

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

July 20, 1993 (93-2)

In Attendance: Julie Pugh (Executive Director),

Officers: Bob Eberlein (Secretary), Janet Gould (VP Member Activities), Peter Milling (President), Jack Pugh (VP Finance), Mike Radzicki (VP Meetings), George Richardson (Review Editor), John Sterman (Past President)

Policy Council: Pål Davidsen, Julia DiStefano, Douglas Franco, Jack Homer, Saburo Kameyama, Jim Lyneis, Juan Rego, Jac Vennix, Enrique Zepeda

Guests: David Andersen, Yaman Barlas, Eiichi Kaneko, Takahiro Kojima, David Lane, Jose Machuca, Khalid Saeed, Eric Wolstenholme, Toshiro Shimada, Qingrui Xu

1. Reading of Minutes (Bob Eberlein)

The minutes of the last policy council meeting were read. Emphasis was put on the activities being undertaken in conjunction with the 1994 TIMS/ORSA meetings in Boston.

2. Member's Reports

Ulrich La Roche provided a report suggesting ways in which the society could better present itself in order to increase acceptance. This sparked discussion on collaboration with other societies with which there is some overlap of interest. The TIMS/ORSA meetings to be held in Boston April 24-27, 1994 provide a very good opportunity for such collaboration. A System Dynamics track has been organized at this conference and there will be 11 or 12 separate sessions with about 50 people making presentations. A dinner will be organized during the conference. Since no proceedings are published for TIMS/ORSA papers presented at the conference may also be presented at Stirling. The TIMS/ORSA conference is a good chance to test the viability of piggy backing a System Dynamics conference on a larger conference.

John Sterman is also an Associate Editor for Simulation of *Management Science*. Articles can be submitted to John, and will be guaranteed a thoughtful review.

3. The System Dynamics Review (George Richardson)

Volume 9-2 is just out and the backlog of articles seems promising. Wiley is doing a good job with the Review and have changed to a better compositor. Their review process is somewhat lengthy and George is urging the Managing Editors to try to push reviewers toward quicker turnaround. Better use could be made of Notes and Insights to present work in progress and other activities of interest.

Many Society members are not closely connected to the activities of the Society. It was agreed that publishing the Presidential conference address in the Review would help to increase knowledge of ongoing activities.

As a matter of record it was noted that the publications committee consists of the VP Publications, the Editor, the past Editor and Jay Forrester.

4. Wiley and Membership (Julie Pugh)

There is a long delay between the time a member joins and the time Wiley reports the members name to the Society. Wiley also seems to be failing to bill a number of Society members, and this makes the process of membership renewal difficult. David Lane will contact Wiley to explain the situation, and see if turnaround and accuracy can be improved. David Lane will coordinate with Julie Pugh to track progress on this matter.

5. Treasurer's Report (Jack Pugh)

There was a \$22,750 surplus for 1992. For the first 6 months of 1993 there is a \$21,000 surplus. This is higher than budgeted because of unexpectedly high sales of Beer Game boards, but is not expected to change substantially at year end.

6. Editorial Assistant to George Richardson (David Andersen)

There is an astounding amount of work that goes into the regular publication of the *System Dynamics Review* and a substantial part of it is clerical and administrative work that could be done by someone without substantial knowledge of System Dynamics. Given this David proposes that a support person be hired for 1.5 days per week. To do this through SUNY Albany the cost of a full time person is \$25,000-\$30,000/year + 29% overhead. This amounts to \$39,000 so that 1.5 days gives \$11,000/year. SUNY Albany is already providing funding to the Society and it is possible they would be willing to underwrite a small part of this cost.

Moved by Mike Radzicki that \$12,000.00/year be for an editorial assistant for George Richardson. Seconded by John Sterman.

During discussion it was pointed out that Alice Chayer is being paid for work on the Review. This is because Alice provides higher quality than would be normally available and we are paying the difference in price between what Wiley normally pays and what Alice charges.

The motion was carried without dissent.

7. Nominating Committee

A nominating committee needs to be appointed to nominate individuals to the positions of President Elect, Secretary, VP Meetings, VP at Large and 4 Policy Council members to take office in 1995.

Moved by John Sterman that the Nominating Committee be chaired by John Sterman and include Jac Vennix and Enrique Zepeda. Seconded by Mike Radzicki the motion was carried.

8. 1994 Conference - Stirling, UK (Eric Wolstenholme)

The 1994 conference is scheduled to be held in Stirling Scotland from July 11th - 15th 1994. 12,000 copies of the call for papers have been distributed through Wiley and an international publicity committee (apologies to Peter Milling for the spelling of his name in the call for papers). The conference will be held at the conference center at Stirling University and the Plenary session room has a capacity of 500. A number of local activities are being planned including a conference dinner at Stirling Castle. Sponsorship for the conference stands at \$12,000.

The theme of the conference will be problem solving methodology and systems methods in the U.K. A number of speakers have been invited and there will be a consistent publication of papers in the *System Dynamics Review*. There will be two to three plenary sessions debating the value of quantifications with the spectrum of viewpoints represented. The invited papers are intended to take a stance on the application of quantitative methods and analysis. The special issue will be published before the conference. Papers will not be reviewed, but will be copy edited by John Morecroft, George Richardson and Eric Wolstenholme.

There was suggestion that the plenary sessions might better thought of as position statements rather than debate, and it was noted that the Journal of General Systems Theory has hosted this type of forum in the past. It was suggested that symposium might be a better label. Eric Wolstenholme stressed that only methodologies in common managerial use will be presented.

The conference fees have not yet been set. The conference time was moved to July fit better the normal conference schedule. It was suggested that it would be helpful to provide information on family accomodation and day care facilities.

