

2025 Policy Council Meeting

April 26, 2025

10:30 am NYT

CHECK-IN

What is your favorite food?

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

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

2025 Policy Council Meeting

0:10 Welcome & Introduction (Asmeret)

0:05 Motions (Asmeret)

0:10 VP Meetings Update (John)

0:10 VP Membership Update (Rebecca on behalf of Inge)

0:10 VP Publications (Bob)

0:45 Strategic Planning (Asmeret)

Adjournment

President's Welcome

- Welcome everyone!



Asmeret Naugle

Sandia Laboratories

2025 PC Motions Summary (Asmeret)

VOICE VOTE TODAY

- Minutes

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)

FAILED (bold items failed in or since last meeting)

- **(1154) Motion to Approve Policy Council Meeting Flexibility (Asmeret)**
 - Y:12/N:5/A:0/NV:6 - required 15 to pass

Motion to Approve Policy Council Minutes

March, 2025

Moved by Lees Stuntz

To approve the Policy Council Meeting Minutes March, 2025

<http://bit.ly/SDSPCNotes>

VP Meetings Update



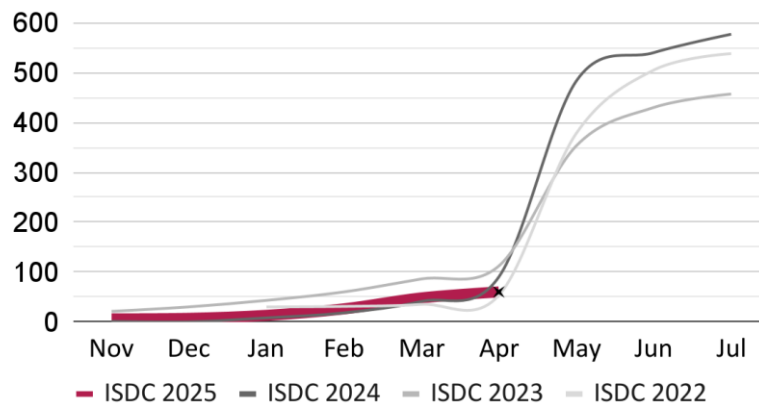
John Pastor Ansah

CASE

- Conference Stats
- Conference Process
- Conference Organization

Conference Stats

Monthly Conference Registrations

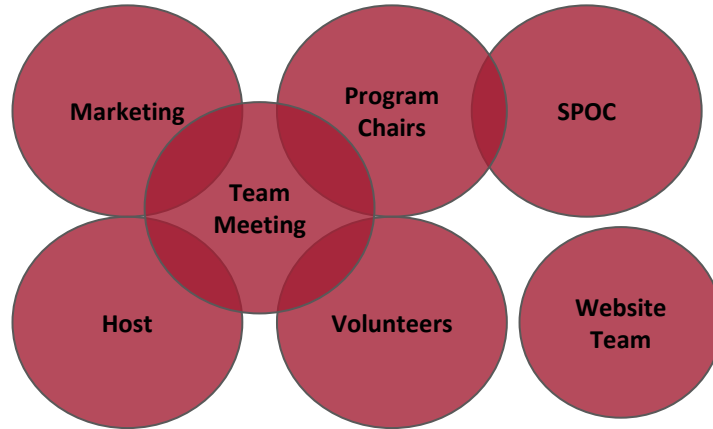


Conference Process

- Latest:
 - Acceptance/Rejection letters have been sent out
- Upcoming:
 - Placement notification
 - Presenter registration deadline

Conference Organization

- VP Meetings oversees:

