

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

[Presentation](#)
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Attendees

Voting: Paulo Gonçalves, Jack Homer, Raafat Zaini, Sharon Els, Shayne Gary, Hyunjung Kim, Lees Stuntz, Asmeret Naugle, Sara Metcalf, Bob Eberlein, Paul Newton, Tom Fiddaman, Eliot Rich, Munaf Aamir, Diana Fisher, Krys Stave.

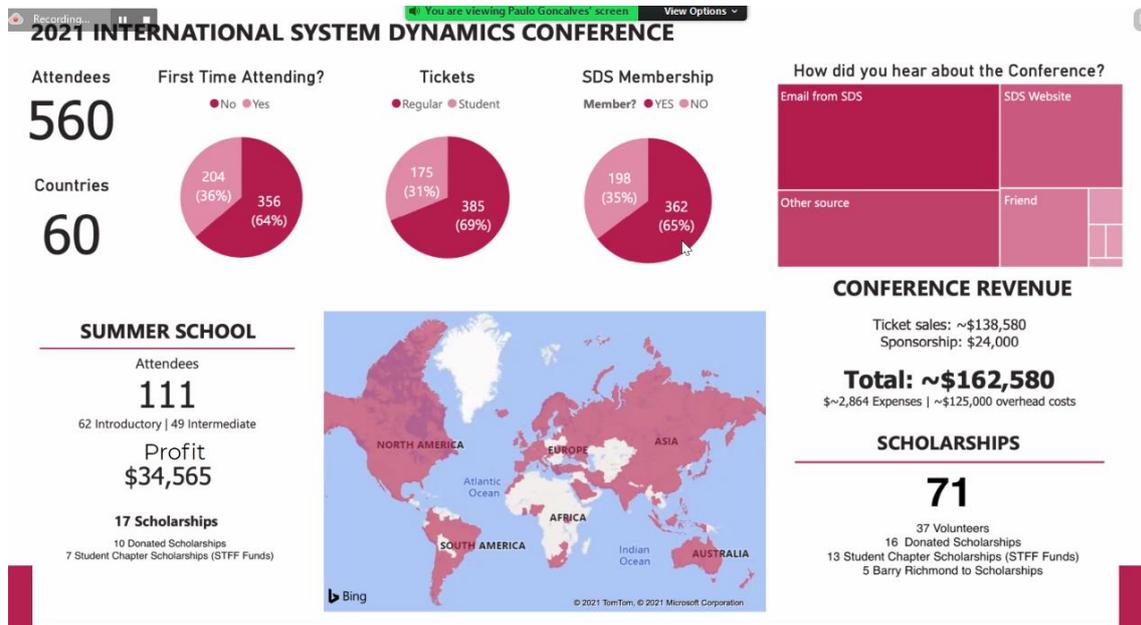
Non-voting: Billy Schoenberg, David Keith, Jorge Sousa, Raquel Buzogany, Rebecca Niles

Agenda

- 0:05 Welcome (Paulo Gonçalves)
- 0:05 Motions (Paulo Gonçalves)
- 0:30 VP Membership - Asmeret (Discussion Follow-up)
- 0:10 VP Finance - Eliot Rich (2020 Financials Report)
- 0:05 VP Finance - Eliot Rich (Investment Committee)
- 0:25 China Chapter - Iris and Helen (Membership Proposal)
- 0:10 VP Epresence (Bob Eberlein)
- Adjournment

Minutes

President Paulo Gonçalves brought the meeting to order recapping some conference numbers (see image below), mentioning that the 2023 Conference Contract with the Hilton Palmer Hotel has been renegotiated for 2023 on much better terms, reminding participants of the General Business Meeting, and stating the importance and future focus on policy and process improvements.



VP Chapter and SIGs, Stefano Armenia, moved to approve the constitution of the Taiwan Chapter of the System Dynamics Society. 2nd by Shayne Gary. No ensuing discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Secretary, Brad Morisson, moved to approve the May and June 2021 minutes. 2nd by Shayne. Motion unanimously approved.

VP Membership, Asmeret Naugle, nudged the PC to continue the conversation about membership categories and their needs. In breakout rooms, participants were asked to develop an action plan. Groups presented their top idea during the meeting and were asked to send Asmeret their notes on the full discussion.

VP Finance, Eliot Rich, showed the SDS comparative finance performance from 2019 to 2021. He was pleased to report that the SDS seems to be closing profitable in 2021, mostly due to the online conference. Budget status is being developed with an oncoming vote.

Sharon Els discussed the Investment Committee activities. Ongoing discussions with draft documents can be shared with interested PC members. The committee is working on monitoring and reporting investment, and she also gave an overview of SDS' investment balance distribution. Discussions have mostly been motivated by the positive conference cash balance that could be better managed than is currently perceived to be the case. Environmental, social, and corporate governance criteria when managing investments would be better subscribing to our world view. Some of the funds have been allocated by managers which might or might not be aligned with those goals, other funds/managers can still be decided on.

The **China Chapter**, Helen and Iris, presented a membership proposal consisting of a lower fee (US\$50) for Chinese members and an additional alternative to payment of 3 years at once (to lessen the burden of foreign transactions). Asmeret looked at different associations in the past but these weren't mostly the same that the China Chapter looked into. The ones she had looked into didn't have different fees for Chinese members. Sara mentioned that many people participated in the China Chapter Annual Meeting - much more than the current number of Chinese members (around 10). Eliot pointed out the need to identify incremental costs, e.g., journal costs, and wondered what might be the cost of replicating Society's posts/seminars/workshops inside the China wall.

VP Epresence, Bob Eberlein, reported: the main site moved from MemberClicks to WordPress with pluses (aesthetics, integration, and approachable editing) and minuses (some data lost in transition and slow page loads). On the infrastructure, the Society is currently running 4 servers. Webportal continues to be used for proceedings, conference, and policy council and is partially connected to Wordpress. The use of the conference site was successful in 2021. The use of email and social media are being improved and generating more outreach. The next challenge is the hybrid conference next year, and an ongoing challenge is to clean up the member database. Bob mentioned it might be time to retire the E-presence role as most of the tasks are being taken up by the Office.

Paulo finished the meeting with some announcements and laid out the September tentative agenda.

Paulo asked who would like to adjourn the meeting. Bob moved. Eliot seconded. Motion approved.