

**2025**

# **Policy Council Meeting**

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March 26, 2025

10:30 am NYT

**CHECK-IN**

**Where would you most like to travel  
for the ISDC?**

**QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

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

# 2025 Policy Council Meeting

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0:10 Welcome & Introduction (Asmeret)

0:05 Motions (Asmeret)

0:05 Executive Director Update (Rebecca)

0:05 PC Meeting Schedule Flexibility (Asmeret)

0:05 Dana Meadows Award Modifications (Bob)

0:15 VP Membership Update (Inge)

0:30 Strategic Planning (Asmeret)

0:15 Institutional Neutrality (Scott)

Adjournment

# President's Welcome

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- Welcome everyone!



**Asmeret Naugle**

Sandia Laboratories

# 2025 PC Motions Summary (Asmeret)

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## VOICE VOTE TODAY

- Minutes
- Environmental SIG Name Change

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

- **(1150) Motion to accept the mitigation plan for Rebecca's potential COI (Lees)**
- **(1149) Motion to acknowledge the 2025 conflicts of interest (Lees)**
- **(1148) Motion to approve the 2026 slate of candidates (Asmeret)**
- **(1147) Motion to appoint Mohammad Jalali as VP Chapters & SIGs (Asmeret)**
- (1145) Motion to appoint members to the Strategy Committee (Allyson)

# Motion to Approve Policy Council Minutes

*February, 2025*

*Moved by Lees Stuntz*

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To approve the Policy Council Meeting Minutes February, 2025

<http://bit.ly/SDSPCNotes>

# Motion to Approve the Env SIG Name Change

*Moved by Asmeret Naugle*

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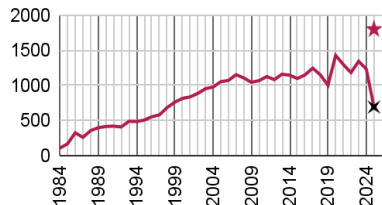
To approve the SIG name change from “Environmental SIG” to “Environment and Natural Resource Management SIG” (ENRM SIG).

# Dashboard of SDS Objectives and Key Results (WIP)

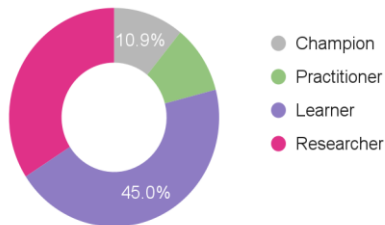
Last Update  
2025-03-26

## Membership

### Members (y)



### Self ID (129 members) Jan 2024

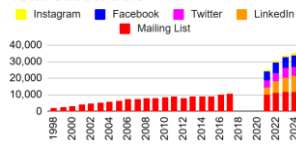


### Retention Rate (y)

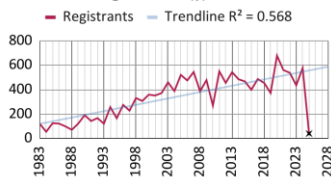


## Awareness

### Total Subscribers



### Conference Registrations (y)

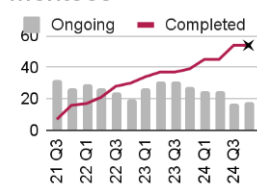


### Referral Requests

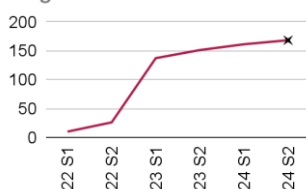


## Knowledge & Skills

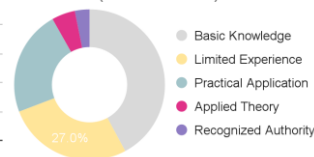
### Mentees



### Degree Courses

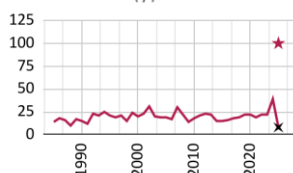


### Skill Level (159 members) Jan 2024

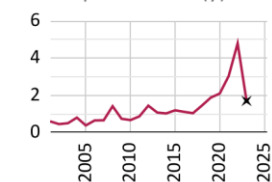


## High-quality Outputs

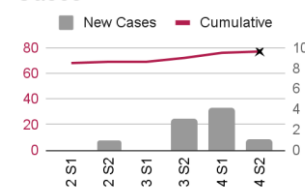
### SDR Articles (y)