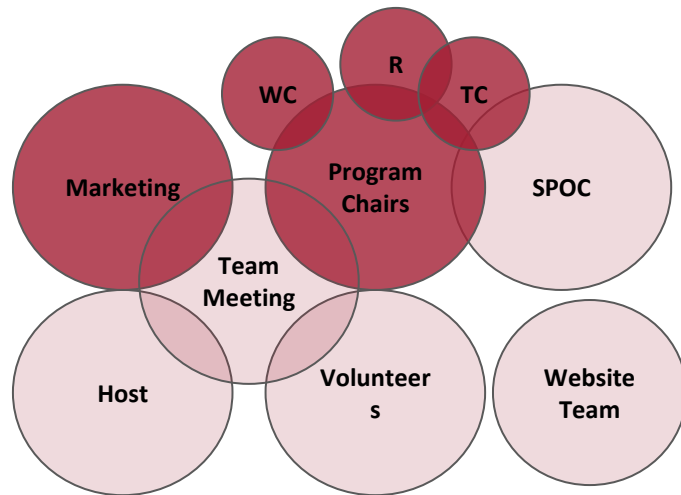


Conference Organization

Marketing:

Thomas Wittig, Fernando, Monique

- Promote conference across different channels
- Create and coordinate marketing emails
- Think strategically about events



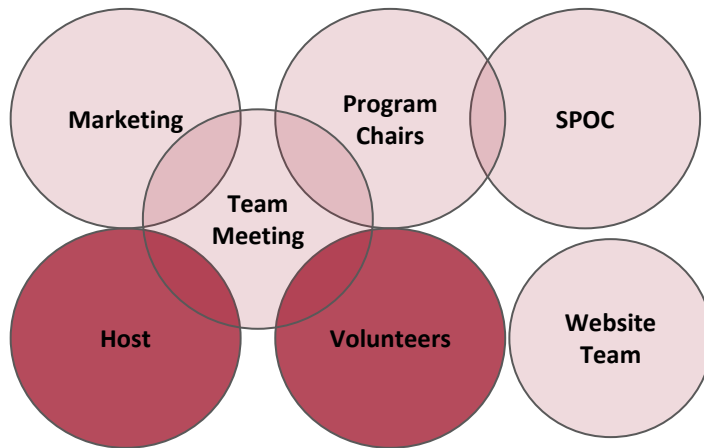
Program Chairs:

Karim Chickakly, Niyousha, Rod MacDonald
Supported by Raquel

- Identify theme and plenaries
- Define program slots
- Solicit and accept submissions
- Oversee thread chairs, workshop chairs, and reviewer contributions
- Create program

Weekly meetings

Conference Organization



Host:

Tami Gouveia - BU

- Define social events
- Support logistics
- Support IT

Volunteer Coordinators:

Meagan, Sandra Ham, Andries Botha

- Support logistics and sessions

Website Team:

Bob Eberlein, Claire Hornig

- Implements changes on the conference website

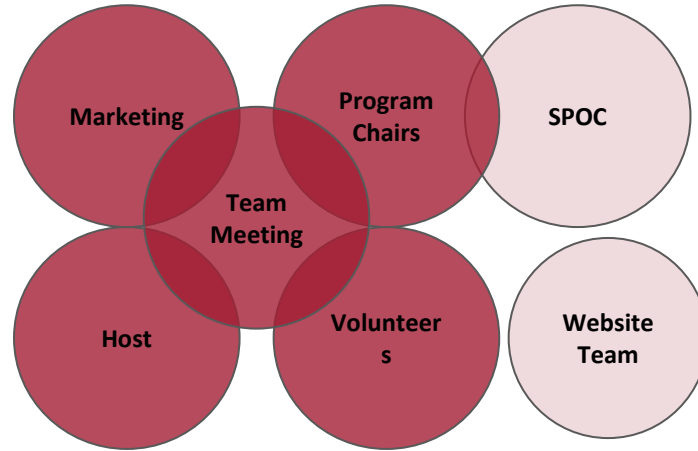
Conference Organization

Team Meeting:

