



2023

# Policy Council Meeting

---

April 19, 2023

5:00 - 6:30 PM NYT

## CHECK-IN

**How did you initially get interested in SD and why are you still committed to helping grow the field?**

## **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

**Enter HU in chat OR enter your question or comment**

<http://bit.ly/SDSpcnotes>

# President's Welcome

---



**Brad Morrison**

Brandeis University

- Welcome everyone!
- Let's get to the agenda...

## 2023 Policy Council Meetings

---

- 0:05 Welcome and Agenda (Brad)
- 0:35 VP Meetings (Sara)
- 0:05 Motion for Ukraine (Sara)
- 0:05 Motions (Brad)
- 0:05 Dashboard (Rebecca)
- 0:10 Executive Director Update (Meagan)
- 0:15 VP Updates
- 0:10 Proposed SDR Category: Papers of Current Practice (Krys)
- Adjournment

# VP Meetings - 2026 Conference Proposals

---



**Sara Metcalf**

University at Buffalo

- Introduction
  - Budgeting Parameters
  - Teams
    - Vienna: Astrid Gühnemann, Paul Pfaffenbichler, Olivia Gold
    - Delft: Willem Auping, Alexander Verbraeck
  - Timing: July 20-24 (Mon-Fri)
- Presentation of Vienna Proposal
- Presentation of Delft Proposal
- Discussion and Next Steps

# ISDC 2026

Vienna Bid to Host



IVe   
Institut für  
Verkehrswesen



Bau &  
Umwelt  
...transport



universität  
wien

**VIENNA**  
CONVENTION BUREAU



# Bid to host ISDC 2026 in Vienna - Team



## University of Natural Resources & Life Sciences Vienna

### Vice-chairs



- 8 Professors & Researchers
- 4 Departments
- 5 Institutes
- 1 Centre



- Founded in 1872 as a small agricultural university under the name “k. k. Hochschule für Bodencultur”
- Focus today on Sustainability and Life Sciences
- Ca. 11,000 students in 45 courses at 15 departments
- At least 5 institutes and 1 center have a methodological focus in System Dynamics
- Experience with hosting conferences (e.g. IATBR 2024)

(c) BOKU, CC BY-ND 2.0, [creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/)



universität  
wien

## Conference and Event Management

- Founded by Duke Rudolph IV in 1365 as **Alma Mater Rudolphina Vindobonensis**
- Opening of the historic Main Building in the heart of Vienna’s city center in 1884
- Host of more than 1,000 events and 350 international conferences



<https://event.univie.ac.at/en/>

## VIENNA CONVENTION BUREAU

- Founded by the city of Vienna and the Vienna Chamber of Commerce in 1969 as a department of the Vienna Tourist Board  
- Free of charge support in planning and preparing congresses in Vienna
- Vienna Convention Fund 2025+

<https://www.vienna.convention.at/en>

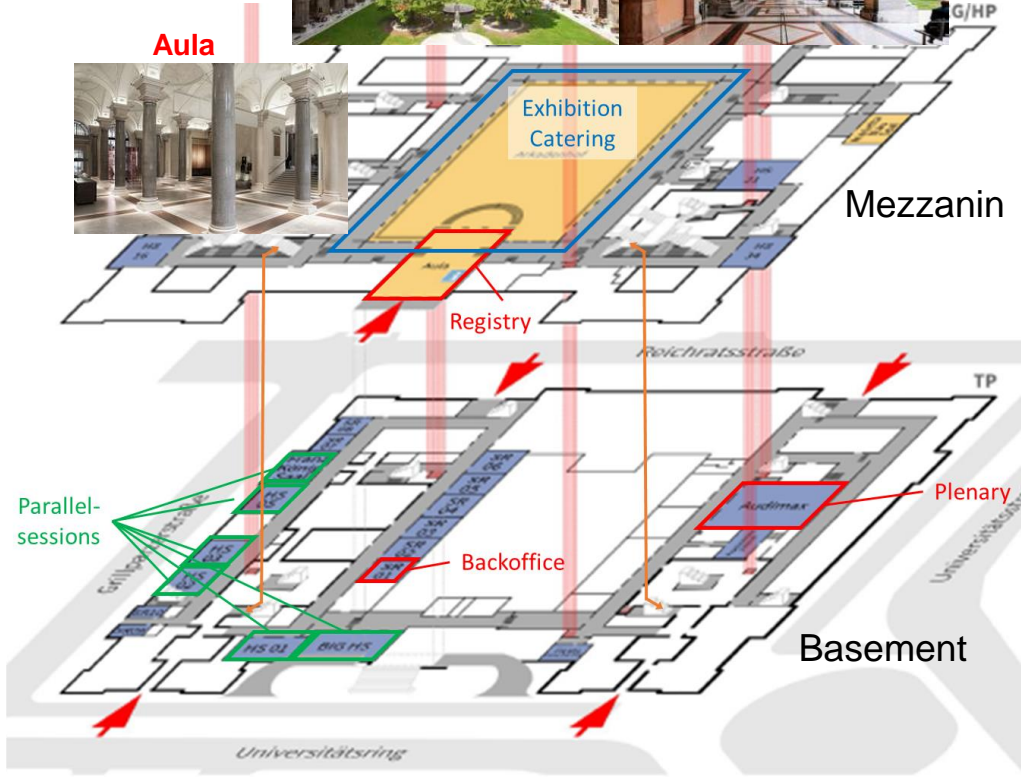
# Bid to host ISDC 2026 in Vienna - Venue

