are non-refereed contributions in the form of 'notices' and 'news'.
- (e) Because of the formal collaboration recently implemented with Blackwell, preferably this initiative would occur under that RSAI/Blackwell agreement, and in the first instance discussions should be held with the people at Blackwell to ascertain what they might propose. That is not to say that alternative potential publishers might or should be considered and alternative potential publishers approached if it is decided to seek competitive tenders.

5.4 An important issue is whether a new 'policy and practice' journal should only be an 'on-line' e.journal or whether it should be available both 'on-line' and in 'hard copy' for institutional subscribers and individuals who were to pay an additional fee for that service. A view has been put to the Task Force that an 'on-line' only e.journal would provide greater flexibility without the page constraint of a journal that is also available in hard copy. The notion behind this perspective is that the potential initiative for a 'policy and practice' journal could result in a "flood" of contributions - particularly from policy and program practitioners and consultants of papers and case studies that are intrinsically most valuable but which are 'replicative' in nature and would not be suitable for a refereed journal that is 'on-line' but also 'hard copy.' A mixed model of both 'on-line' and 'hard copy' does have the flexibility of the on-line version incorporation non-refereed components while the 'hard copy' version would include only fully refereed contributions.

5.5 There might be the possibility of collaborative joint venture in this initiative between RSAI and other established organisations which more explicitly embrace the diverse regional development policy and practice community. This might be possible with the organization known as ACCRA in the U.S., which started as a division of the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives but split off about 20 years ago as the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association but decided to keep the ACCRA identity. Today the body has the official title of ACCRA: The Council for Community and Economic Research, but it is understood that the 'ACCRA' part will be dropped in the near future. ACCRA has in the order of 500 members in the U.S. and Canada, with a few from elsewhere. Members of ACCRA are predominantly from chambers of commerce and regional development organisations, but it also includes academic researchers and teachers. ACCRA undertakes a substantial amount of training activities including an accredited course in regional and local economic development, and one of its professional development programs results in enrollees becoming a Certified Community Researcher. In addition, ACCRA publishes the *Cost of Living Index* for almost 300 metro areas; it lobbies federal agencies on data availability and quality; it disseminates data of members; and it has a consulting arm for economic development. Within ACCRA there is a degree of cross-over of membership in North America with RSAI members, and there are strong connections with the Executive MBA program at the U Southern Mississippi. Many of the classes in the education and professional development programs run by ACCRA are taught by members of the RSAI. Following some preliminary

informal discussions with officers of ACCRA, there may well be interest in entering into a joint venture with RSAI in resurrecting the journal *Economic Development Review* which has lapsed and was edited out of U Southern Mississippi. It would seem sensible for at least formal discussions be entered into between RSAI and ACCRA to explore the possibilities for collaboration and the possible 'sharing' of member services, and to specifically evaluate the potential and desirability of a collaboration on a journal initiative which could involve the resurrection of *EDR* in some form with RSAI.

***Recommendation 6: The RSAI Council establish a Sub-committee of the Member Services Task Force to undertake a detailed investigation of the feasibility for an initiative for starting a new journal in regional science 'policy and practice', with a full report recommending further action, including an implementation strategy if that initiative is shown to be feasible, to come to the meeting of the RSAI Council at the August 2006 ERSA conference. In conducting this task, the Sub-committee should address the issues set out in Section 5 of this Report. The Sub-Committee should be empowered to spend up to British Pounds 10,000 to obtain independent advice necessary in carrying out the evaluation of the feasibility of this initiative.***

## **6. A 'policy and practice news' web facility**

- 6.1 The RSAI web-site could be expanded to incorporate an initiative which provided a facility for:
- (a) The hosting of 'News Notes' on regional development and planning policy and program initiatives.
  - (b) Submission of reports and papers on policy, plans, practice, and business applications of regional science approaches through a "gatekeeper" to ensure quality control for access by researchers, policy and planning bureaucrats and consultants.
  - (c) A 'chat room' for applications of regional science approaches and regional economic development and planning for participation by researchers, bureaucrats and consultants.
- 6.2 This development might occur as a collaborative venture with an appropriate other professional association(s), and that might result in the service being run through an existing web site with a direct link from the RSAI web site. Such collaboration might also lead to RSAI members gaining access to existing information sources that might be of interest to the diverse membership of RSAI.

***Recommendation 7: The members Task Force should consider further the feasibility of RSAI initiating a 'policy and practice news' web facility and report back with a detailed proposal to the meeting of the RSAI Council at the August 2006 ERSA conference.***

## **7. Funding expansion of existing and new initiatives in member services**

- 7.1 The expansion in existing member services and the new initiatives proposed for consideration in this Report will require the allocation of funds, both for the conduct of the detailed feasibility of some of the new initiatives proposed and the implementation of expansion in existing services.
- 7.2 It will be necessary to incorporate within the RSAI 2006 budget an allocation to fund the service innovations proposed in this Report, and annual allocations are likely to be required beyond that year to keep the new services going. However, the impact on the RSAI annual budget should not be great, and it is likely that the surpluses that are envisaged to accrue from the arrangements with Blackwell vis-à-vis universal membership and its implementation from 2005 will be sufficient to underwrite a considerable expansion of member services in the coming years.
- 7.3 The RSAI Executive Director will need to begin discussions with Blackwell regarding the implementation of extension of some of the existing member services proposed in this Report that relate to the RSAI web site and *Paper in Regional Science*, and to determine those things that can be implemented within the current contract between RSAI and Blackwell and where an additional

fee paid by RSAI can achieve implementation within the existing contract and/or an amendment to the contract will be necessary.

7.4 It is suggested that an allocation of up to British Pounds 20,000 be provided in 2006 (nor necessarily to be fully expended in that year) to begin the implementation of member services expansion and to undertake the feasibility analysis that will be necessary with respect to the new initiative for a regional science 'policy and practice' journal.

***Recommendation 8: The RSAI Council allocate up to British Pounds 20,000, with spending to commence in 2006, for the implementation of the extension in existing member services and for the investigation and possible implementation of the new initiatives in member services that are proposed in this Report***