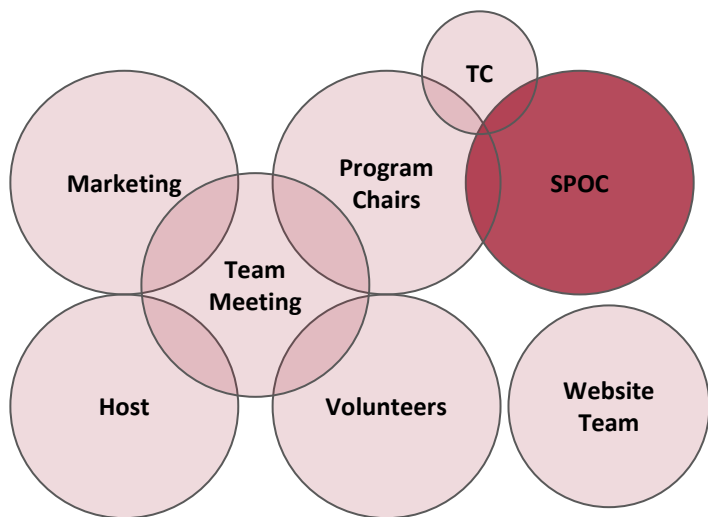
Coordinated by Rebecca

- Communication and coordination across Host, Program Chairs, Marketing, and Volunteers

Weekly meetings during 2nd semester



Conference Organization



SPOC:

John Ansah, Bob Eberlein, David Lounsbury, Rod MacDonald, Hyunjung Kim, Susan Howick

- Ensure continuity across years
(members include: VP Meetings, VP Publications, past/present/future program chairs)
- Select Program Chairs
- Update Program and Thread Chair Guidelines
- Review proposals for major submission and session changes by Program Chairs

Monthly meetings

Conference Long Term Strategy

Objective:

- To establish a sustainable, innovative, and globally recognized conference that continually adapts to the evolving needs of the research and professional community.

Conference Short Term Goal

- **Standardize Processes:** Develop clear guidelines and timelines for all aspects of conference planning (e.g., call for papers, review processes, speaker invitations, sponsorship acquisition).
- **Expand Outreach:** Broaden marketing efforts to reach underrepresented regions, SD practitioners, and early-career researchers.
- **Continue Hybrid Formats:** Continue the hybrid conference format to increase accessibility and test flexible models for future events.

Conference Long Term Goal

- **Rotate Hosting Locations:** Explore the possibility of including Asia and Latin America in the conference hosting rotation to enhance global visibility and foster regional engagement.
- **Incorporate Innovation:** To keep the program forward-looking, regularly introduce new session formats (e.g., hackathons, workshops, fireside chats) and emerging topics.

Conference Venues

- **2026** : Delft, Netherlands
- **2027**: Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA
- **2028**: Two possible host (London (UK), Palermo (Italy))
- **2029**: Not Decided
- **2030**: Not Decided

Discussion

- **Is there anything that we should run by the SPOC to modernize the conference**