Arcaded courtyard



Conference dinner

Conference venue



# Bid to host ISDC 2026 in Vienna - Rooms

**Plenary**  
Audimax  
750+4 wch.



**Back-office**  
Sem. 01



**Policy c. & student c.**  
Sem. 02  
42+2 wch.



## Parallel sessions

**BIG-HS**  
190+4 wch.



**HS 02**  
68+2 wch.



**HS 05**  
95+2 wch.



**HS 01**  
190+4 wch.



**HS 03**  
86+2 wch.



**Franz-König-Saal**  
96+2 wch.



**Legend:** HS = Hörsaal, Policy c. = Policy council, Sem. = seminar room, student c. = student colloquium, wch. = wheelchair



# Bid to host ISDC 2026 in Vienna - Budget

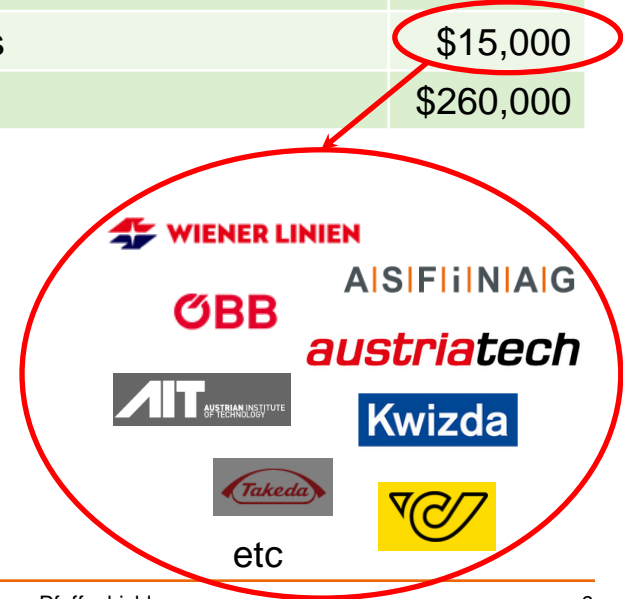
## Expenses (projected total costs in US\$)

Overheads and salary secretariat	\$125,000
Travel costs for SDS office	\$10,000
Room rental, University of Vienna*	\$34,700
Staff, University of Vienna	\$8,200
Other services, technics	\$2,000
Venue Catering (coffee, etc. for breaks)	\$30,400
Banquet	\$25,700
Subtotal	\$236,000

## Income (projected total income in US\$)

Registrations	\$215,000
Sponsoring SDS	\$25,000
Subsidy by local Convention Bureau	\$5,000
Local sponsors	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$260,000

Total Income	\$260,000
Total Expenses	\$236,000
<b>Result</b>	<b>+\$24,000</b>



Logos included in the red circle:

- WIENER LINIEN
- BB
- AIT (Austrian Institute of Technology)
- austriatech
- Kwizda
- Takeda
- etc

# ISDC 2026 – Delft bid

Willem L. Auping

Alexander Verbraeck



# Delft

- Origin in 11<sup>th</sup> century, city rights since 1246
- Long history as key trading city in state of Holland
- Well known for well preserved city centre, painters, and Delft blue
- Home of oldest technical university in the Netherlands (since 1842)
- Home of many simulation models

## Accessibility

- Delft is highly central in Western Europe
- ~1 hour travel from Schiphol, a major airport hub
- Excellent public transport (i.e., train, tram, bus)
  - connections to rest of Europe (train) via Utrecht (1 hour by train) and Rotterdam (15 minutes by train)
- Many hotels
  - Hotel capacity increased significantly since last Delft conference in 2016



# TU Delft

Prominent western-European  
Technical University

27000 students, 6600 staff

SD is practiced at Technology, Policy  
and Management, in the Policy  
Analysis section

