

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

July 14, 1992 (92-2)

In Attendance: Julie Pugh (Executive Director),

Officers: Bob Eberlein (Secretary), Jim Hines (VP at large), Peter Milling (President Elect), John Morecroft (VP Publications), Jack Pugh (VP Finance), Mike Radzicki (VP Meetings), George Richardson (Editor), John Sterman (President),

Policy Council: Andres Brieter, Brian Dangerfield, Ali Mashayekhi, Saburo Kameyama, Juan Rego, Jac Vennix, Henry Weil

Guests: Akira Uchino, Moses Cantú Guízar, Eric Wolstenholme, Enrique Zepeda

1. System Dynamic Review: George Richardson reporting

Things are working very well with Wiley. Three issues are planned for 1992 and 1993 and after that we tentatively plan to move to four issues per year. This will decrease mailing costs in the US, and increase reporting frequency for events and activities. Alice Chayer is still doing the copy edit work for which the society pays an additional approximately \$800.00 per issue.

There are currently 362 society members and 181 institutional subscribers to the Review. To help improve the fraction renewing John Morecroft will write a letter to be included with the billing for membership dues. The flyer used to advertise the review will also be changed to have a checkbox for joining the society.

Wiley will mail out the 1993 membership directory with the 8-3 issue of the Review.

2. Treasurers Report: Jack Pugh reporting

The financial position of the Society remains strong. In 1991 there was a small loss recorded because of the switch-over of the Review to Wiley and the change in timing of payments and receipts that resulted. For the first six months of 1992 there has been a \$12,000 net inflow leaving the Society with an \$82,000 cash balance.

3. Nomination Committee

The nomination committee is responsible to recommend candidates to take office in 1995. The committee is normally chaired by the past president, but Erich Zahn was not present.

Moved by Jack Pugh the John Sterman, Peter Milling and Bob Eberlein form the 1992 nominating committee. Seconded by Mike Radzicki, the motion was carried.

4. 1993 Conference: Enrique Zepeda and Moses Cantú Guízar reporting

Will be held at the State of Mexico Campus of the Technological Institute of Monterey (ITESM). This is located north of Mexico City. ITESM is a large private University with 26 campuses throughout Mexico and very strong Industrial Engineering programs. 1993 will be a 50th anniversary for ITESM. The conference will be held from July 19 to 23 and will have the theme "International Competitiveness and Technology."

Based on the budget prepared it appears that a conference fee of US\$350.00 would be necessary. Mike Radzicki and Jack Pugh will review the budget in detail and report back at the next meeting.

5. 1994 Conference: Eric Wolstenholme reporting

Eric submitted a proposal for the Sterling University in Scotland to host the 1994 conference. It would be held June 19-24 on the campus using on-site housing. A professional organizing company would manage the setup. A conference fee of \$400.00 per person would still not make it a break-even conference.

Concerns were expressed that the conference will be held at an inconvenient time and is going to be a little expensive. The timing cannot be changed because the facilities will be in use after that for the entire summer. The use of a professional organizer has not been done in the past and is expensive. Mike Radzicki and Jack Pugh will review the proposal in more detail and report back.

6. 1995 Conference

The 1995 conference will be hosted by the Japanese Chapter of the System Dynamics Society. A proposal will be submitted by the end of 1992 for review at the winter policy council meeting.

Next Meeting February 11, 1993 at MIT

7. Forrester Award Process

John Sterman submitted a proposal that would modify the way in which the Forrester prize is awarded. According to the proposal the prize would be announced in advance of the conference. The recipient would be asked to make a speech at the conference, and submit a paper for publication in the System Dynamics Review. The payment of the \$1,000.00 cash prize is to be made only after a paper in suitable format has been submitted to the Review.

Moved by Henry Weil that proposed changes be adopted: Mike Radzicki seconded and the motion was carried.