VP Membership Update



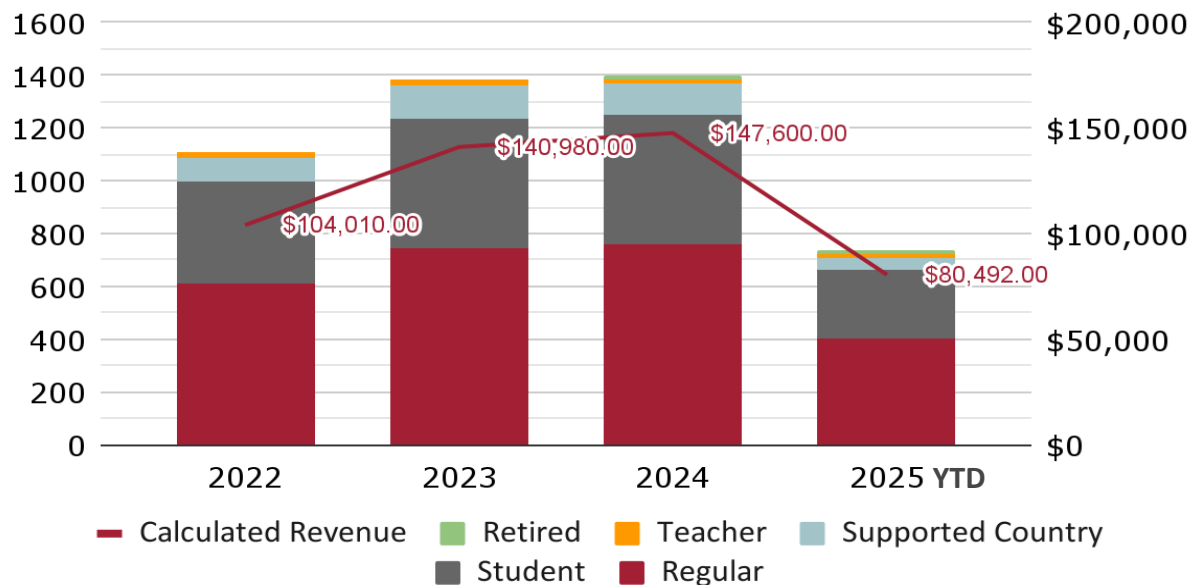
Inge Bleijenbergh

Radboud University

- Membership Update
 - Membership Progress
 - Retirement Progress
 - New Membership Scholarship Fund ([application](#))
 - Exit Interviews

Memberships

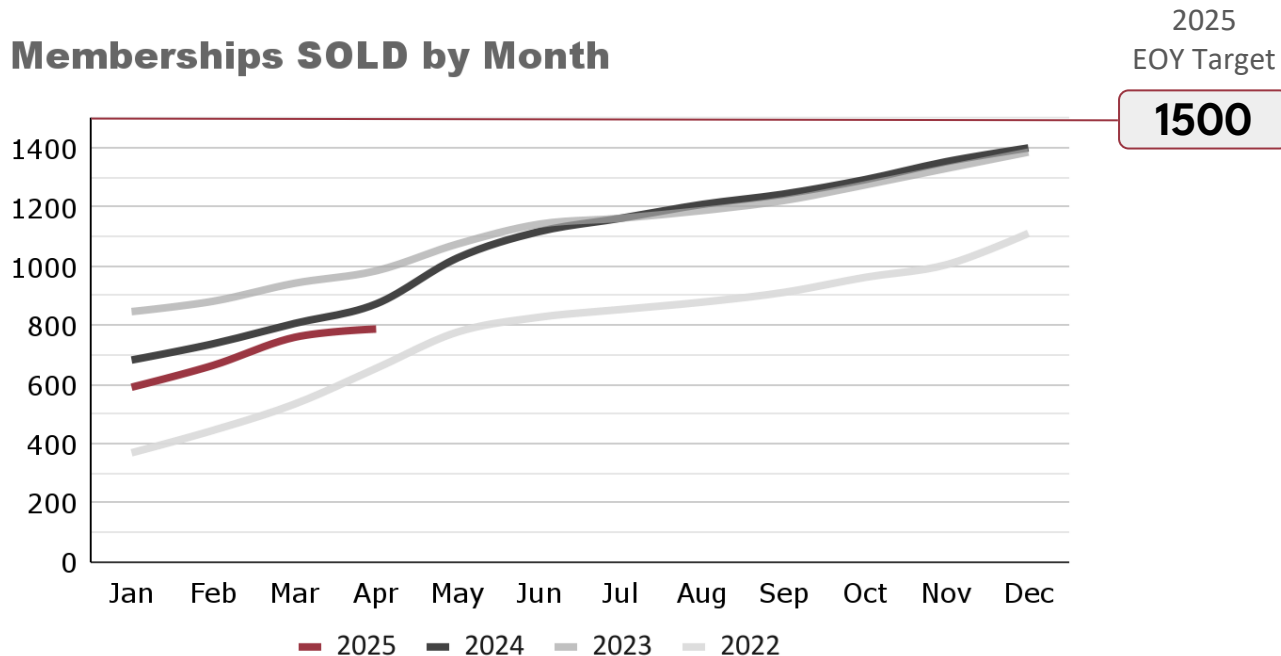
Membership SOLD by Year



Memberships and members have been increasing, too early to tell what will happen this year.