4 professors have prime focus on SD

3 courses on SD in core curriculum

- 2 beginner courses (~400 students per year)
- 1 advanced course (~80 students per year)
- Master thesis projects (~20 students with main SD focus per year)



# Conference venue

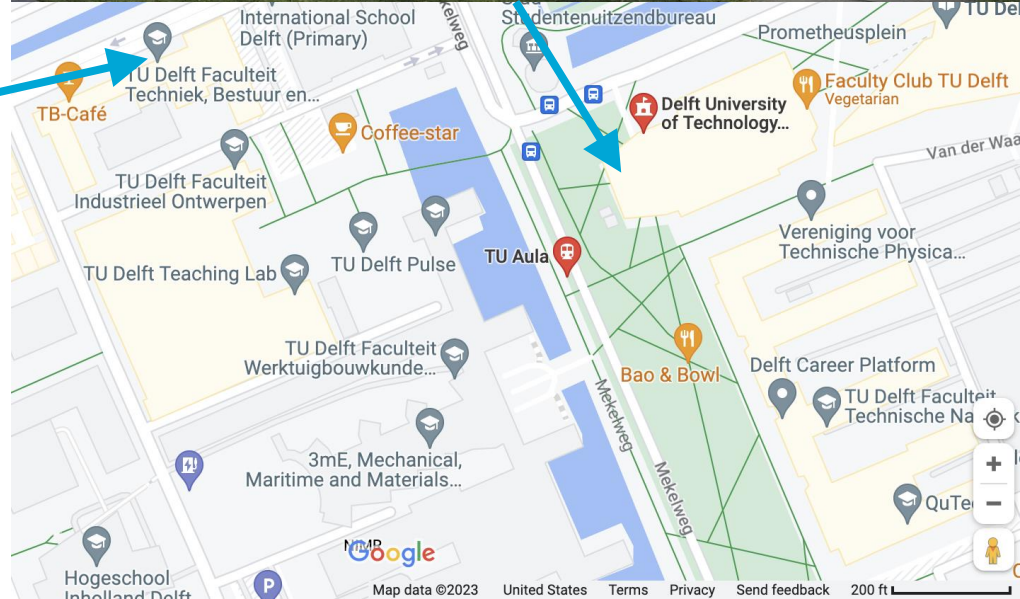
Both Aula and faculty of TPM can be used

Aula for main conference days

- 1 scalable room for plenary meetings (up to 1000)
- 4 large lecture rooms (seats 234 – 330)
- At least two other rooms with smaller sizes
- easy to have 6+ sessions in parallel.

TPM for workshops and SOC

- Less personnel costs
- One lecture room (seats 143)
- 6 lecture rooms (seat around 30 people) on one floor, which can be combined
- Additional rooms are available



# Budget notes

Only personnel costs for Aula

- No additional costs for audio-visual equipment
- No costs for rooms
- Only costs due to personnel for breaks, lunches
- Potential poster buffet to increase interaction between onsite participants

Costs assume 6% inflation on all Delft expenses per year

# Audio-visual support

All rooms have audio-visual support

TU Delft is used for live broadcasting of meetings

- High internet bandwidth
- Good resolution cameras
- Good microphones

Audio-visual equipment is easy to control

- Even possible for presenter (so easy for volunteer)

# Budget overview

Expenses (projected total costs in US\$)	
SDS Home office overhead	\$125,000
Travel costs for SDS office	\$10,000
Room rental	\$0
Personnel	\$12,915
SDS Zoom & Misc.	\$2,000
Venue Catering (5 days of breaks & lunch)	\$27,830
Banquet	\$20,979
Subtotal	\$198,724

Income (projected total income in US\$)	
Registrations	\$215,000
SDS Sponsorship	\$25,000
Local Sponsorship	\$11,100
Subtotal	\$251,100

Total Income	\$251,100
Total Expenses	\$198,724
<b>Result</b>	<b>+\$52,376</b>

# Discussion of 2026 Conference Proposals

---

## Considerations

- Budget/Finances
- Attractiveness
- Capacity/Flexibility
- Others?

