



2025

# Policy Council Meeting

May 28, 2025

3:30 pm NYT

## CHECK-IN

**What was your first job?**

## **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

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

<http://bit.ly/SDSpcnotes>

# 2025 Policy Council Meeting

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0:10 Welcome & Introduction (Asmeret)

0:05 Motions (Asmeret)

0:10 DMA Fund (Bob)

0:20 VP Membership Update - DMA Scholarship Proposal (Inge)

0:45 Strategic Planning (Asmeret)

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
- Budget Amendment
- Committee Appointment

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

- **(1153) Motion to support ISDC 2025 decision-makers to change plans (Lees)**
- **(1152) Motion to approve the Environmental SIG name change (Asmeret)**
- (1150) Motion to accept the mitigation plan for Rebecca's potential COI (Lees)
- (1149) Motion to acknowledge the 2025 conflicts of interest (Lees)

# **Motion to Approve Policy Council Minutes**

*April, 2025*

*Moved by ...*

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To approve the Policy Council Meeting Minutes April, 2025

# Motion to Approve Budget Adjustment for Second JWF Award

*Moved by Eliot Rich*

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To approve an increase in the 2025 Budget for the JWF award from \$5,200 to \$12,000 to allow for a second JWF Award to be given.

Prize money: \$10,000 = 2 x \$5000

Plaques: \$1500

Overtime AV Costs: \$500

TOTAL: \$12000

*Note: This increases budgeted loss for 2025 from \$46,000 to \$51,000. And we may have additional losses due to conference.*

# **Motion to Appoint...**

*Moved by Allyson Beall King*

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Willem Auping to the Executive Committee.

# DMA Fund

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- See report



**Bob Eberlein**

Isee systems

# Dana Meadows Scholar Fund Proposal

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**Inge Bleijenbergh**  
Radboud University

- US\$30K in funds, awarded every two years.
- Priority will be given to student from low-income country and needs based.
- To finance education in System Dynamics, e.g., tuition fees. Travel, accommodation, and basic living expenses covered by student. Plus ISDC registration.
- Examples of lowest-cost established programs
  - European Master in System Dynamics (US\$32 - 39K for two years) or
  - University of Bergen System Dynamics Masters Program(US\$ 37K for two years).

# Dana Meadows Scholar Proposal: Alternatives Considered

Alternative	Pros	Cons
Increase Conference Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Greater accessibility to conference for students or low-income applicants</li><li>- Utilizes existing administrative processes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- One-off conference attendance may not be sufficient to support sustained SD practice or study</li><li>- Funneling funds back to the Society</li></ul>
Social Impact Loans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Loan program allows reinvestment of fund to extend impact</li><li>- Supports diversity/inclusion aims</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Administratively burdensome option (awarding and monitoring potentially high-risk)</li><li>- Outside core business of professional association</li></ul>
Translation Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Potential revenue source</li><li>- Broad outreach supports diversity/inclusion aims</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Administratively burdensome (coordination w/ chapters, royalties of local publishers and authors)</li><li>- Profit margin on publications is low, effort is high</li><li>- Outside core business of professional association</li></ul>
Scholar Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Embeds a student in SD community which expands career possibilities</li><li>- Enables potentially life-changing opportunity</li><li>- Utilizes existing administrative processes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Administration for selection process</li><li>- Narrower outreach</li><li>- Risk of miss allocation</li><li>- Requires investment in living costs for selected student</li></ul>

# Dana Meadows Scholar Fund: Selection Procedure

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## Eligibility & Application Requirements (Weighting)

1. Bachelors, with a minimum GPA Level **(25%)**
2. Reference of member of the International System Dynamics Society. **(25%)**
3. Motivation letter **(50%)**
4. Contingent on acceptance into a program

## Scoring:

- Quality of Candidate
- Contribution to the diversity of Pool of SD experts
- Motivation
- Spread of Knowledge
- Prioritize candidates who want to further develop SD in underrepresented areas.

## Selection Committee

- VP membership
- Diversity Committee member
- (Former) System Dynamics Student
- Representative from Dana Meadows Fund.