Memberships

Memberships SOLD by Month

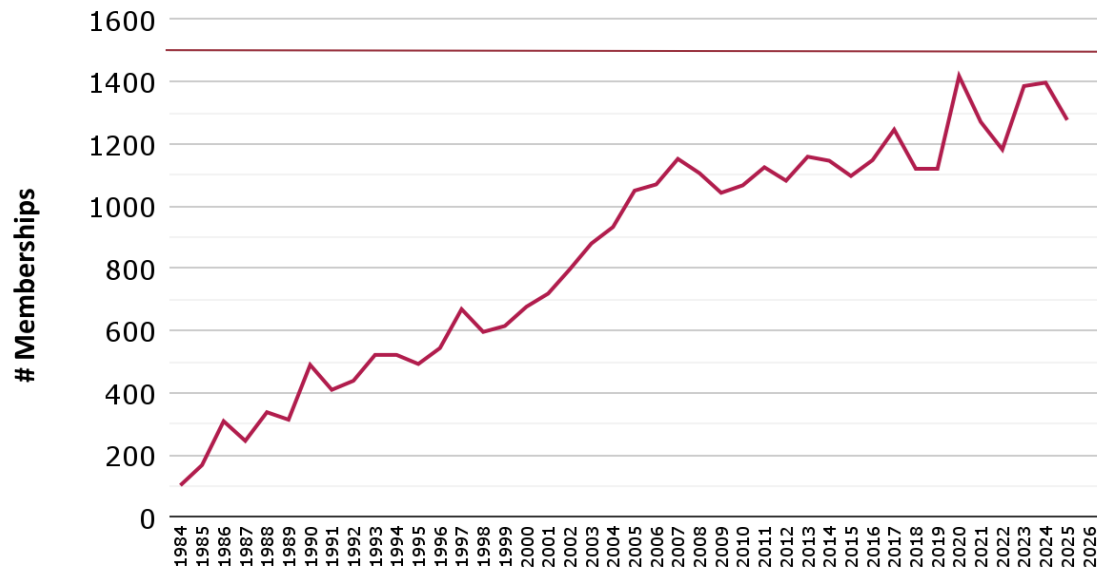


Memberships sales are off to a slower start, but bump expected with conference.

Updated: April 9, 2025

Memberships

ALL TIME System Dynamics Society Members



2025
EOY Target

1500

Current # Active members

1307

Updated: April 9, 2025

In 2023, we switched to subscription basis, before that year end numbers were used.

Retired Memberships Plans

- Retired membership plan introduced June, 2024
- Previous numbers reflect an unofficial plan when only a handful of members personally requested a discount and were offered.

Year	Retired
2023	5
2024	15
2025 YTD	14

Membership Scholarship Fund 2023 - 2025

- Currently funded **mostly** by sponsors who don't use their membership benefits.
- Automated approval process with review by office.
- Sponsors are introduced to their members.

