Report VP Member services, Policy Council Meeting Summer 2011

Since the Winter Policy Council Meeting there are three initiatives to report on:

1. the initiative to strengthen the links with Chapters and Special Interest Groups (SIGs);
2. the development of a case repository;
3. the initiative to raise (low-income) membership.

In cooperation with the Vice President Chapters and current President, several ideas on strengthening the link between Society and Chapters/ SIGs were discussed. In part this initiative resulted from the Chapter/ SIG meeting at the 2010 Seoul meeting, where this issue was raised as well. (More information on the initiative concerning Chapters can be found in the Vice President Chapters report.) With regard to SIGs, the decision was made to ask representatives to report on the status of the SIG using a report adapted from the format for the Chapter annual reports. At the time of the Policy Council meeting, these reports should be available and provide more insight into the status of SIGs and the way in which the Society might support them. Recently the Society has made a budget available for Chapter development initiatives. This budget is at the moment not available for SIGs. After evaluating the first year of providing the budget to Chapters, the Policy Council may discuss whether or not to extend to budget to SIGs as well.

At the 2011 conference, a meeting with SIG and Chapter representatives is planned.

The rationale for developing on online case repository is that it would clarify to (potential) users how SD was used successfully in applied and research settings. SIG and Chapter representatives as well as a limited number of SD practitioners were asked to send in cases. These have been gathered in a preliminary repository. Bahri Khairul has volunteered to add cases. At the moment a student assistant at Radboud University (the Netherlands) is scanning papers in the SD bibliography published between 2000 and 2010. The aim is to add relevant cases to the existing repository and publish a first online version in the months after the conference. This version can then be announced to Society members and the discussion forum, followed by a request to send in additional cases.

The third subject is related to the ongoing concern of the Society Office to raise (low-income) membership. In order to increase membership it would be beneficial to know what (potential) members expect from a membership and what makes them decide to join the Society. To this end, a focus group meeting with potential SD Society members was proposed at the UK Chapter meeting In February 2011. The decision was made to cancel the meeting as few potential SD

Society members were expected to attend the meeting, and the meeting program was too full to use another form of contacting members of the target group (for instance individual interviews).

Etiënne Rouwette, 15 July 2011