

Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Council of the International System Dynamics Society

July 11, 1990

In Attendance: Julie Pugh(Executive Director),

Officers: David Andersen(VP Publications), Bob Eberlein(Secretary), Alan Graham(VP Member Activities), Jose Machuca(VP Meetings), Jack Pugh(VP Finance), George Richardson(VP Review Editor), John Sterman(VP At Large), Eric Zahn (President Elect, Presiding)

Policy Council: Andres Brieter, Antonio Camara, Ralph Lavine, Peter Milling, Erik Mosekilde, Mike Radzicki, Khaleed Saed, Toshira Shimada

Guests: Kip Cooper, Jay Forrester, Nathan Forrester, Jac Vennix, Diane Asay, Purendu Mandal, John Morecroft, Akira Uchino

1. Treasurers Report (Jack Pugh)

Income continues to exceed expenses. so we continue to grow cash balances. For the first six months of 1990 expenses exceed revenue on a cash basis, but some revenues were received last year for this year. The Gordon S Brown fund stands at \$207,000.00. This is being reported separately from other monies.

The reasurers report was accepter unanomously without debate.

2. Reading of minutes waived.

3. Membership report (Nathan Forrester and Julie Pugh)

Membership has been growing (11.5% 88-89, 5.6% 89-90)

Currently 543 members plus people who have joined at the conference. This years membership is still likely to increase. The ropout rate was (88-89 13%, 89-90 14%) which means that about 25% of the membership is new in each year.

In discussion it was agreed that more attention should be given to new members. Such things as tutorial articles in the Review could be considered.

Last year the category supported member was introduced for individuals wth gross family income less than US\$20,000.00. Membership in this category is growing faster than regular membership, but here is no evidence of decreased cash flow because of regular memebtrs moving to the supported category.

4. The Review (George Richardson)

The Journal has been spending more money, as was approved last year but is still slightly under budget. There is not an oversupply of papers currently, so that the turnaround time to publication. is shorter. Working papers will now be indexed, so that the most current activity is included.

The editorial direction is moving toward inclu ding more current - shorter papers, works in process, notes and insights. Khaleed Saeed notes the necessity of keeping the standards as high as possible.

5. Proposal from Wiley and Sons to take over the Review

Wiley would like to take over the System Dynamics Review. Three draft contracts have been presented and reviewed. Attached to a major publisher there woul be good access to agents and others with institutional subscriptions. Wiley would increase promotions and would take over the business of running the Journal. But we must give up some degree of control, though editorial control would remain in our hands.

George Richardson proposed that the Policy council empower a group consisting of David Andersen, Eric Wostenholme, Jay Forrester, George Richardson, John Sterman, Erik Mosekilde, John Morecroft, and Jack Pugh to make the decision. on the Wiley proposal.

Alan Graham seconded

Discussion: The timing of the decision and when to announce it is uncertain. and flexible. Wiley has been responsive to previous needs and enquiries. Wiley is interested Parly in response to the publication of a book by Eric

Wostenholme. Wiley regards the Review as the premiere Journal in the Systems Science field. Some cases have been similar, The Journal of Forecasting, Strategic Management Journal, and the Journal of Behavioral Decision Making. Increased circulation could result and is desirable. Wiley will not be involved in the editorial process. The proposal is far superior to those that were considered when first starting the Review.

The motion was carried.

6. Conferences (Jose Machuca reporting.)

Alan Graham proposed that the Policy council apologize to the Sevilla Conference organizers for omitting the conference from the list of previous conferences in the proceedings.

Mike Radzicki. second

Passed Unanimously. George Richardson extended a personal apology.

There were a number of issues arising regarding the requirements and standards for the organization of a conference. The financial relationship between the Society and the conference organizers is not always clearly defined. The organizing committee for a conference should include a broader range of people - including people from America, Europe and Asia. Also, the organizing committee should always include people who will be organizing the next conference, and people who have previously organized conferences. A proposal for the conference should be sent to the VP meetings and the Principal offices two months prior to the conference two years prior to the proposed conference. Arrangement for spouses should be included in conference plans. A minimum number of Society members must be included in an area to assure representation. Active practitioners rather than Society members was suggested as an alternative criterion. The budget should be set to return \$50.00/attendee to the Society. In some cases the Society might want to bill this directly. Currently the conference organizers and Society share the risks.

Bob Eberlein proposed that Jose Machuca review the existing conference guidelines and recommend amendments to be made to the guidelines.

Alan Graham seconded the motion.

Unanimously passed.

1991 Conference

Preparations are well along. The conference is budgeted to return \$5,000.00 to the Society. Conference profits in excess of this will go the AIT. There have been no objections to this plan. The conference announcements were sent out on time. Everything is on schedule. Grants have been found to meet the conference cost. The Canadian International Development Agency will give up to \$US10,000.00. The takahashi foundation of Japan is providing a grant. Khaleed expects about \$20,000.00 in total for the conference.