# **Motion to Approve (electronically)**

*Moved by Inge Bleijenbergh*

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To approve the proposal to award a bi-annual Dana Meadows Scholarship in the amount of \$30,000 for a student from OECD to complete an education in system dynamics

# Strategic Planning (President)

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**Asmeret Naugle**  
Sandia Laboratories

- PC breakout rooms
  - **Threats**
    - Regarding the different topics on the articles of organization
  - Record your notes in the shared slides
  - Report out on your top 1-2 threats (6min)

# Articles of Organization

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The objectives of the Society shall be:

1. to identify, extend and unify knowledge contributing to the understanding of feedback control systems
2. to promote the design of structures and policies to improve the behavior of such systems
3. to promote the development of the field of system dynamics and the free interchange of information about systems as they are found in all fields of endeavor
4. to promote the dissemination of information on such topics to the general public, and
5. to encourage and develop educational programs in the behavior of systems.

# **Breakout Room 1:** to identify, extend and unify knowledge contributing to the understanding of feedback control systems

Participants: Oluwabunmi Falebita, Raafat Zaini, Allyson Beall King

## **Threats (Challenges? Opportunities? )**

- Is unification even a possibility given the number different disciplines that talk about systems. Only SD distinguishes stocks and flows.
- Feedback thinking is part of a big tent that people come to from different disciplines
- Loss of value: If what we contribute to the world is not clear
- Dana Meadows communicates stocks and flows in a way that resonates well with others
- Should we be using more AI for communication? Help us talk about stocks and flows in a more accessible language

# **Breakout Room 2:** to promote the design of structures and policies to improve the behavior of such [feedback control] systems

Participants: Bob, Burcu, Meagan

## **Threats**

- Artificial Intelligence may obsolete everything we have ever done.
- Resistance to change
  - Political will to look at things from system point of view may be lacking.
    - Alternative facts.
    - Ideological differences
  - Having good designs that are never accepted by anyone:
    - Poor communications
    - Don't believe the value/insight
- Funding to actually do things
  - To the Society
  - To those trying to innovate
- Retirement of devoted people in the field
- People are just too busy
- Incentive are not in place to make changes

# Strategic Goals from Room 2

- Expansion of system dynamics and systems thinking more broadly and from a young age
- Incorporation of more widespread frameworks into every system dynamics work.
  - A non biased and neutral view of the world
  - A recognition of things working together causing results
    - The purpose of a system is what it does.
- More publication to the broader public by members of our community
  - Social media and other content in various forms
  - Self publications hints
- Reaching other cultures and languages
  - Reducing barriers to access
- Stay in business

**Breakout Room 3:** to promote the development of the field of system dynamics and the free interchange of information about systems as they are found in all fields of endeavor

Participants: Scott, Ignacio

### **Threats**

- Competition for attention and funding from other approaches seen as more exciting/trendy (e.g., AI) or more established or readily accepted (e.g., statistics) or easier to learn and adopt (crowd-sourcing, data visualization, systems work that does not involve modeling)
- Difficulty making deep and meaningful connections across areas of application leading to limited benefits of scale and scope of work
- Fragmentation in methodological approaches within the System Dynamics community (software, content of work...)
- Limited access to good work that is proprietary
- Self-censorship or external penalties for work that touches political themes
- Difficulty of communicating benefits of System Dynamics in a way that is compelling

# **Breakout Room 4:** to promote the dissemination of information on such topics to the general public

Participants: Diana, Eliot, Jorge

## **Threats**

- We need an identity to share and differentiate
- General public communications required to grow the field
- Expense and difficulty of getting started while keeping the essence
  - How do others do this
- Conflict with other systems thinking models
  - Pre-college SIG: systems thinking symposium from a SD modeling perspective
  - We need to demo why to use our tools and vocabulary?
  - How does the public understand the field (what's the gap we are trying to close?)
  - Demonstrate the value of the approach
- People look for fast solutions rather than defensible and robust solutions
- A lack of common and easily transferred ideas
- Difficulty of linking SD ideas into consumer / user domains
  - Pre-college SIG: Show what's gained with the SD lens

# **Breakout Room 5:** to encourage and develop educational programs in the behavior of systems

Participants: Asmeret, Inge, Willem

## **Threats**

- Difficulty with government funding, travel makes conference travel difficult, might reduce international collaboration opportunities
- Funding problems - Affordability of small programs, availability of teachers, hiring
- Competition from AI
- Too many “single-person armies” - individual professors without teams, also shrinking programs
- Some people are overly precise on what “correct” SD is - killing new developments
- Could improve the constructiveness of our conversations, especially with outsiders
- People consider discrete event simulation to be “finished” - we need to avoid this, find important new topics to research

## **Five year goals**

- Accessibility of the thinking to large audience, popular media
  - Should be known to a larger audience
- Should be in dialog with other systems thinking, simulation streams
  - Hard to find meetings where we can interact

# ADJOURNMENT