### SDR Impact Factor (y)



### Cases



## Financial Health

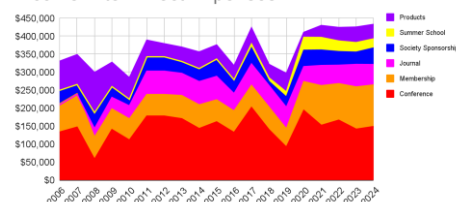
### Net Operating Income (NOI)



### Unrestricted Reserves, Restricted Reserves, and Target



### Income After Direct Expenses

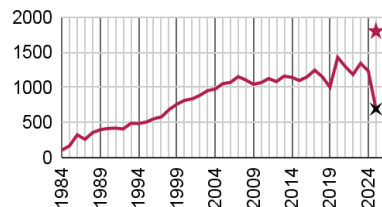


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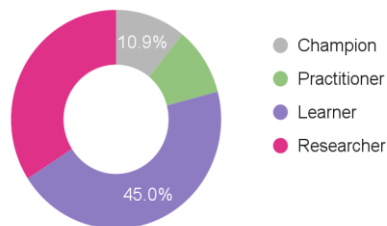
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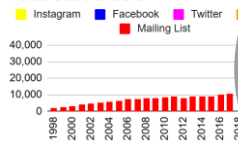


### Retention Rate (y)



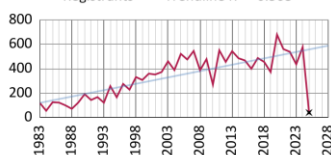
## Awareness

### Total Subscribers



### Conference Registrations (y)

Registrants Trendline  $R^2 = 0.568$

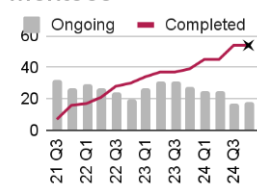


### Requests

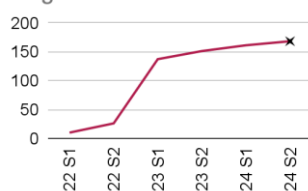


## Knowledge & Skills

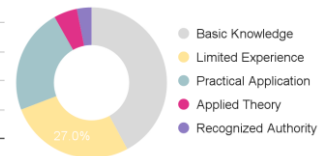
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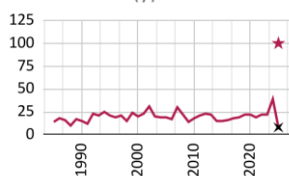


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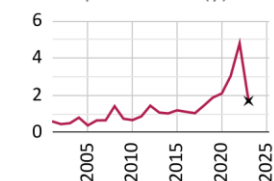


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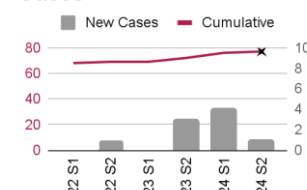
### SDR Articles (y)



### SDR Impact Factor (y)



### Cases



## Financial Health

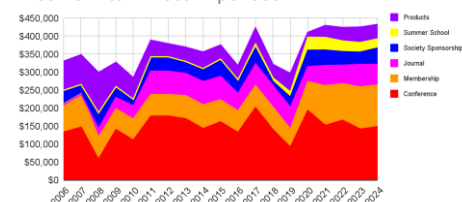
### Net Operating Income (NOI)



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### Income After Direct Expenses





