

Sunday, September 24, 2025

[Recording](#)
[Chat](#)
[Transcript](#)

Attendees

Voting: Asmeret Naugle, Diana Fisher, Scott Rockart, Inge Bleijenbergh, Thomas Wittig, John Ansah, Raafat Zaini, Bob Eberlein, Hazhir Rahmandad, Burcu Tan, Hyunjung Kim, Willem Auping, Bunmi Falebita

Non-voting: John Sterman, Rogelio Oliva, Ignácio Martínez-Moyano, Meagan Colvin, Fernando Redivo, Raquel Buzogany, Rebecca Niles

Agenda

0:05 Welcome & Introduction (Asmeret)
0:05 Motions (Asmeret)
0:20 Conference Location Analysis (John & Rogelio)
0:10 Call for New Initiatives (Eliot)
0:50 Strategic Planning
Goal Setting (Asmeret)
Adjournment

Minutes

President, Asmeret Bier Naugle, convened the meeting and introduced the agenda.

Scott moved to approve the Policy Council Meeting Minutes August, 2025. Diana seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VP Meetings, John Ansah, introduced John Sterman and Rogelio Oliva to present an updated analysis about conference locations. John started with the historical analysis results and resulting policies. He presented the updated baseline for membership and conference attendance. The first model shows the effect of membership the year before ($R^2=0.8$), then included “remote” in the equation with a hit of 48 people on average for the analysis up to 2019. Adding the online option largely reduced the amount of in-person attendees, with “remote” becoming less significant. Taking the full data set, remote is significant with a higher effect for locations outside of US and Europe; further, holding a conference does not result in enduring membership in the conference location countries. John added that this is not a recommendation to not go to locations outside of US/Europe, but these could be off cycle. Discussion touched on the hybrid option motivation, connecting to others doing great work, retention of members, how to test if other locations could support a larger conference, the importance of a strong local host, and partnering with other societies.

On behalf of **VP Finance**, Rebecca, shared a draft of a new budget proposal submission process by the Finance Committee. The projects should be large, long term (3 years), strategic projects to serve SDS strategic goals. The deadline is Oct 31st (may be extended), projects can be submitted by PC members

and the Executive Director, and the budget is being discussed. The decision makers would be the strategy committee. The updated submission form will be shared shortly.

Asmeret asked who would like to adjourn the meeting. Scott moved. Hazhir seconded. Motion passed.