## Next Steps

- 1. Now:** Solicit Policy Council input on these proposals
- 2. By April 26th:** VP Meetings to submit recommendation as a report and an electronic motion to approve 2026 site/organizing team
- 3. By May 13th Voting Finishes**



# Motion for Ukraine

---

## Motion to waive the 2023 conference fees for anyone from Ukraine.



**Sara Metcalf**

VP Meetings

### Context:

- In 2022, the Policy Council moved to show its support for Ukraine in a number of ways, including:
  - Waiving 2022 conference fees for anyone from Ukraine.
  - Waiving Society membership fees for anyone from Ukraine through the end of 2023.
- Seeking to clarify our stance on the conference waiver in response to a member inquiry.
- The conference waiver benefit was used by 9 attendees in 2022
  - 1 live + 8 virtual

# 2023 PC Motions Summary (Brad)

---

## UPCOMING

- 2026 Conference site selection (Sara)

## IN PROCESS ONLINE

## VOICE VOTE TODAY

- 2023 conference fee waiver for Ukrainians (Sara)

## PASSED (bold items passed in or since last meeting)

- **(1077) Motion to approve the March 1, 2023 PC meeting minutes (Lees)**
- **(1076) Motion to authorize budget increase for revised audit requirement (Eliot)**
- (1075) Motion to adopt updated logo and branding material (Thomas)
- (1073) Motion to approve ISDC 2026 Program Chairs (Sara)
- (1074) Motion to approve the January 2023 PC meeting minutes (Lees)
- (1072) Motion to acknowledge the potential conflicts of interest and to not take further action (Bob)

# Motion to Approve Policy Council Minutes

*March 29, 2023*

*Moved by Lees Stuntz*

---

To approve the Policy Council Meeting Minutes March 29, 2023

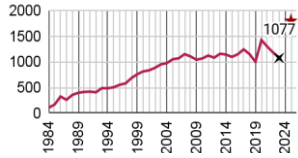
<http://bit.ly/SDSPCNotes>

# Dashboard of SDS Objectives and Key Results (WIP)

Last Update  
2023-04-01

## Membership

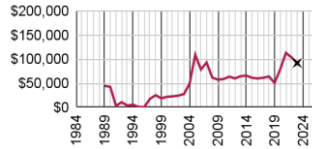
Members (y)



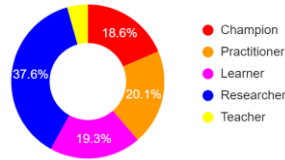
Members (m)



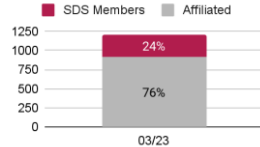
Dues Revenue (y)



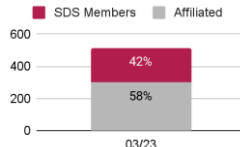
Self ID (274 members)



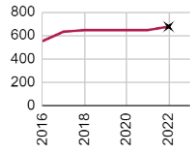
SIGs (m)



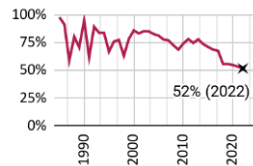
Chapters (m)



Volunteers (y)



Retention Rate (y)



## Awareness

Job Openings



Referral Requests



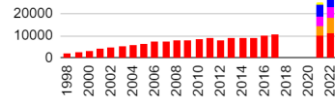
## Financial Health

Net Operating Income (NOI)



### Focus on Membership

- Currently at 1077
- Tracking well ahead of 674 at this time last year
- But behind 2020 max of 1428
- Don't forget we switched from calendar year to annual membership at end of last year
- Will soon be able to use this number over time to track progress rather than watching the bathtub fill each year
- Current goal = 1800 by 2025 (with equal increase in revenues/member)
- We are not progressing
- Need 800 more to reach this small goal
- There appear to be that many nonmembers in chapters & SIGs
- How might we achieve this.



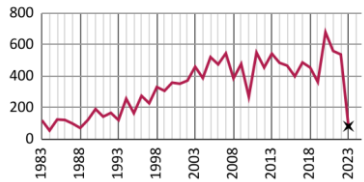
Score	Predictor Percentile	Stress Percentile	Evaluation Risk Rating
80	94	78	1
LOW RISK	LOW RISK	LOW-MODERATE RISK	LOW RISK
DnB Credit Score			

# Dashboard of SDS Objectives and Key Results (WIP)

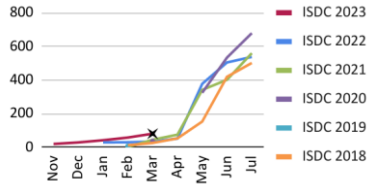
Last Update  
2023-04-01

## Conference

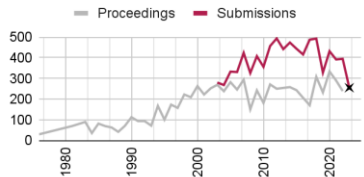
Conference Registrations (y)



Conference Registrations (m)

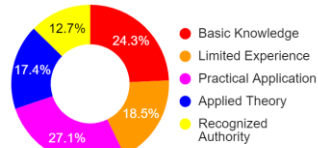


Conference Work (y)

