



Minutes of the General Business Meeting  
July 30, 2024  
Virtually on Zoom  
[Presentation](#)  
[Recording](#)

1. Call to Order and Announcements. President Allyson Beall King called the meeting to order at 11:02 EDT. There was a quorum of 20 people online present at that time.
2. Motion to approve the [minutes of the 2023 meeting](#) (available on the website). Lees Stuntz moved (Eliot seconded). Motion passed unanimously.

3. **Report of the Executive Director**, Rebecca Niles:

Rebecca highlighted the continuously improved dashboard, stabilizing operations while the conference shows high variability, struggling to achieve the 1800 membership goal in 2025 even though numbers are strong, a retirement pricing model has been instituted, conference registration numbers are impressive with a very full program and high number of submissions, the community continues to grow additional new chapters, sponsorship budget has been exceeded, there is ongoing experimentation with university engagement and Billibonk copyediting.

4. **Report of the Vice President of Finance** Eliot Rich:

Eliot shared the summary of the financial status and clarified that the Society is now in a position to underwrite new projects to leverage System Dynamics. The 2023 financial results (not yet audited) show an operating surplus of \$21,040 and an investment gain of \$163,984. The independent audit is almost finalized and tax reports will follow. The Society continues to receive very good marks for transparency. The Society continues to look forward for a better use of the operational resources. The Society continues to breakeven, with recovery of the 2018 numbers, while presently the journal is the most concerning aspect. The unrestricted assets are increasing which allows for investing in new ideas and strategies. Improvements in cash management are expected to allow for less reliance on direct revenue sources. Staffing the finance committee has been a challenge. The Society is looking forward to a bequest from Jane and Allen Boorstein Estate. Bob negotiated new terms for the Meadows endowments with Dennis, who released some restrictions allowing the funds to be used as a version of the defined scholarship type.

5. Nominating Committee Chair, Brad Morrison, named the **Open Positions for 2026**. Please come forward with self-nominations, expressions of interests, and suggestions to Brad Morrison ([morrison@mit.edu](mailto:morrison@mit.edu))

- a. **President Elect** (2026)
- b. **VP Chapters & SIGs** (2026-2028)
- c. **VP Pre-College Education** (2026-2028)
- d. **4 PC Members at Large** (2026-2028)

6. **Thought experiment**

Allyson asked participants to reply to “If the Society was willing to invest \$100,000 on a special project, how would you propose to spend it?”. Top responses were:

- a. Certification Program for System Dynamics/Systems Thinking  
Discussion ensued regarding the usefulness of certification, the challenges regarding identifying skills, and more.
- b. Sponsor SD education in the developing world  
Minsdeye computing got a UN grant to teach System Dynamics to African participants. Online course might be a good leveling alternative.
- c. Expanding systems thinking across K-12 education  
Getting into libraries, translation  
Connecting with policy makers  
Systems thinking summer camp for kids
- d. Invest in chapters' events to improve their communication, marketing and membership
- e. Hire a grant writer
- f. Collaborate with other organizations that write grants
- g. Expanding training for SD/ST teacher development

7. Allyson asked for New Business. None was brought up.

8. Brad Morrison moved to adjourn (Eliot seconded). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.