9. 1995 Conference - Tokyo, Japan (Toshiro Shimada)

The conference dates are set for July 17-20 1995 and will be held in Chiba prefecture between Narita airport and downtown Tokyo. The conference site is a coplex called Aerobics City that was developed as an athletic training site. This provides less expensive accomodation than is available throught hotels, and allows everyone to be in one place. There is a convention hall located on site.

The conference fee will be set at about \$450.00 including all meals. Because of budgeting concerns the conference fee will be set in Japanese Yen, so the actual final fee may be subject to some fluctuation.

10. Adjournment

Moved by John Sterman that the meeting adjourn. Seconded by Jack Homer the motion was carried.

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

July 22, 1993 (93-3)

In Attendance: Julie Pugh (Executive Director),

Officers: Bob Eberlein (Secretary), Janet Gould (VP Member Activities), Peter Milling (President), Jack Pugh (VP Finance), Mike Radzicki (VP Meetings), George Richardson (Review Editor), John Sterman (Past President)

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1. 1996, 1997 Conferences

The conference site for 1996 has not yet been set, but is expected to be in North America. Jack Homer received a suggestion from Sam Smalldon of Athabasca University of the Banff management center in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Joel Rahn should also be contacted to see if Montreal or Quebec city could be possibilities. Also local areas around Boston could be checked out.

If we were to go to someplace like Banff it would be necessary to set up a separate organizing committee for the conference.

The 1997 conference would normally be held in Europe. Yaman Barlas of Bagazici University in Insanbul, Turkey has offered to host it. There was concern about the expected attendace levels if the conference were held in Istanbul, but a general interest in considering the idea furher. Other possible sites would include Denmark, Italy, perhaps eastern Europe.

There is an ongoing concern over the difficulty of finding sites and hosts for conferences. The suggestion was made that teaming with a conference manager might be useful. Since managers are usually local, this might tie us to one location. We might also be able to make arrangements through hotel chains, but this would likely be prohibitively expensive. Previous conferences have always drawn heavily on local univerities for support.

Holding conferences only every second year was suggested as a possible solution. Also making changes to proceedings publication - for example elecronic format only - to lower costs.

Even though there are guidelines for running a conference it still seems that there is undesirable variation in the scheduling and budgeting practices between conferences. Special concern was expressed over the ability to correctly set a number of the internal deadlines.

Moved by Bob Eberlein that a committee be convened to look into setting new guidelines for budgeting and deadline. The committee to be chaired by Mike Radzicki, and have as members Peter Milling, Khalid Saeed, Jac Vennix and Enrique Zepeda. Seconded by Jack Pugh the motion was carried.

2. Membership

We lost about 40 people (10%) last year and gained an additional 50. This keeps membership somewhat above 400. There are a numbr of people who join to get access to member privileges - especially game boards - and these people may not be inclined to remain members. Wiley pushes institutional membership. We do have a new brochure.

3. Chinese Chapter (Xu, QingRui)

A petition has been presented for the formation of a Chinese Chapter of the System Dynamics Society. The petition was signed by 12 members of the international society and is in accordance with the guidelines set out for chapter membership. The initial officers of the Chinese chapter consist of Preident: Qifan Wang, Vice-President: QingRui Xu, Secretary Zhang Yu, international liason Qifan Wang.

Moved by Bob Eberlein that the petition be accepted and that the Chinese Chapter of the System Dynamics Society be officially recognized. Seconded by Jack Pugh the motion was carried.

4. Membership Fee

Our annual surplus has been running at about \$20,000 and will likely go down to about \$10,000 with the newly approved administative assistance for George Richardson. Wiley is increasing the institutional price as the Review goes to more issues per year. Overall, however, there was no strong perceived need for a change in the membership fee.

Moved by John Sterman that the annual membership fee remain at \$70.00 (\$35.00 for supported members). Seconded by Mike Radzicki the motion was carried.

5. The Beer Game (Julie Pugh)

The Beer Game boards have been selling much more rapidly than originally expected. Because of the difficulty of obtaining boards through IA a new source was found. We can now get boards at \$29.00 in quantity.

The boards are available only to members, and a number of people have joined the society in order to obtain the boards. There have also been numerous requests for express shipment that are disruptive to Julie.

Moved by John Sterman that we charge a significant premium for requests for shipment in an unreasonably short amount of time, and that the fee charged be set by Jack and Julie. Seconded by Mike Radzicki the motion was passed.

Moved by Jack Pugh that we allow non-members to purchase the boards at a higher price to be determined by Jack and Julie. Seconded by John Sterman the motion was carried.

6. Bibliography (Julie Pugh)

We have sold 28 copies of the bibliagrahy for Macs and 19 for IBMS. Lots of work needs to be done holding Kip's hand to get things done. A large number of citations are awaiting approval from Jay, and more citations are required from all members. Longer term we might want to turn management of the bibliography over to the editorial assistant. For now citations should go to Julie.

Continued thanks go to Kip Cooper and Bill Steinhurst for their work on the bibliography.

7. Nominations Committee

The nominations committee has proposed the following slate of officers to take office in 1995.

President Elect:	John Morecroft
Secretary:	Mike Radzicki
Policy Council	Saburu Kameyama, Jose Machuca, Erik Larsen, David Kreutzer

The nominations committee did not arrive at a selection for the position of VP Meetings. This decision will be deferred till the next polliicy council meeting, or done by a mail ballot.

Moved by John Sterman that the above slate of officers be nominated to take office in 1995.
Seconded by Jack Pugh the motion was carried.

8. Other Business

Julia Di Stefano wanted to meet with people interested in generating a logo for the society.
David lane was interested in discussing the 2 year presidency - Bob Eberlein promised to send relevant minutes.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Jack Pugh the tha meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Jack Homer the motion was carried.