JANUARY 2007 -- Boston Conference Progress Report – Bob Eberlein, John Sterman, Rogelio Oliva, and Roberta Spencer

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ISDC JULY 2007 BOSTON: This text is a short report on the preparations for the 2007 International System Dynamics Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

REGISTRATION AND ACCOMMODATION: The registration brochure is currently being printed and is expected to be sent out before 1 February. The registration fee for the conference is set at $425, which is the same as for the 2005 conference in Boston two years ago.

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS will be arranged through the Seaport Hotel: contact information is in the registration brochure. A room reservation booking form will be included with the registration brochure. Single and double room fees are $145 plus taxes = **$167.** There are a limited number of rooms offered to students (up to 4 in one room) at $129 plus taxes = **$149**. The hotel is also offering 20 complimentary room nights for conference scholarship recipients.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM: There are a number of additional activities in the program this year:

- **Featured plenary speakers** include Jay W. Forrester. Professor Forrester will talk about the future of system dynamics. **Other special events**, panel discussions and sessions with founders of the field of system dynamics are being planned. Future announcements will be made regarding a variety of anniversary events celebrating fifty years of system dynamics.
- **Poster Symposium and Buffet.** New for 2007. All posters will be presented on Monday evening, together with a "Neighborhoods of Boston" buffet dinner. Converse with the authors and have a bite to eat. Attendees will vote for their favorite posters; the winners of this (admittedly unscientific) poll will be announced the following morning.
- **"Beer Game World Championship."** Whether you have led the game or never played, everyone is welcome. The game is schedule for Wednesday evening and will be followed by a workshop debriefing on Thursday.
- **Diagram Slam:** All conference participants are invited to compete to create the most entertaining, innovative, beautiful and/or outrageous stock-flow/causal-loop diagram. The topic area will be announced on Wednesday morning with entries due later that day. After the evening Beer Game event, five finalists will present their results in front of the conference audience to determine the winner.
- **Call for Artifacts, Photos and Other Bits of History:** We are looking for historical event photos, documents of historic significance (for example napkins with first-version famous models), and any kind of artifact of interest to display at the conference to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the field. If you have an item that could be copied and/or displayed at the 2007 conference, please contact the Society office.
- Mark your calendar for the second annual **PC Meet and Greet!** The tentative date is Saturday evening, July 28th in Boston. Attendance not required, just something fun for people who are in town. This time will allow new and current PC members to introduce themselves to one another, meet everyone in advance of the formal meeting on Sunday, and chat about the work they are doing on the Policy Council.
- A scheduled **lunch** with PhD Colloquium attendees and PC members on Sunday.
- A **Chapter/SIG Poster Session** on Monday morning in order to recognize their great contribution to the Society and increase their visibility.
- A talk entitled **"Introduction to the System Dynamics Society"** on Monday and/or Tuesday afternoon during the lunch break. A special invitation will be inserted for new

people with registration confirmations. The hope is that some current and past Policy Council Members and others will also attend.
- A **"Navigator Program"** was organized last year and was very well received. The program introduces novices to the field and points them to information and experts on their topics of interest. The Student Chapter was asked to coordinate this activity; they have replied that "although the Navigator Program is highly useful and should be set up for next conference, the Student Chapter cannot take it on as one of the Chapter's official activities. The main reason is that our constitution does not consider this type of activity, and that our few active members are already engaged in other voluntary initiatives that are absorbing most of our free time." If no volunteer is found, this activity will not take place.

SOCIAL AND SPOUSE PROGRAM: The **Social Program** tentatively includes an Informal Gathering on Sunday during and after registration, the Monday "Neighborhoods of Boston" Buffet, and the Conference Banquet on Tuesday. Also, a Museum of Fine Arts' Concerts-in-the-Courtyard Series, performer and cost to be announced; the first ever System Dynamics Talent Show; and Guided Tours at MIT.

CONFERENCE TEAM:
Conference Chair: Robert L. Eberlein
Program Co-chairs: John D. Sterman and
  Rogelio Oliva
Workshop Chair: Jack B. Homer

PhD Colloquium Organizers: Stefan
  Groesser and Chintan Vaishnav
Conference Manager: Roberta L. Spencer;
and many other volunteers.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS:
  PA Consulting Group
  Kolbenschmidt Pierburg AG

CONFERENCE HOST: System Dynamics Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Sloan School of Management

CONFERENCE SPONSORS to date:

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Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.
The Boston Conference Team