Report VP Member services, Policy Council Meeting Winter 2013

Since the 2012 Summer Policy Council Meeting there are two initiatives to report on:
1. the initiative to strengthen the links with Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs);
2. the case repository;
3. developing a job description/ user manual for the VP Member services position.

Since about two years the link between Society and Chapters/ SIGs has become a focus point for the Society. At the 2012 conference in St. Gallen the VP Chapters and I chaired a joint Chapter/ SIG representatives meeting. In addition I had a number of talks with separate SIGs. Both the meeting and the talks addressed the following points:
- reports: the initiative by the VP Chapters to develop a database that shows intersections between SIGs and Chapters, so that either can better assist their members;
- SDS strategy, SIGs and Chapters: the policy of SD Society Presidents to make the SIGs and Chapters a vehicle for diffusion;
- Virtual Issue of System Dynamics Review, which brings together important papers on a particular topic;
- SIG Bibliography: an effort to bring together important information that supports a SIG;
- SIGs and Threads: the aspiration to give SIGs a larger role in the associated conference threads;
- Online meeting system, so that SIGs that are usually regionally dispersed have a way to meet;
- Chapter – SIG relations;
- Webpage – discussion forum: keeping the websites updated.

In a mail sent out in December 2012 I reminded SIG representatives about the possibility of a virtual issue for SDR. In the meantime the Energy SIG has shown an interest. I also asked SIGs for further contributions to the online case repository but received no response.

The case repository (http://cases.systemdynamics.org/) is online since November 2011. Only one case has been added in 2012. Navid Ghaffarzadegan and I have submitted a paper to System Dynamics Review on the repository, which hopefully helps in eliciting more cases. I am currently looking into the possibility to publish master theses online. Selected master theses (e.g. successful projects on applied issues) could be linked to the case repository.

Following up on a request by the Society President, I developed a job description/ user manual for the VP Member services position. A comparison to the VP Chapters user manual again showed the clear overlap between Chapters and SIGs

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