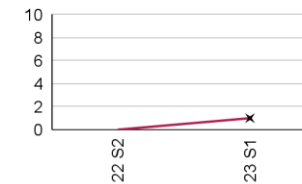


## Knowledge & Skills

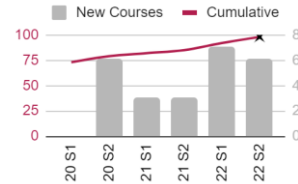
Skill Level (362 members)



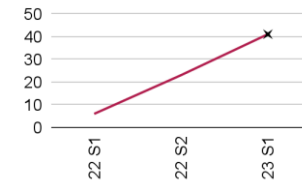
Schools Using ST/SD



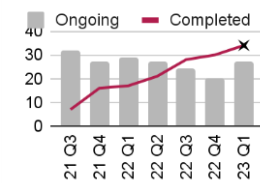
Online Courses



Degree Programs



Mentees



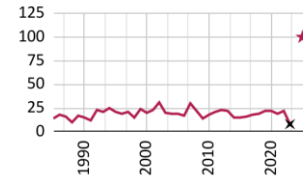
Summer School Attendees



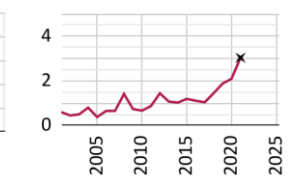
Add students enrolled in master/PhD

## High-quality Outputs

SDR Articles (y)



SDR Impact Factor (y)