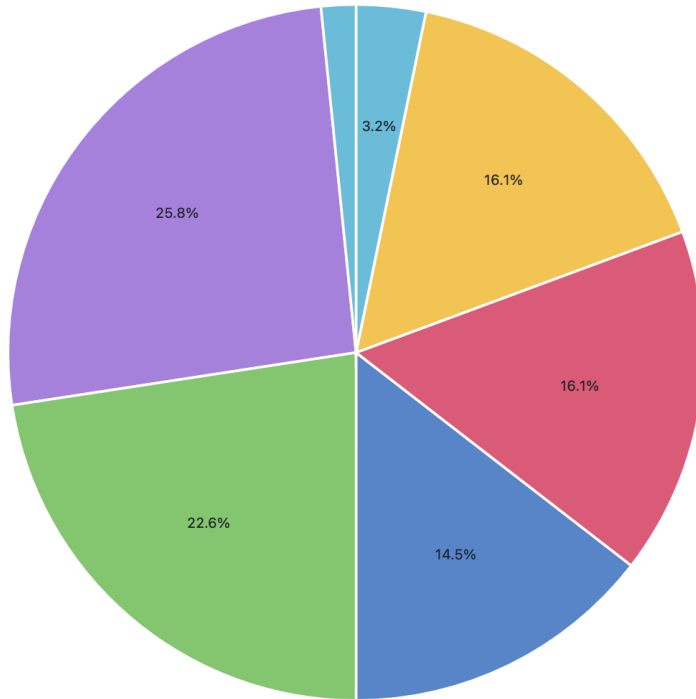
Year	Scholarships	Rejections*
2021	4	0
2022	11	3
2023	15	8
2024	22	2
2025 YTD	2	0
TOTAL	54	13

Country	Scholarships
India	6
Pakistan	5
United States	4
Nigeria	4
Iran	4
Ethiopia	4
Zambia	2
United Kingdom	2
Sri Lanka	2
Philippines	2
Egypt	2
Canada	2
Zimbabwe	1

Uganda	1
Turkey	1
Tanzania	1
Palestine	1
Netherlands	1
Morocco	1
Ghana	1
Costa Rica	1
Brazil	1
Bangladesh	1
Austria	1
Australia	1
Algeria	1
Afghanistan	1
Total	54

* We accept most applications. Rejections are primarily people who we perceive as trying for a conference visa letter.

Exit Interviews: Reasons for Membership Cancellation



Which of the following ar...

- Too academic (2)
- Retiring (10)
- Other (10)
- No value in membership (9)
- No money to continue (14)
- No longer using SD (16)
- Joined for conference (1)

Exit Interviews: Example of "Other"

Ex. Personal conflict/disagreement with direction society is developing

Ex. Taking a break due to lack of current SD-projects

Ex. Society is too focused on the Global North

VP Publications Update



Bob Eberlein

Isee systems

Publications Committee

Willem Aupeng, Karan Khosla, Catherine
Decouttere

Publications Overview

- Conference
 - ISBN
 - Structured Abstracts
 - Indexing
- SDR
 - Practice category
 - Publication mechanics issues
 - Increasing throughput
 - Contract
 - Finances

Conference

- We have returned to having an ISBN in our proceedings
 - Since 2024
 - Gap of ~15 years!
 - Not clear it has helped anyone
 - But it takes time to tell
- Structured abstracts new in 2025
 - Hoping to make the site and proceedings easier to use
 - More scannable
 - Have to see if they work out
- Indexing
 - SCOPUS and Web of Science
 - Heavy lift
 - Not clearly desirable

Practice

- Added this as a submission category last fall
 - Two managing editors
 - Krys Stave
 - Mark Heffernan
 - First article in this category published April 21
 - Introducing Feedback Thinking and System Dynamics Modeling in Economics Education, Pavlov et. Al.
- Looking to solicit more articles in the category
 - Conference is one potential recruitment ground

Increasing throughput (30/year -> 100/year)

- Volume of underlying work
 - Breadth of publications has been increasing
 - Still relatively specialized
 - Methodologically a very small field
- Attractiveness as an outlet for publication
 - High volume with quick turn around time (Systems - ~600/year)
 - High reputation (Nature Climate Change ~100/year)
- Processing ability of our Editors
 - SDR articles are all somewhat different
 - Hard to find reviewers
 - Editorial judgement is required
- Working on making it easier to find reviewers
 - Limited progress so far