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

July 16, 1992 (92-2)

In Attendance: Julie Pugh (Executive Director),

Officers: Bob Eberlein (Secretary), Jim Hines (VP at large), Peter Milling (President Elect), John Morecroft (VP Publications), Jack Pugh (VP Finance), Mike Radzicki (VP Meetings), George Richardson (Editor), John Sterman (President),

Policy Council: Andres Brieter, Brian Dangerfield, Ali Mashayekhi, Saburo Kameyama, Ulrich Laroche, Juan Rego, Jac Vennix

Guests: Akira Uchino, Moses Cantú Guízar, Diane Taylor, Enrique Zepeda

8. Membership and Subscriptions: Diane Taylor reporting

Membership counts as of the end of June show 362 paid members up from 312 at the same time last year and 151 Institutional members, up from 84 at the same time last year. The System Dynamics Review has been displayed at 25 conferences this year with 25 more to go and has been included in advertising to a mailing list of 100,000. A total of 210 sample of copies of the Review have been mailed out. The geographic distribution of readership is very wide.

The first billings for next year will go out at the end of August. Any name changes for the membership directory also need to be in by the end of August.

9. 1993 Conference

A review of the budget by Jack Pugh and Mike Radzicki and although things generally seem to be in good order a number of issues were raised. The expected number of participants is probably an overestimate, and needs to distinguish between full paying participants and the large number of students expected to attend. The conference expenses may also be lowered by budgeting for no-frills. If, after so budgeting, sponsorship or attendance is sufficient additional activities can be planned. Another issue was location. Having long travel times from the Hotels to the conference site is not desirable. The hosts will look into a downtown location for the conference or the possible use of nearby, though not centrally located, hotels.

McGraw Hill will probably publish the proceedings. Guidelines for presentation will be sent out to participants to help them prepare their talks. The presentation of live on-line demonstrations will be encouraged.

10. 1994 Conference

The June dates, while inconvenient for some, were not widely considered to be a serious problem. Flexibility as to the conference fee charged is recognized to be important. The accommodation costs should be lower for the conference which will help to offset a higher registration fee.

It was emphasized that spending money on entertainment and similar activities is not a high priority. Giving people more free time to talk and explore could be beneficial in many ways.

Moved by George Richardson that a committee of Mike Radzicki, Jack Pugh, John Sterman and Peter Milling be empowered to approve revised budgets for the 1993 and 1994 conferences. Seconded by Bob Eberlein, the motion was carried.

11. Alternative Conference Formats

Next Meeting February 11, 1993 at MIT

Finding sites and hosts for conferences has continually been a difficult task. A number of suggestions were made on ways that this burden could be eased, and other benefits provided. One possibility is to hold the conference every other year, allowing more preparation time and improved novelty.

Another possibility was to coordinate the conference as part of a larger ongoing conference. The larger conference would handle most of the administrative work, with the Society being responsible only for the content of sessions. This might also increase cross-fertilization with researchers in related areas. The TIMS/ORSA conference, and the conference of the Society for Computer Simulation were mentioned as possible matches. Jack Pugh expressed concern that the financial obligations in any coordinated effort be clearly understood. There was a consensus that alternative conference formats should be considered, but no resolve as to the form or value of alternative formats.

A committee consisting of John Sterman, Bob Eberlein, Mike Radzicki, Ulrich Laroche, Peter Milling and Jack Pugh was appointed to look into this issue and report back to the policy council with concrete recommendations.

12. 1993 Dues

Moved by John Sterman that the individual membership fees for 1993 remain unchanged at \$70.00. Seconded by Jack Pugh the motion was carried. Andres Brieter noted the importance of the continued supported member fee of \$35.00.

13. Nomination Committee Report

The Nominating Committee recommended the following:

President Elect: Khalid Saeed
VP Publications: David Lane

Policy Council: Paula Antunes
Erling Moxnes
Lou Afeld
Tarek Abdil Hamid

Moved by Mike Radzicki that the recommendations of the Nominating Committee be accepted. Seconded by Jack Pugh the motion was carried.

