# Policy Council Minutes
## Wednesday, January 24, 2024
## 11 am EST

### Attendees

**Voting:** 1) Allyson Beall King, 2) Bob Eberlein, 3) Brad Morrison, 4) Diana Fisher, 5) Eliot Rich, 6) Hazhir Rahmandad, 7) Hyunjung Kim, 8) Inge Bleijenbergh, 9) Jeroen Struben, 10) Kawika Pierson, 11) Lees Stuntz, 12) Martin Kunc, 13) Peter Hovmand, 14) Thomas Wittig, 15) Timothy Clancy, 16) Asmeret Naugle, 17) Cleotilde (Coty) Gonzalez, 18) Raafat Zaini

**Non-voting:** 1) Rebecca Niles, 2) Christine Tang, 3) Emmanuel Abuede, 4) Ignacio Martinez-Moyano, 5) Claire Doyle

### Agenda

0:15 Welcome & Introduction (Allyson)

0:10 Introduction of new PC members (Allyson)

0:05 Motions (Allyson)

0:10 Dashboard and Exec Director Report

0:10 VP & Committee Reports

0:05 Nominations Committee (Allyson)

0:05 Stewardship Committee (Roberta)

0:10 Timing of GBM Annual Meeting (Lees)

0:05 Followup: Next Steps on Logo Discussion (Allyson/Thomas)

0:15 Followup: Next Steps on Tim Clancy Facilitation (Allyson)

Adjournment

### Minutes

**President** Allyson Beall King brought the meeting to order, introduced the agenda, introduced herself, welcomed the new Policy Council (PC) Members, and asked each new PC member to introduce themselves.

**President Elect** Asmeret Naugle, **VP of Publications** Bob Eberlein, **VP of Membership** Inge Bleijenbergh, and new **Policy Council Members** Cleotilde (Coty) Gonzalez and Hazhir Rahmandad introduced themselves.

**Secretary** Lees Stuntz moved to approve the November and December 2023 Policy Council Meeting Minutes. Raafat seconded. Motion passed.

**Allyson** summarized the motions that passed since the last meeting.

> Motion 1106: That John Ansah, Laura Black, and Brad Morrison be appointed as Program Chairs for the 2027 System Dynamics Conference. Passed (Y:14/N:0/A:1/NV:8)

> Motion 1105: To approve Cleveland as the site for ISDC 2027, with Peter Hovmand and Warren Farr as organizing chairs. Passed (Y:20/N:0/A:0/NV:5)

**Executive Director** Rebecca Niles, presented on the Dashboard and dove deeper into the Chapters and Special Interest Group (SIG) data, focusing on the number of Chapter and SIG affiliates who are not SDS members. She mentioned focusing SDS membership recruitment efforts on the Student Chapter, UK Chapter, Latin America Chapter, Business SIG, Environmental SIG, Economics SIG, and Health Policy SIG.

Allyson asked if Chapters have local membership fees. Some countries do not allow for Chapter fees. Peter clarified that some Chapters have fees. Jeroen Struben shared the progress of forming a Chapter in France.

**Allyson** noted that the Nominating Committee is close to completing a roster of nominees for 2025 and will solicit nominations for 2026 during the International System Dynamics Conference. Inge inquired on the diversity of the long list and its relationship to diversity in the final slate. Allyson emphasized that the Nominating Committee is aware and working on creating a diverse list.

**Awards Committee** representative, Hazhir Rahmandad, clarified that the memberships of the different Awards sub-committees are almost finalized. The Early Career Health Award, with new terms, will replace the Lupina award since the Lupina Foundation is no longer funding the award. Even though having topic specific awards is not encouraged, the committee and Society members, especially the Health SIG, recognize and want to continue the positive legacy that the Lupina award started. Fundraising for the Early Career Health Award will be separate from the Society's budget. Hazhir clarified that different awards have their own policies about solo vs group contribution and explained some of the Dana Meadows award's policies. The SDS will send an email to solicit awards nominations.

The Stewardship Committee update was postponed to a future meeting. Rebecca informed the Council that the remaining Stewardship Committee funds will go toward funding Roberta Spencer's work.

Allyson offered to aid committees with recruiting members.

**Lees** proposed to have the General Business Meeting (GBM) one month before the conference at 4-5pm EDT, asked if a bylaw change is necessary, and suggested having a town hall meeting for discussions during the conference. Discussion ensued on the past timing of the GBM and accessibility of the proposed time, and that the Conference team planned to have the GBM on Tuesday, July 30th at 11AM EDT (New York).

Bob moved to leave [the meeting] at Tuesday at 11 [New York time] just as it is showing in the current tentative [conference] schedule. Inge seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.

Past President Brad Morrison clarified that it is not necessary to have a motion in the future to schedule the GBM, that the President has the authority to schedule the GBM without a PC discussion.

**VP of Marketing** Thomas Wittig explained that, in a prior PC meeting, members of the PC brought forth concerns about the logo, which led to a discussion of potentially revising the logo. Thomas briefly outlined some decisions for the PC to make such as the appointment of an ad hoc committee; and the deliverables (e.g., redesigned logo and brand guide on logo usage), inclusive and transparent approaches to the redesign process, schedule and potential budget of the ad hoc committee.

Bob clarified that Thomas can appoint an ad hoc committee to decide on the logo design revision process. A PC vote is needed just for budget allocation. Brad emphasized that VPs having the authority to appoint ad hoc committees that develop recommendations for the PC to vote on is a good process and mentioned that additional context would help those who are not aware of the issue. Thomas clarified that some members of the society brought forth the concern that parts of the logo resemble a phallic symbol, that there were different points of view on what should be done, and that he wanted a proper process with key stakeholders, not a quick process in which we make another version of logo that may need to be changed again. Hazhir agreed that a process with a good number of people is needed. The next steps are to form an ad hoc committee to determine the scope. Lees suggested that the ad hoc committee consist of both people who were not part of the discussions that chose the latest logo as well as those who were. Thomas agreed and invited PC members to join the committee.

Allyson followed up on the gathering following the October PC meeting facilitated by Timothy Clancy by recognizing that culture is important and complicated, emphasized that SDS needs to consider demographic changes, and proposed dedicating time in future PC meetings to 4 person rotating breakout groups to discuss what's working well, what's challenging people, and where SDS will be in 10 years with a follow up at the Bergen conference. Allyson shared a story of mergers at her university, called for thinking of the future intentionally, especially the Gen Zs who will be our next members, and Peter mentioned the generation beyond Z.

Allyson explained that large groups naturally fractionate, and that Brad told her that the reason the PC became so large is that SDS wanted to be inclusive. Lees shared that there used to be just two PC meetings per year and that we are still learning how to run a PC with a large group meeting every month.

**Allyson** asked who would like to adjourn the meeting. Brad moved. Bob seconded. Motion passed.