Published Articles and % Articles in Top Quartile Journals

Cases



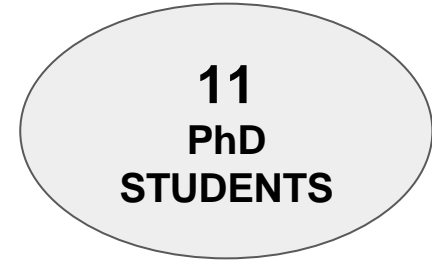
# OKR Update: Executive Director

---

## University Programs & Courses Database Update

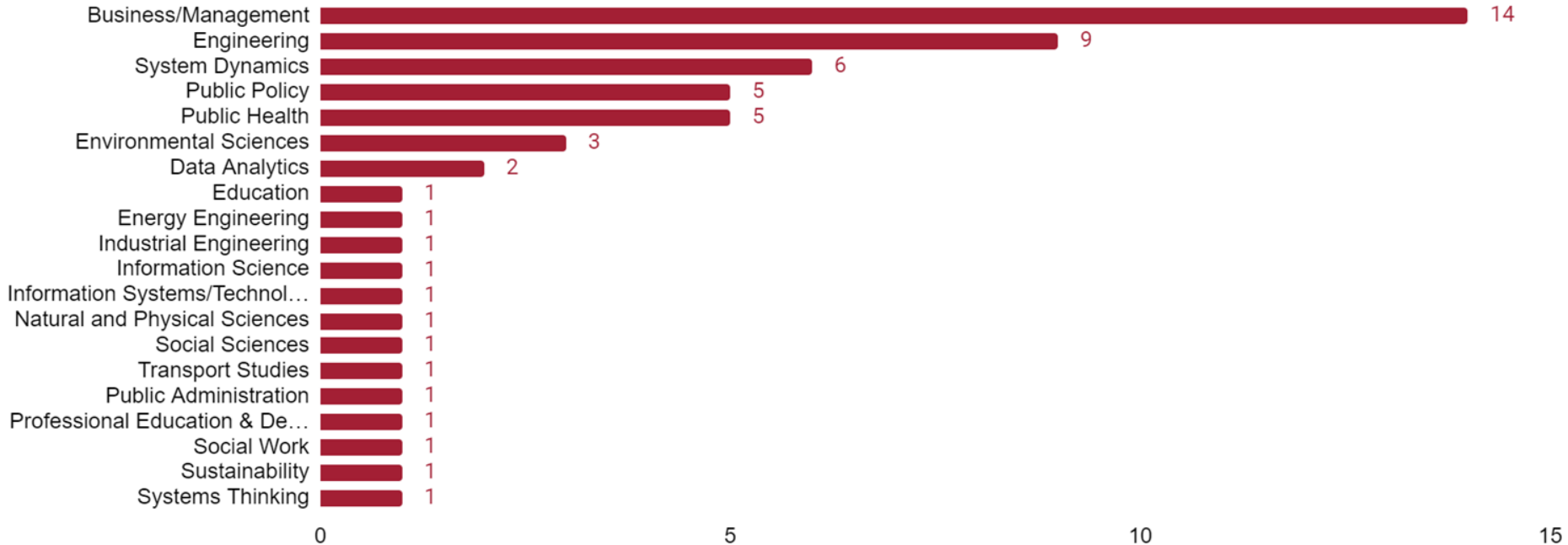


## Tracking PhD Students



# OKR Update: Executive Director

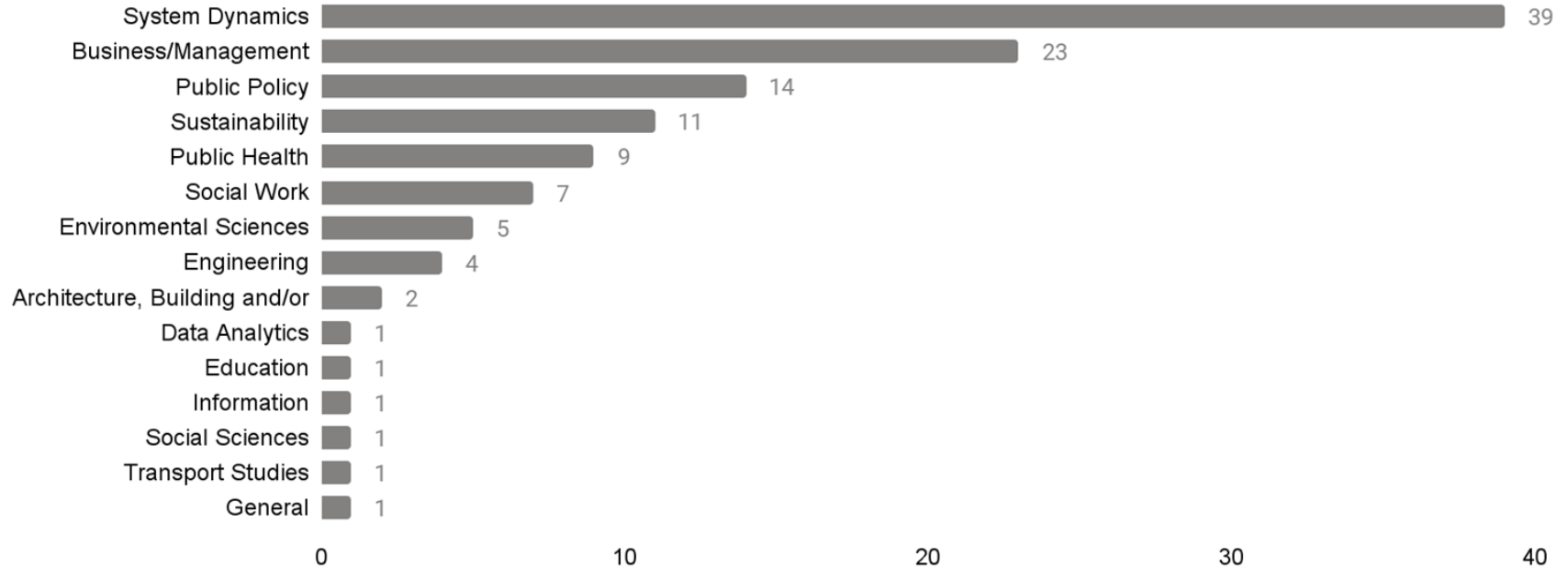
## Fields | Programs



# OKR Update: Executive Director

---

## Fields | Courses

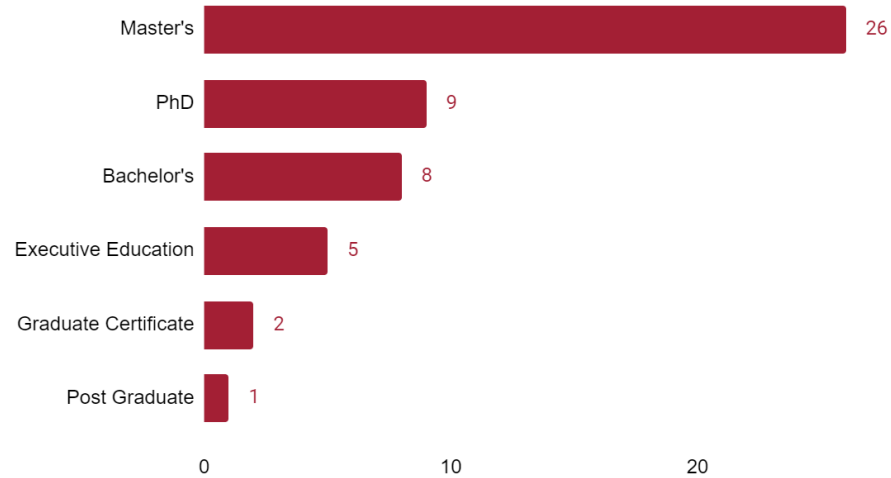




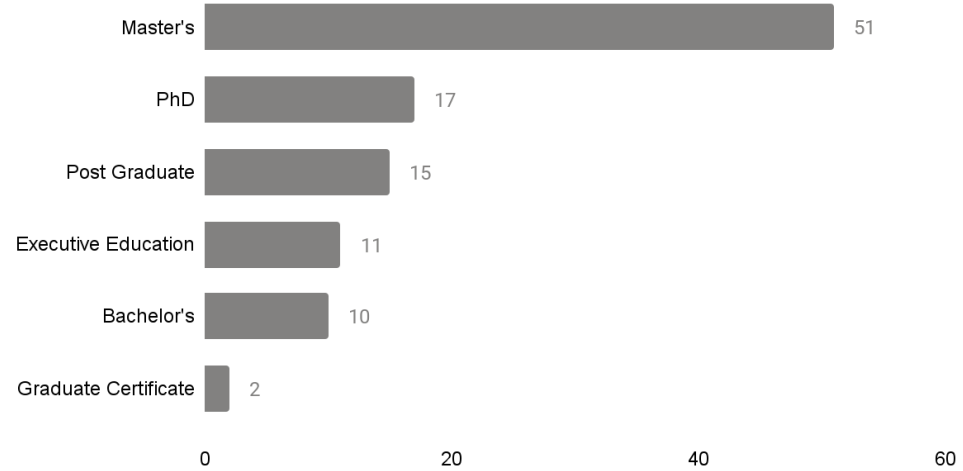
# OKR Update: Executive Director

---

Degree Level | Programs

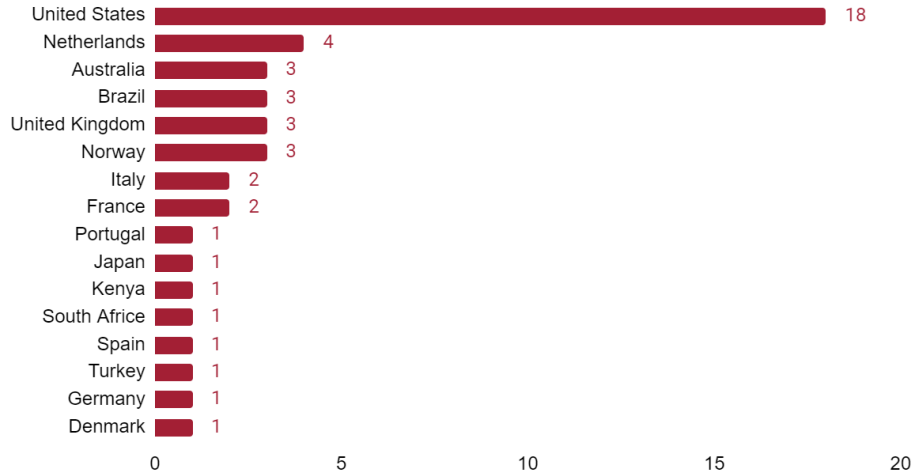


Degree Level | Courses

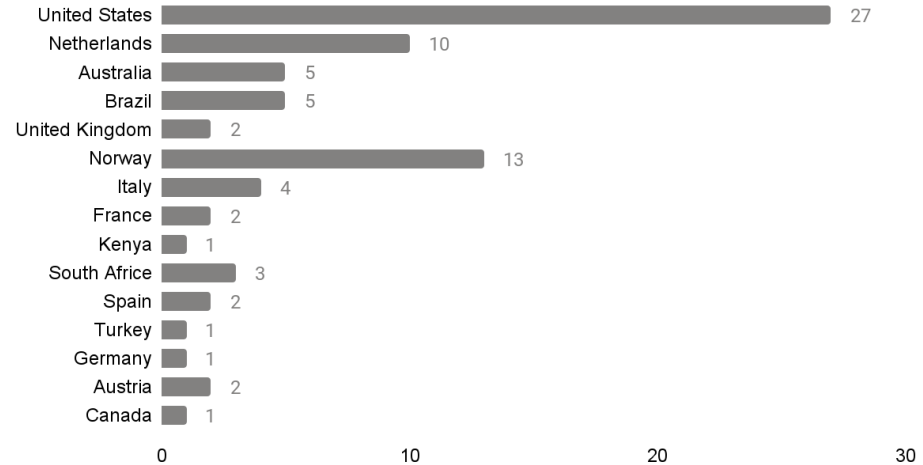


# OKR Update: Executive Director

Country | Programs



Country | Courses



# OKR Update: Executive Director

---

## Database Uses:

- Society understanding the current state of what's offered at universities & in which fields
  - Identification of gaps and opportunities for expansion
- Students seeking programs/courses
- Academics seeking collaboration opportunities
- Professors seeking career opportunities
- Market research for faculty members seeking to bolster their System Dynamics offerings
- Gathering a list of university professors - contact information
- Gathering a list of PhD students so we can track them over time - job placement and opportunities
- Other?