1992 Conference

Jac Vennix has submitted a proposal which has been accepted by the VP meetings. The conference will be in Utrecht, Holland. Jac is putting together an organizing committee.

John Sterman: moves that the Utrecht proposal be accepted.

Jack P. Second

Passed unanimously .

1993 - North America

United States, Canada, Mexico. People from Canada and Mexico have expressed interest.

1994 - 1995

India and Italy have expressed an interest in organizing these conferences.

7 Sections and Chapters

Erich Zahn expressed support for the idea of a chapter, but chapters need to have clear objectives, strategies and programs. Chapters need to work with the Society, helping to promote and broaden its interests. Jay Forrester expressed concern that allowing chapters to have members who are not members of the international society may undercut membership, enforcing the need for clearly defined chapter objectives. Jack Pugh pointed out that the Societies big expense is the Review, so that having nonmembers in chapters does not hurt that greatly financially.

Bob Eberlein moved: That the ammended Policy 8 (as attached) be adopted to supersede the existing policy 8.

David Andersen Second

The motion was passed with 14 votes, meeting the requirements for a 3/5 vote of the Policy Council.

Japanese Chapter

George Richardson moved: that the Japanese Chapter, having met all the requirement for becoming a recognized Chapter of the Society be accepted as such.

David Andersen seconded:

Passed unanimously The supporting documentation is on file.

Purendu Mandal reported that the Indian System Dynamics Society was registered in 1987 and conferences have been held in 1984, 86 and 88. This year there will be a conference from Dec. 14-16. The Indian Society has a Journal *System Dynamics: An International Journal of Policy Modelling*. There are 10 founding members, 45 full members and 2 organizational members. There have been 13 PhDs in System Dynamics in India. John Morecroft commented that it would be good if the Indian Society could become an official chapter. Also it would be worthwhile reporting its activities in the Review.

The unofficial Latin Chapter, which was started in 1986 has been largely dormant. There is, however, continued interest in getting people in Latin speaking countries together.

8 Nominations committee

The slate of candidates to take office in 1992 includes 4 policy council members, VP at large, VP meetings and president elect. Nathan Forrester will organize the nominations committee, and a paper ballot will go out to approve the proposed slate of candidates. Policy 7 of the Society (Nominations and Elections) will also be reviewed and possible amendments proposed on this ballot.

9. Gordon S Brown Fund

Bob Eberlein moves: that the Gordon S Brown Fund Committee be established and empowered to control and expend the Gordon S. Brown Fund. That the committee shall consist of 5 people, who will be approved annually by the Policy Council on the recommendation of the Committee chair. The first committee shall be chaired by Jay Forrester and have as members, George Richardson, Janet Gould, Barry Richmond and Nancy Roberts.

Jack Pugh seconded.

Discussion: Only Nancy Roberts has not yet accepted nomination to the committee; Jay will speak to her soon.

Passed unanimously

10. System Dynamics Bibliography

The most up to date System Dynamics bibliography has been compiled by Kip Cooper of Pugh Roberts. The bibliography is available in ASCII format on DOS disks. Now that it is compiled it needs to be cleaned, brought up to date and maintained.. It is unclear who benefits the most from such a bibliography, or what the best format is for it to be in. The Vice President of publications has been delegated to review the alternatives.

Special thanks are extended to Kip Cooper for his hard work.

11. Jay's 1989 Talk

Jay's 1989 conference talk entitled "Milestones in the history of system Dynamics" has been transcribed, revised and printed.

Erich Zahn moved that the paper be sold for \$5.00 during and after the current conference.

Mike Radzicki. Seconded

Passed unanimously

12 Membership recruitment

The process of becoming and remaining a member has been cleaned up substantially over the past 3 years due to the efforts of Julie Pugh. Changing the process of joining to requiring references from other members is most likely to hamper rather than help. The growth of the society membership needs to be supported, and current volunteer administration may not be equal to this task.

One outstanding issue is the collection of moneys. Receiving payments from outside the US has been a continuing source of difficulty. Three year memberships and credit card billing are possibilities. Jack Pugh is going to look into and recommend a set of procedures to overcome some of these problems. Meanwhile, the conference registrants should be hit to make sure they are all members.

13. Business meeting agenda

The agenda for the business meeting will be: 1. Treasurers Report, 2. Report on membership, 3 Journal, 4 Conferences (Khalid Jose), 5. Chapters 6. SD bibliography, 7. Forrester's talk, 8. Gordon Brown Fund.