# Executive Director Update - Conference

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**Rebecca Niles**

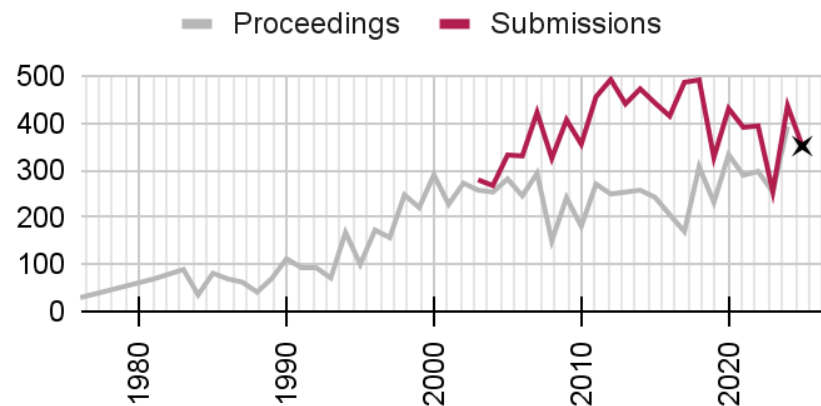
System Dynamics Society

- Conference registrations are on track.
- Submissions as expected, with ~50% on the last day.
- 391 total submissions
- But live registrations expectation would leave the Society at only ~380.
- Much less than 420 planned in budget.
- Estimated ~\$50k deficit which could be higher based on changing circumstances.
- Need to increase promotion and registrations
- Practitioner events are an opportunity to help drive interest

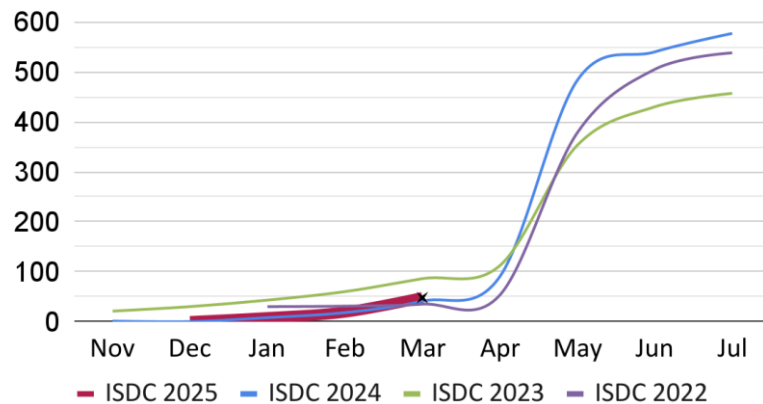
Lees moved that the PC supports the office, VP meetings, and planning/program committees in changing plans about the 2025 conference to adapt to political and other conditions.

# Conference Stats

## Conference Papers (y)



## Monthly Conference Registrations



# Practitioner Events

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- Practitioner Events
  - Practice & Impact Day (Wed and Thu)
  - Social Practice Day (Wed)
  - Special Workshops (Thu)
    - Systems Practice Forum - organized by MIT Chapter
  - Model Expo: no need for accepted paper

# 2025 Policy Council (President)

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**Asmeret Naugle**

Sandia Laboratories

## PC Meeting Frequency

- Policy IV. Section 1. “[The Policy Council] shall meet for electronic discussions monthly and in person during the annual conference when practical”.
- Policy update for **flexibility**
- Improve meeting **efficiency**: cancel meetings if there are no urgent topics to avoid unnecessary use of PC’s time

## Suggested Motion

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- Policy IV. Section 1. Authority. The Policy Council shall set policies and issue directives and shall monitor the work of Officers and other activities under way or planned. *It shall schedule monthly electronic Policy Council meetings with the flexibility of canceling when reasonable,* and meet in person during the annual conference when *possible*".

Current policy: Policy IV. Section 1. Authority. The Policy Council shall set policies and issue directives and shall monitor the work of Officers and other activities under way or planned. *It shall meet for electronic discussions monthly* and in person during the annual conference when *practical*.

# Dana Meadows Fund Proposal ([Report #1002](#))

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**Bob Eberlein**

iseesystems

To better meet the goals of supporting students, the following changes are recommended:

1. That the name of the fund be changed to the Dana Meadows Fund, dropping award from the name.
2. That the distinction of the DMA1 and DMA2 monies be removed.
3. That the purpose of the fund be expanded to include both awards and scholarships.
4. That a more formal charter guiding the administration of the fund with specific spending targets be adopted.