# OKR VP Chapters & SIGs Update

Support chapters and SIGs developing strong SD communities of practices

Incorporate reporting of chapters/SIGs into Airtable

Increase Strengthening the Field Fund applications by chapters and SIGs

Improve the measured impact evaluation of Strengthening the Field Funds on chapters, SIGs, and SDS membership

## POINTS TO NOTE

- Continuation of 2022 preliminary work
- Initial work in Airtable rudimentary
- Reporting easier and useful by 2023 Q2
  
- Need to see more and stronger applications with measurable outcomes
- Emphasis on supporting chapters and SIGs to increase the SDS member to chapter/SIG member ratio
- Double applications by 2023 Q3 relative to 2022 total
  
- Identify and select a reliable approach for estimating potential SDS membership from chapters/SIGs
- Automate reporting of awarded grants via Airtable by 2023 Q2

Legend: 😞 = stuck 😐 = not progressing as intended 😊 = on track

# OKR VP Chapters & SIGs Update

---

## Strengthening the Field Fund (STFF)

Goals of STFF are to increase membership of the System Dynamics Society, develop and maintain members' capabilities in System Dynamics, enable knowledge sharing and dissemination on System Dynamics topics, facilitate community building and collaboration among SDS members, support interest and enthusiasm around System Dynamics topics, make it easier for SDS members to learn and share experiences, facilitate SDS Chapter and SIG activities, and improve linkages to other professional or academic societies.

- Updated guidelines to allow any member to apply (not just chapters or SIGs), created webpage, and reduced turnaround time <30 days
- 9 applications (7 unique) submitted in 2022 (2x increase from 2021)
- 5 approved for total of \$10,000 for 2022, \$12,075 overall (out of a total requested of \$72,750 including resubmissions)
- Applications mostly focused on dissemination SD topics by supporting publication of books

# Publications: Proposed new SDR paper category

---

## Goals:

- Increase # of articles in SDR
- Expand readership by expanding relevance to broader audience

## Proposal:

- Add new category of papers in SDR called **Papers of Current Practice**

## Request:

- Your input about details including focus and review criteria
- Now and/or at open meeting on May 4, 2023 at 10:00 am ET

# Current Categories

## Research Papers

- Scholarly work, systematic investigation of a research question, fundamental contributions to the field
- 5,000 – 10,000 words
- Fully peer-reviewed

## Notes and Insights

- shorter contributions, reflections, observations
- 1,000-3,000 words
- Editorial peer review

## Letters (Announcements) and Commentary

# Proposed Category

## Papers of Current Practice

- Present an application of system dynamics methods in practice in organizational, educational, societal and other settings to solve problems and build skills.
  - Describe what was done in sufficient detail to replicate
  - Discuss how well the practices met the objective(s) for the application
  - Reflect on what went well, could be improved
  - Recommendations for other practitioners
- 3,000 – 5,000 words
- Fully peer-reviewed, different reviewers and different review criteria
- For practitioners
- To build Community of Practice, address practitioner needs



# Review Criteria

- **Relevance and Value**
  - Does paper demonstrate a legitimate use of one or more of the tools of SD/ST?
  - Does it demonstrate a novel use of techniques based on application domain, target audience, or formulations that other practitioners can learn from?
- **Completeness and Context**
  - Does paper (and any supporting materials) make clear what was done, for what reason, how, with what outcomes and in what context?
- **Reflection**
  - Is there relevant reflection about the settings in which the work described would be appropriate and how it could be modified or improved?
- **Clarity**
  - Is the paper sufficiently well organized and written to be clearly understood?
- **Grounding**
  - Is the work clearly grounded in the body of knowledge of system dynamics with appropriate citations?

# Discussion of Papers of Current Practice

Does this category seem useful?

Would you submit a paper to this category?

Would you read a paper in this category?

Comments or concerns?

More discussion at Open Pubs meeting: May 4, 2023 at 10:00 am ET

# Announcements

## Meeting Times

---

- Rotating between 4 and 5pm NYT from May on

# 2023 Policy Council Meetings

---

May 24, 2023 at 4pm NYT

- 0:05 Welcome and Agenda (Brad)
- 0:05 Motions
  - Appointment for Awards Committee
- 0:05 Dashboard
- 0:10 Executive Director Update
- 0:20 VP Updates
- 0:45 ?
- Adjournment

Adjournment