14 Next Meeting

A meeting of the policy council will be organized for January of 1991. Arrangements will be made to have the President present. A notice will go out to all members of the Policy Council.

Possible ways of insuring better communication of the Policy Council (Faxes, Email) should be thought about.

Alan Graham move to Adjourn

Jack Pugh. Second

Passed unanimously

Policy 8 Chapters (Revision adopted July 11, 1990)

Section 1. Purpose

Chapters of The Society are intended to further the dissemination and encourage the advancement of System Dynamics. Chapters can do this by undertaking activities that are specific to the interests or convenience of a subset of all practitioners and researchers in System Dynamics. A subset of all practitioners might be delineated on the basis of location (regional or national), language, culture, application area, research interest or software use.

Individuals and groups wishing to undertake activities deemed to be of general interest will be asked to do so as official activities of The Society.

Section 2. Chapter representative

Each chapter of The Society will have an individual nonvoting representative on the Council. That representative will be invited to all meetings and receive all minutes of the Council except under extraordinary circumstances. The mandate of representative is to assure that the interests of his or her chapter are made known, and to report back on the activities of the Council.

Section 3. Activities and Publication

The chapter can represent itself as a chapter of the International System Dynamics Society in its activities and publications. All activities of the chapter must be in keeping with the special interests of the chapter, and must not by focus, location or timing, interfere with the general activities of the Society.

If a chapter is considering anything that might be deemed to interfere with the activities or interests of the society, the chapter must inform the society of its intent before finalizing its plans.

The chapter may engage in other activities to advance their purposes, so long as these activities are consistent with the provisions of the Bylaws and Policies of the Society and with the dignity of a professional association and the nonprofit status of the Society.

Section 4 Chapter membership

Chapter membership is not restricted to members of The Society. However, in order to remain a chapter in good standing at least ten (10) members of the chapters must also be members in good standing of The Society. The individual designated as a representative on the Council must be a member in good standing of The Society.

Once a chapter has been recognized, its name will be included in the annual membership billing of the society. Members will be asked to indicate any chapter affiliations they might have. This list will be cross checked with the list of members supplied by the chapter.

If on February 1 of any year the number of Society members who have designated themselves as Chapter members falls below ten, the chapter's Society representative will be informed of the discrepancy. If the chapter does not respond within sixty (60) days with a petition containing ten signatures of members in good standing of the Society, the chapter will be automatically disenfranchised.

Section 5. Chapter constitution

A chapter must have a constitution outlining its areas of interest and its principles of organization. This constitution should be consistent with the draft constitution included in Exhibit A. Changes to the constitution must be reported to the Society.

Should there be any discrepancy between the proposed constitution of the Chapter and the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies or procedures of the Society, the members proposing the chapter will be notified and ask to revise their constitution.

On acceptance, a copy of the chapter constitution will be kept on record at principal offices of the Society.

Section 6. Initial Recognition

A chapter will be recognized when it has presented its constitution (Section 5), a petition signed by at least ten (10) members (Section 4), a list of its officers and a named representative (Section 2) to the Council. The Council on reviewing these items will then choose whether or not to recognize the chapter.

If the Council does not recognize the chapter it will inform the chapter petitioners in writing of its decision and the reasons for the decision. The chapter petitioners have the option to revise and resubmit their petition.

Section 7 Annual Review

In addition to maintaining its membership, each chapter will submit an annual report to the Council. The annual report will contain a list of active members, officers and recent activities. The report will be submitted in writing to the principal offices of the Society at least two weeks before the beginning of the annual conference. The chapter will be informed in writing if there are any issues arising regarding its activities or membership.

Section 8 Limitation of Liability

Neither the Society nor the Council, by granting a Charter to any chapter, assumes any liability or responsibility for any obligations of any kind incurred by any chapter.

Exhibit A. Sample Constitution

Constitution of *The Chapter of the International System Dynamics Society* (the Chapter) a chapter of *The International System Dynamics Society* (the Society).

1. The chapter shall be known by the name:

The Chapter of the International System Dynamics Society.

2. The objectives of the Chapter shall be

- a. To identify, extend and unify knowledge contributing to the understanding of feedback systems.
- b. To promote the development of the field of System Dynamics and the free interchange of learning and research in all related fields.
- c. To encourage and develop educational programs in the behavior of systems.
- d. To coordinate the development of the Japanese National Model to investigate important political, economic and social questions for Japan.

To accomplish these objective the Chapter proposes to conduct chapter meetings, to publish books, Japanese language Journals and other materials.

3. Membership

All members of the Chapter must also be members of the International System Dynamics Society. Any member in good standing of the International System Dynamics Society living or working in Japan may join the Chapter.

4. The policy Council

The Chapter shall be governed by a Policy Council. The policy council shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and an International Society liaison. All members of the policy council shall be members of the Chapter.

