

Report VP Member services, Policy Council Meeting Summer 2012

Since the 2011 Winter 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.

Since about two years the link between Society and Chapters/ SIGs has become a focus point for the Society. At the Chapter/ SIG meetings in 2010 and 2011 this issue was discussed with Chapter/ SIG representatives, the VP Chapters and VP member services (who is responsible for the contact with SIGs). Following an initiative by the VP Chapters, SIG representatives were asked to report on their activities in the past year. Last year this resulted in only two reports. This year I sent out a mail a few weeks before the conference and a reminder later, informing SIGs about four things:

- the opportunity to organize a session on Friday after the conference, made available by the St Gallen conference team;
- the annual report for 2012;
- a request for sending in cases for the case repository;
- an invitation to meet and discuss the situation of the SIG.

The reaction was as follows. None of the SIGs decided to organize a session on Friday and no additional cases were posted. Several SIGs sent in an annual report and with most a meeting is planned. More specifically:

- Biomedical SIG: report pending, meeting planned;
- Conflict, defense and security SIG: preliminary report received, meeting planned;
- Education SIG: report pending, meeting planned;
- Energy SIG: report received, meeting planned;
- Environmental SIG: report received, meeting planned;
- Health policy SIG: report pending, meeting being planned;
- Information Science and Information Systems SIG: no report, meeting being planned;
- Model analysis SIG: 2011 and 2012 reports received, meeting planned;
- Psychology SIG: 2011 report received, 2012 pending, meeting being planned.

I hope to have a clearer idea on the status of the SIGs after these meetings.

The case repository (<http://cases.systemdynamics.org/>) is online since November 2011. Since then no new cases have been added. A mail to SIGs and to the discussion list failed to elicit a

response. Although there are a number of suitable cases in this year's conference proceedings and elsewhere, I have not yet been able to convert these into short entries for the database yet.

Etiënne Rouwette, 13 July 2012