

**System Dynamics Society**  
**VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLICATIONS REPORT**  
**TO**  
**THE WINTER POLICY COUNCIL MEETING,**  
**CAMBRIDGE, MA, FEBRUARY 9., 2015**

**Submitted by**  
**Pål I. Davidsen**

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## **1. Members of the Publications Committee**

### *Vice President of Publications*

George P. Richardson has stepped down as VP of publications and Pål I. Davidsen has stepped up for the time period 2015 – 2017. The Publications Committee recognize the significant work that George has contributed with during his time in office.

### *Members*

Susan Howic is a member for the time period 2013 – 2015.

Sara Metcalf is a member for the time period 2014 – 2016.

Edward Anderson has stepped out and David N. Ford has stepped in for the time period 2015 - 2017.

## **2. Main events and achievements of 2014: Report from Publications Committee by George P. Richardson.**

### **1. March 6., 2014 Publications Committee meeting issues (itemized)**

- **Membership of the Publications Committee**
  - Past year: Etiënne, Ed, Susan
  - This year: Ed, Susan, Sara Metcalf
  - Next year: Pål Davidsen will be VP Pubs

- **Executive Editor's notes**
  - Double issue 30:1-2
  - Low backlog
    - Submissions steady at roughly 70/year
    - Lower acceptance rate
  - Format change
  - Working on increasing the use of Notes and Insights
    - Same reviewing process but quicker
    - Shorter articles
    - More diversity of types of articles, e.g., letters
    - Trying to attract senior people in the field to publish N&I
  - Issue goal: 4 “quality research papers” and “1.5 Notes and Insights”
  
- **Graham Russell's, Wiley-Blackwell, notes**
  - Enhanced version of HTML version of the Review is now live – Wiley's “Anywhere Article”
    - Cleaner look than PDF
    - More navigation options
    - Potential live links to existing literature
    - Test example: Laura Black's SDR29:2 article, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1002/sdr.1496>
    - Viewable on any platform, including mobile devices.
  - Roberta and George visiting Wiley-Blackwell in Chichester for annual publications meeting, April 14.
  
- **Conference Proceedings Proposal draft**
  - Authors: Bob Eberlein, Len Malczynski, George Richardson
  - Purpose
  - Contents
  - Process
  - AOB

## 2. Conference Proceedings

**Background.** In 2013, Kim Warren as President of the Society appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of Bob Eberlein (VP for Electronic Presence), Len Malczynski (VP Meetings), and George Richardson (VP Publications) to consider changes to the way our conference proceedings are handled.

We began with the thought that to grow the reputation of the field our conference proceedings ought to focus on high quality work. That suggested publishing only abstracts of all papers and presentations together with full papers of a selection of the best work at the conference. That thought went through five drafts as we consulted with the Publications Committee (Susan Howick, Etienne Rouwette, Ed Anderson, and Sara Metcalf), recent and current conference program coauthors (Pål Davidsen, Etienne Rouwette, Khalid Saeed, Karim Chichakly), and others including John Sterman, David Andersen and Roberta Spencer.

**Resolution.** In the end, Len Bob, and I concluded that the proper course of action is to continue with conference proceedings as we have had them in the past, reproducing all abstracts and papers presented at the conference, but contained not in a printed document or on CD but rather maintained on the Society web site as **Web Proceedings**.

In an effort to capture the richness of the thinking that our process involved, we have decided that the following paragraphs characterize essential understandings about our conference proceedings and should appear in the Call for Papers and all announcements about drafts and final copy for the Web Proceedings:

**Conference papers and presentations are a networking tool** for members of the Society and those who attend a conference. The Conference provides a venue for presenting work and receiving comments that can strengthen the work and help to prepare it for wider distribution.

**The Society will produce and maintain Web Proceedings** of abstracts and papers to provide a complete record of presentations at the Conference. The Web Proceedings are not intended to be a substitute for publishing in peer-reviewed journals.

**The strength of the field requires publishing good work**, reaching audiences beyond those attending our conferences. Consult with experienced professional system dynamics colleagues for suggestions on making your work ready for publication and for suggestions of where to publish.

**Abbreviating your paper for the Web proceedings** is a good idea if you intend to publish it after the conference, as many journals will refuse to publish the same paper that has appeared elsewhere, including conference proceedings.

Submitted by George Richardson, Bob Eberlein, and Len Malczynski, July 2014.

The proposal was addressed in the summer PC meeting 2014, and a policy re. Conference Proceedings was adopted. See minutes from 2014 PC meeting.

### **3. Main aims for 2015 by Pål I. Davidsen**

For 2015, we have five important issues to address;

- We propose a Publication Strategy be developed for the System Dynamics Society. We have a variety of audiences we potentially would like to reach, we have a number of communication channels to choose between, and we have a variety of "messages" to convey to our audience. So it would be important to consider seriously how the SDS should prioritize and spend its resources most effectively in that regard. Such a policy will be closely related to the work that Bob Eberlein and Peter Hofman are doing as VP's of Electronic Presence and Marketing and Communication, respectively. Consequently, the Publication Committee has appointed David N. Ford to lead the work developing of a

Publication Strategy for the System Dynamics Society. David will form a reference panel (ad-hoc committee) consisting of Bob, Peter and other members of our society that may assist us in developing such a strategy. He will report on a regular basis to the Publication Committee and share the issues he addresses with that committee so that we may have an opportunity to respond and offer our input. We expect a preliminary report to be presented to the Policy Council of the SDS in our Boston meeting this summer and for a Publication Strategy to be adopted by the Policy Council in February 2016.

- The current Editor of the System Dynamics review, Rogelio Oliva, has announced that he will resign from this position as of December 31., 2015. Needless to say, we would like to see him continue his excellent work. Unfortunately he is determined to step down. It is our responsibility to nominate a candidate for this important and demanding position. It will not be an easy task to find suitable candidates that are willing to step up. We will start that work now and will ask for suggestions from the membership.
- In May we will participate, together with Roberta, in the SDS annual meeting with our SDR publisher Wiley. In the meetings, issues raised by the Publication Committee, the Policy Council, Officers of the Society and the Home Office will be addressed.

#### **4. 2014 SDR Executive editor's report by Rogelio Oliva.**

The report is attached

#### **5. SDR Publisher's report (to be submitted in the summer PC meeting)**

Wiley – Blackwell reports annually in April and the report will be presented at the 2015 Policy Council.