The nominees will be contacted by Bob Eberlein to assure their acceptance. The following people were mentioned by the nominating committee as useful for future consideration: Henk Akkermans, Bent Bakken, Burt DeVries, Jeff Coyle, Ernst Dhiel, Christian Kampmann, Erik Larsen, Purnendu Mandel, Jac Vennix, Eric Wolstenholme

14. Responsibilities of Officers

All current officers of the Society are responsible for writing a description of their responsibilities and activities. This description will be given to nominees, and passed on to new officers taking office. The new officers will be responsible for keeping the descriptions accurate and up to date. Mike Radzicki is going to be sure all the current officers comply.

15. Member Services

Two new services are now available to society members. First is the electronic bibliography compiled by Kip Cooper. Second is the Beer Game board and instructional materials, including a Video Tape. The beer game materials are for sale to members only for \$75.00/board and \$20.00 for materials. The cost of the boards to the society is \$50.00, and they are being passed on to us at cost by Innovation Associates.

Jim Hines and Bob Eberlein will look into setting a Compu-Serve conference on System Dynamics.

16. Chapters

The only official chapter of the Society is the Japanese Chapter. It has 39 members and hold monthly meetings.

17. Structure of the Presidency

A number of views on the one year presidential term were expressed. On the one hand there is concern that the term is too short to offer the opportunity for accomplishment, provides no continuity and little incentive to get things working well. On the other hand more than one year is viewed as a burden, destructive in the case of inactive presidents and changes little for the Policy Council as a whole.

There was consensus that the President Elect should be more involved in things and should, when possible, attend the winter Policy Council meeting in Boston. This meeting needs to be scheduled well in advance.

Minutes of the General Business Meeting of the System Dynamics Society

July 17, 1992 (92-4)

John Sterman Presiding.

18. The System Dynamics Review (George Richardson)

The Review is now firmly in the hands of Wiley and things are working very well. There is a good backlog of articles and it appears that we will go quarterly in 1994. The Review is now mailed to 520 individuals and institutions in 20 countries. Institutional descriptions are up to 150 from 84 last year and membership is up to 362 from 312 last year.

19. Future Conferences

The 1993 conference will be held from July 19-23 in Mexico City. It will be hosted by the Monterey Institute of Technology and have a theme of "International Competitiveness and Economic Integration." Thanks go to Enrique Zepeda and Moses Cantú Guízar for the work they have done. Note that the deadline for abstracts is November 1.

The 1994 conference will be held in Sterling, Scotland June 19-24. It will be organized by Eric Wolstenholme.

The 1995 conference will be held in Japan and hosted by the Japanese Chapter of the System Dynamics Society.

The 1996 conference has not been scheduled yet but will be held in North America.

20. Financial Report (Jack Pugh)

The Society is in good shape financially with income over expenses for this year so far at \$12,000.00 and a cash balance of \$83,000. A summary of the financial report will be published in the President's letter.

21. Old and New Officers

The current officers of the Society who were present were introduced. The new officers taking office in 1993 were announced and, if possible, introduced.

22. Society Services

The membership directory will be out in the fall. A computerized bibliography of work in System Dynamics with 3400 citations is available and will be updated annually. Special thanks to Kip Cooper and Bill Steinhurst, it may be ordered from Julie for \$35.00. Old proceedings (except China) are also available. Beer Game boards can be ordered from Julie for \$75.00 and instructional materials for \$20.00.

23. Review of Conference (George Richardson)

There were 156 participants from 20 countries presenting 91 papers. There was substantial work both in the normal science of System Dynamics, with applications in many areas, and in work changing the nature of what System Dynamics is and does.

24. Thanks

Thanks go to Utrecht University and the sponsors of the conference for making it such a success. Jac Vennix and his team have done a splendid job.

Next Meeting February 11, 1993 at MIT (second choice Feb. 18)

If you will not be at the meeting and there are any issues you would like to have addressed please send them to the secretary:

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