# VP Membership Update

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**Inge Bleijenbergh**

Radboud University

- Diversity Committee
  - Dana Meadows Scholar Proposal
- Membership Update
  - Membership Progress
  - Retirement Progress
  - New Membership Scholarship Fund ([application](#))
  - Exit Interviews



# Dana Meadows Scholar Proposal

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**Inge Bleijenbergh**

Radboud University

- Dana Meadows 2 fund has been growing. Award Committee hasn't been spending it down as requested.
- Request made to VP Membership & Diversity Committee to propose additional spending beyond DMA Award
- Dennis Meadows
  - approved combining two funds
  - gave Society rights to use the remainder of DMA2 "in whatever way you feel best supports development of the field"
  - If that means spending it, as suggested, "by funding the SD summer school to get more high-quality paper candidates," that's fine with me.
  - can now ignore any constraints to use the money for female candidates or even to name the donations in honor of Dana.
  - I read the options the same way: The remainder of DMA2 can be used more broadly. We should consider if we should use it as an endowment and draw interest (teeny) or as a starting platform for ongoing scholarships from the general fund. And to award these funds outside the DMA committee.
  - The second question, with more leverage, is to figure out how to free up funds from DMA1 that are not needed to support the DMA annual award.
- Proposal: Bi-annual scholarship for an SD student worth 30k.
- Selection procedure detailed in proposal.

# SD Society, Politics, and Social Issues (President-Elect)

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**Scott Rockart**

Duke's Fuqua School of Business

The SD Society encounters political and social issues due to:

- World events affecting members such as the invasion of Ukraine (see Policy Council notes from March 30, 2022) and conference location risk (visas, boycotts...)
- Our mission to promote a field where highly influential work often touches on key societal and often politicized topics (e.g., the environment, economy, urban planning, and public health)

Society response and non-response can be consequential to our members and mission, and controversial

President proposes an ad hoc committee, diverse in composition, to review policy options and make recommendations (e.g., when should the society make statements, what should we promote on social media and our website, when and how do we support members affected by world events...)

# Committee Composition and Charge

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- Diverse committee (countries, career level, academia, government, private sector, SIG), Past President, Home Office, Policy Council (goal 7 committee members)
- Committee Charge
  - Review the Society's vision, mission, and prior decisions of the Policy Council
  - Review current and potential methods by which the Society does, or appears to, take positions (e.g., reposts on social media, In the Loop)
  - Review the policies, statements, actions, and outcomes of peer institutions
  - Review the substance of, and debate around, variants on "Institutional Neutrality" policies (see, notably, the University of Chicago committee report from 1967 "[Kalven Report](#)")
    - That report recognized situations when a university should take positions on political and social issues *"From time to time instances will arise in which the society, or segments of it, threaten the very mission of the university and its values of free inquiry. In such a crisis, it becomes the obligation of the university as an institution to oppose such measures and actively to defend its interests and its values."*
    - For the most part, however, it argued for *"a heavy presumption against the university taking collective action or expressing opinions on the political and social issues of the day, or modifying its corporate activities to foster social or political values, however compelling and appealing they may be."*
  - Produce a draft report, providing specific guidance for the Home Office and Policy Council, for review by the Policy Council
  - Produce a final report with a statement to be approved by the Policy Council

# Reminder of past decisions and Examples

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- Statement on Ukraine vs Every other conflict
  - E.g., Gaza-Israel
- Conference in the US - we had people saying they wouldn't attend the conference in the US because of recent political developments
- Climate Change and everything else
  - E.g., DEI
  - Statement on transparency of COVID models
  - MJ's paper - can we post on Society social media?
    - <https://lnkd.in/eHVWfrmw>

# Action points

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- What should our policy be?
  - What statements should we make?
  - What can we promote on Social media?
- Asmeret is creating an adhoc committee to create a guideline on “Institutional Neutrality”
  - Volunteers please contact Asmeret

ADJOURNMENT