5. Meetings

The chapter shall hold a meeting at least annually. Such a meeting may be held during with but will not interfere with the International Conference of the System Dynamics Society. Business and election of officers will be dealt with in the meeting.

6. Elections

The Policy Council shall be elected by majority vote of the Chapter membership. All members in good standing shall be allowed to vote. The elections shall be held at Chapter meetings at fixed intervals in accordance with the terms of the Policy Council.

7. Publications

The Chapter may choose to publish a journal, newsletter and books. Such publications will:

- a. Not represent themselves as publications of the International System Dynamics Society.
- b. Be related to the particular interests of the Chapter.

8. Conferences.

The Chapter may choose to hold conferences as long as those conferences

- a. do not present themselves to be conferences of the International System Dynamics Society
- b. do not interfere with the annual conference of the Society.
- c. Have at least one month between them and the annual conference of the Society .

Expenses and profits from any Chapter Conferences are the responsibility of the Chapter.

9. Dues

The Chapter shall charge dues in an amount and currency of its choice. Payment of Chapter dues shall be made directly to the Chapter.

Payment of Society Dues shall be made directly to the society. The society will not collect any dues on behalf of the chapter, nor will the dues it charges depend on membership in the Chapter.

10. Chapter Society Interaction

- a. The Chapters Society Liaison shall be listed on the official Society Letterhead.
- b. The Society Council will review annually a report of activities, finances and membership submitted by the Chapter. The report will include the names of all officers for the Chapter. Attached to the report will be copies of all publications of the Chapter, as well as a complete membership listing.
- c. The Chapter-Society Liaison shall be informed of and invited to all meetings of the Society Council except under extraordinary circumstances. The Chapter-Society Liaison shall receive minutes from all meetings of the Council.
- e. The Society will, upon request and up to twice per year, provide the Chapter with a list of its members.

Minutes of the Meeting of the General Business Meeting of the International System Dynamics Society

July 12, 1990.

Erich Zahn Presiding

1. Finances and Membership (Jack Pugh)

The Society currently has a bank balance of \$60,000.00 and we are in good financial health. Membership stands at 558, up 8% from last year. The dropout rate of members is about 14%/year. The Gordon S. Brown fund, which is accounted separately from other Society monies stands at \$207,000.00.

2. System Dynamics Review (George Richardson)

The Editors of the Review would like to encourage people to get research published more quickly: 1. The Notes and Insights section and the Research Problems sections will be given increased emphasis, and will include more work in progress when appropriate. 2. Announcements and reviews will contain a listing of current working papers. Submission of applications is also encouraged, since these are of broad interest and important to the health of the field.

John Wiley has proposed publication of the Review. Diane Taylor is at the conference to discuss this. The policy council has empowered a committee consisting of (David Andersen, Eric Wostenholme, Jay Forrester, George Richardson, John Sterman, Erik Mosekilde, John Morecroft, and Jack Pugh) to take action on this issue.

3. Conferences (Jose Machuca Reporting)

The 1991 conference will be hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand. The call for papers has been circulated, and people are encouraged to fill in the preregistration. The 1992 Conference will be hosted by the University of Utrecht in Utrecht (25 miles from Amsterdam), The Netherlands. The 1993 conference will be held in North America and interest in hosting it has been expressed by people from Canada, Mexico and the United States. Italy and India have expressed interest in hosting the 1994 and 1995 conferences.

4. Gordon S. Brown Fund (Jay Forrester Reporting)

Gordon S. Brown has been working with Junior High Schools in Arizona pushing System Dynamics. A fund of \$200,000.00 has been raised to support this and related activities. Initially the support will be directly for activities that Gordon Brown is involved in, later the mandate will be broadened to national and international scope. The money is not intended for hardware or software, but rather to provide support to facilitate communications from people who have developed an interesting course materials, projects or approached. A committee consisting of Jay Forrester (chair), Barry Richmond, Nancy Roberts, Janet Gould and George Richardson will manage the fund.

5. System Dynamics Bibliography (Kip Cooper)

Kip has collected a bibliography of all publications in System Dynamics. The bibliography is not yet complete, but is available free of charge to all society members. Work is being done to manage a yearly release of the bibliography.

6. Japanese Chapter (Erich Zahn)

The Japanese Chapter of the International System Dynamics Society has been officially recognized.

7. Jay Forrester's 1989 Talk

Jay Forrester's talk "The Beginnings of System Dynamics," from the 1989 conference in Stuttgart is available for \$5.00. The talk represents a personal view of the history of the field by its founder.

8. Thanks

Thanks to the Conference Organizers for the splendid job done.

Thanks to the officers of the Society, with special thanks to Julie Pugh.