

Minutes of the RSAI Council Meeting,

Vienna, August 28, 1998

Present: Batey (President and ERSA), Cuadrado-Roura (ERSA), Donaghy (Executive Director and At-Large), Florax (PRS Editor-in-Chief), Fischer (Observer), Funk (Observer), Getis (At-Large), Gibson (Observer), Higano (Observer), Kohno (Vice-President and PRSCO) Maggi (Observer), Munro (PRSCO), Nijkamp (ERSA), Poot (PRS Pacific Editor and At-Large), Reggiani (At-Large), Rossi (At-Large), Stough (NARSC), Thill (PRS North-American Editor), and van Dijk (Observer).

Regrets: Amrhein (At-Large), Haynes (NARSC), Isserman (NARSC), and Jackson (RSAI News Editor).

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by President Batey. The proposed agenda was accepted.

2. The minutes of the meeting of February 18 in Monterey were reviewed and accepted.

3. President's Report: Batey thanked Beth Carbonneau, Kieran Donaghy, Raymond Florax, and Marianne Bopp for their continued efforts to facilitate the transition to production of Papers in Regional Science (PRS) by Springer-Verlag. He observed that the Munich Summer Institute had been extremely successful, attracting more than eighty participants from twenty-six countries.

4. Executive Director's Report: Donaghy reported that the August Newsletter had been mailed to the membership and noted that ballots for the election of two at-large members of Council were included. He observed that, in handing over to Springer-Verlag payments for 1999 institutional subscriptions to PRS, the Association would be foregoing part of the operating revenue it had come to rely upon in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and that some cash flow difficulties could arise. He added, however, that the strength of the Association's over-all financial position should enable it to manage well enough during the transition period. Donaghy noted that because of persisting problems in meeting production schedules, institutional subscriptions for PRS were down by about ten percent versus those for the previous volume. He passed out brochures intended for institutional subscribers that had been developed by Springer-Verlag and urged Council members to place them in the hands of periodical acquisition librarians at their institutions.

5. PRS Editor's Report: Florax reported that the technical details of the printing agreement had been worked out to the satisfaction of RSAI and Springer-Verlag. Further delays in concluding an agreement were attributable to difficulties in obtaining formal approval of the agreement's language by the United States Postal Service. Florax observed that delays in producing the current volume were due in part to the ad-hoc nature of the printing arrangement. Nonetheless, issue number 1 is out, issue number 2 is in press, and the articles of issue number 3 are being proofed. He noted that significant progress

was being made in preparation of the next volume, the new editorial board is in place, and Brigitte Waldorf has been asked to be the Book-Review Editor. Fifty papers had been submitted to date in spite of a continuing shortfall from the Pacific region. Batey asked for and received formal approval of Waldorf as the Book-Review Editor. Cuadrado-Roura applauded Florax for going about his job the right way.

6. World Congress LOC Chairman's Report: Maggi passed out the working program of the congress, which had been developed by the LOC, with brochures on the Congress venue. He discussed budgetary aspects of the congress's staging and reported that significant progress had been made in raising funds and making financial arrangements. Batey asked how funds for scholars from less developed countries (LDCs) should be allocated. Maggi responded that no plans had yet been made, but that programming paper sessions on Eastern Mediterranean issues could be expected to attract participation by LDC scholars. Rossi suggested that the Council could help in identifying countries from which the attendance by particular scholars should be encouraged. Poot suggested that a schedule of reduced fees could be set up according to countries' income levels. Batey observed that at previous meetings broad support had been expressed for increasing involvement of Indian scholars. Gibson raised the question of how subsidies could be allocated most efficiently. Cuadrado-Roura urged the Council to pay more attention to South American countries, such as Colombia, in inviting scholars from LDC countries to the Congress. Rossi inquired about the state of progress towards an eventual congress in South Africa. Nijkamp summarized past efforts and observed that the main problem lay in organization and mobilization of university resources in the current political environment. An international meeting in the year 2004 is being aimed at with an institute leading up to it. Nijkamp urged that South African scholars be invited to the World Congress in Lugano. Funk stressed that the distinction between southern Africa and South Africa is important in terms of regional identity. Nijkamp proposed that Kohno take on the issue of organizing a meeting in South Africa. Getis asked if 'young scholars' was the criterion being used to determine whose expenses should be subsidized. Batey remarked that the attendance of senior scholars who lack resources would also be desirable. Summarizing the discussion, Batey observed that in promoting broader participation by scholars from LDC countries in the Lugano World Congress, the LOC should target regional scientists from Eastern Mediterranean countries, South America, India, and South Africa.

7. Discussion of RSAI Membership Requirement at Super-regional Meetings (Continuation of Discussion from Monterey Meeting): Nijkamp observed that the discussion of the subject had perhaps gotten needlessly complex. He emphasized that what is important is to have clear guidelines for super-regional meeting organizers. These guidelines must recognize de facto asymmetries in the organization. He argued that while we should view RSAI as one big family, we should still penalize free-ridership. Gibson stated that he would like to see a uniform policy adhered to and observed

that European representatives agreed to the policy adopted in 1992 but did not enforce it. Speaking to the concern of the EOC that mandatory membership for attendance raises registration fees, Kohno observed that sometimes LOCs must raise money to keep rates affordable. Reggiani suggested that means of promoting membership other than requiring it for attendance should be explored. Summing up the discussion, Batey observed that we have acknowledged the existence of differences between the super-regional conference organizing committees and the need to draw up guidelines that reflect reality. He asked for and received from Council approval for a change in policy such that each super-regional conference organizing committee would decide upon membership criteria for attendance at its conferences. He asked further that representatives of the committees present criteria decided upon at the Santa Fe meeting.

8. Review of RSAI News Web Page for Approval of Continued Funding: Evaluations of the Web Page were uniformly favorable and Batey expressed the Council's gratitude to RSAI News Editor Randy Jackson and his assistant for their contributions. The Council approved funding for technical assistance at \$3,400 for one year. It was suggested that links should be established with European web pages and that RSAI should request that associations of allied disciplines provide links to the RSAI News web page.

9. Discussion of Efforts to Involve Scholars from LDCs in the World Congress and Super-regional Meetings: [Since the topic was addressed under item 6, it was not discussed further.]

10. Other Business: Cuadrado-Roura observed that reference to the EOC in the RSAI constitution should be changed to ERSA. Batey remarked that Council would be willing to entertain any formal proposals for minor language changes to reflect institutional changes in super-regional conference organizing committees at the next council meeting. Batey announced that upcoming Council meetings would be held in Santa Fe in November 1998, Seoul in July 1999, and Dublin in August 1999. On behalf of the Council, he thanked Manfred Fischer and the LOC for their gracious hospitality and their excellent organizational efforts. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Batey at 11:45 A.M.