Wiley Contract

- Currently runs from 2024-2026
 - Need to notify them of our renewal intent by end of 2025
- The current contract is a little worse than the last one financially
 - Editorially similar, though we pushed back a lot of unreasonable contractual requirements
- The next contract, assuming one is offered, will likely be worse still
 - We may be dealing with a completely different set of people
 - Our main negotiating contact for the last contract has left

Alternatives to Wiley

- Established commercial publisher such as Springer not viable
 - Need to hit our 100 articles a year stretch goal to even be considered
 - Transition to open access is hard on them
- Alternative commercial publishers don't seem that attractive
 - Lots of negative perceptions of MDPI and Frontiers
- University presses are a possible home
 - Just starting to explore this
 - Different financial model

Finances

- Wiley paid us \$48,000 for 2024 royalties
 - Also a \$28,00 editorial payment
- Royalties have been, and will continue to, go down slowly
 - Transition to open access makes small journals much less valuable
- Editorial assistance will go up slowly
 - Contractually tied to CPI
 - But may not with the next contract

Prudence

- The System Dynamics Review started as a subsidized activity
 - In some sense it still is since we don't really pay our editors
- We get royalties and editorial support from Wiley
 - May not if we switch to an alternative publisher
- We have policies in place to spend the editorial support as it comes in
 - Sensible when it was a dependable income stream
 - Given uncertainty may no longer be prudent
- Recommend revisiting the editorial support money
 - Possibly establishing a designated fund

Strategic Planning (President)



Asmeret Naugle

Sandia Laboratories

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

Articles of Organization

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:

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

Participants: Irene Headen, Ignacio Martínez-Moyano, Meagan Colvin

Opportunities

- Outreach to other systems-related organizations to spread awareness of SD
- Certification of skills - crafting a message that demonstrates ROI

Threats

- Other systems-related organizations having a different understanding of SD, could be mischaracterized or don't consider it important
- Organizations like Cornell who do systems thinking with a completely different focus, talk about systems thinking but use a completely different language
- Other organizations may be off put by us if they see us as an org that thinks we hold the truth
- Certification - depends on the quality and other

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

Participants:

Opportunities

Threats

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

Participants: Bunmi Falebita, Lees Stuntz, Scott Falebita

Opportunities

- Connect to growing data (archival and real time) for building models that are parameterized from data or act as digital twins for real time and even automated decision making

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: Allyson Beall King, John Pastor Ansah, Rebecca Niles

Opportunities

- Make Journal Open Access happen as fast as possible to disseminate info.
- Disseminating conference videos or papers more widely. (Have to be very careful.)
- Make Summer School accessible to a wider range of people.
- Simpler intros to modeling to peak interest.

Threats

Breakout Room 4: to encourage and develop educational program

Participant

Breakout Room 4: to encourage and develop education programs in the behavior of systems

Opportunities

Participants: Bob Eberlein, Burcu Tan, Jeroen Struben

Opportunities

- Going after system scientists with expertise in a field
- Topic specific training aimed at policy makers or other stakeholders with a well developed SD model as the boundary object
- Remarket ourselves as digital twins
- Business schools using system dynamics and sustainability or another topic area (inequality, uncertainty, strategy, informatics) - perhaps a book - case studies an entry mechanism
- Younger populations

Threats



Breakout Room 5: to promote the dissemination of information on such topics to the general public

Participants:

Breakout Room 5: to encourage and develop educational programs in behavior of systems.

Opport

Participants: Asmeret Naugle, Diana Fisher, Vinícius Picanço

Opportunities

- Connecting our work to AI (fast moving train)
 - Help teachers overcome barriers/pain points
 - Develop assessment questions
- Outside the US, need content in regional languages - translate and adapt to local reality
- Connecting to other organizations - build bridges to co-develop educational programs (along with other things)
- Joint efforts between disciplines to develop educational

Threats

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ADJOURNMENT