

Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Council of the International System Dynamics Society

January 14, 1991 (91-1)

Last Years Minutes

March 12, 1990 (90-1)

July 11, 1990 (90-2)

July 12, 1990 (90-3)

In Attendance: Julie Pugh(Executive Director),

Officers: Bob Eberlein(Secretary), Jack Pugh(VP Finance), George Richardson(VP Review Editor), John Sterman(President Elect), Eric Zahn (President, Presiding)

Policy Council: Henry Weil

Guests: Henk Akkermans, David Andersen, Jay Forrester, Nathan Forester, Mike Radzicki, Eric Wolstenholme

1. Conferences

- 1990: David Andersen turned over \$7,000.00 to the society (\$50.00/paid participant). It was required that all people with papers preregister, and only 4 or 5 people whose papers were printed did not pay. This policy is strongly recommended for future conferences. David Andersen has made copies of all note and a day by day Journal for Jose, Khalid and Jac. This should help in the production of a conference notebook.
- 1991(Bangkok, Thailand): 115 abstracts have been accepted and 253 people have preregistered for the Bangkok conference. Khalid has received forward funding and things are proceeding well. Because of the large number of people Khalid thinks it may be best to move the conference to a site with large facilities. Both AIT and the alternative site are equally convenient to Bangkok, and both seem acceptable. It was agreed that Khalid should make the decision based on his knowledge of local conditions.

The papers are being reviewed in parallel by the European and North American review committees, with Khalid coordinating their input. Twenty or so papers seem to be plenary material, but The exact program has not yet been set up. George Richardson suggested Research and Development in developing countries as one possible topic. John Sterman suggested that since many of the participants may have had limited exposure to System Dynamics seminars to communicate what things have been and are being done would be helpful. David Andersen suggested calling these state of the art seminars, which could be fit into, or around the formal program.

Eric Wolstenholme suggested that before and after the conference might be a good opportunity to give talks in India, China and other places in Asia. John Sterman, Eric Zahn and George Richardson all expressed interested in doing this.

- 1992 (Utrecht, Amsterdam): Henk Akkermans previously from Utrecht University reported on the 1992 conference. Utrecht is a fun city and worth visiting. Planning is in a preliminary stage, and headed by Jac Vennix. He is currently negotiating a date in July, 1992 to hold the conference at "Academiegebouw" in the center of Utrecht. The sessions will include the standard topics and special topics such as "Group Information Support Systems" and "Interactive Model Building" based on the expertise of the local

workers. Given the date Europe 1992 would also be a good topic. Sponsorship, and the financial relationship of the conference to the Society also need to be determined.

- 1993(North America): Jose Machuca has been contacting different people, and a proposal should be put forward in Bangkok. Bob Eberlein will write to Jose checking into the status of things. Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada are all possible locations.

2. Conference Requirements

Jose Machuca has put together a draft set of conference requirements. These look very good, except for some problems with the financial arrangements (items 2.b and 2.d in the proposed guidelines). After some discussion it was agreed that the principle should be budget \$50.00 dollars per person, and return all excess income to the society. If the conference is hosted by a chapter or other organization whose interests are aligned with those of the society then more profit sharing. Finally, recognizing institutional and cultural difference, the wording of the title of the document should be changed from "Requirements" to "Guidelines". The actual financial arrangement should be included in the proposal and approved by the policy council.

For the conference registration fee (item 2.c) it was agreed that the actual dollar amount should not be included, but that the total cost of attending the conference be emphasized. The proposal should give a breakdown of the total cost including the registration fee, accommodation costs, food, entertainment and travel from Europe, the US and Asia. Included in the guidelines should be these costs for previous conferences (in US \$).

It was agreed that two other items should be added to the guidelines. First that people have to register and attend in order to have papers included in the proceedings. Second that some coordination with related activities be attempted, at least to the extent of informing other societies when the conference will be held.

3. System Dynamics Review

The 1991 issues of the Journal are largely set. For 1992 there will be 3 80 page issues and the current backlog is not overly rich for achieving this. There are no papers from well known people in the current backlog, and George wants some.

Wiley is taking over publication of the System Dynamics Review. The arrangement, briefly, is that Wiley will handle the billing and membership database, returning \$6,000.00 per year to the Society plus a percentage of Royalties when journal distribution gets sufficiently high. The society will continue to set membership and fee policies. This year, we will phase in to this agreement. We will produce 7-1 and Wiley will produce 7-2. Wiley will reimburse the Society for all publication expenses for 7-1. Wiley is billing institutional members for 1991. We are handling the billing for 1991 individual members (much of which is complete) and turning the money over to Wiley. Nathan and Julie will turn the database over to Wiley after 7-1 has gone out. Wiley has taken over advertising. Publication of the membership directory has not yet been worked out, Wiley might be willing to do it.

Wiley wants to be able to handle all back issues. While it was agreed in principle that this is a good thing, back issues are a significant source of revenue, and how this happens needs to be negotiated. Julie Pugh, Jack Pugh and John Morecroft are going to iron out these details. We also need to determine if Lane press can produce back issues, and at what price.

We will be keeping Alice Cheyer as the copy editor. We are no longer using Editorial Inc, but contracting directly with Alice. Wiley will pay most of the costs for this editing

which is more detailed than what they normally do, and the Society will pick up the rest. The shape and size of the Journal will be changed, if acceptable, to be the same as that of the Strategic Management Journal.

George notes that the dealings with Wiley have all been fun and rewarding. The Society will retain access to the database, and be able to include information with the billing mailings.

4 Chapters

The Japanese chapter is all set up and working fine. They have not designated a Policy Council liaison, and Bob Eberlein will write to Toshiro Shimada to request this information.

The proposed Italian chapter has problems with geographical coverage, membership continuity and their proposed constitution. Bob Eberlein will write to D'Amato relating these concerns.

The review of the revised policy on chapters suggests that further revision is in order. It was suggested that the founding members need to have been members of the Society for at least two years prior to establishment. It was also suggested that diversity consistent with the naming and purpose of a chapter be included as a requirement. It was suggested that a chapter should also be a net benefit to the Society. People will review the chapters policy and suggest further revisions to the secretary.

5 Treasurers Report

The financial situation of the society continues to be healthy. We have accrued a healthy surplus of \$35,000.00. With Wiley managing the Journal the budgeting process will need to be changed, though we should be getting about the same net annual surplus.

The question of what should be done with the surplus was raised. Possibilities suggested include subsidizing attendance at conferences, increasing the value of the Forrester Prized, introducing Journal Prizes, Transportation of officers to meetings, and student awards. In the meantime earning higher interest on the money is possible.

Henry Weil moved that Jack Pugh be empowered to invest some of the monies in Treasury bills and other short term government securities.

Mike Radzicki seconded and the motion was carried.

6 Membership Brochure

Mike Radzicki has agreed to take over the design and production of the membership brochure.

7 Presidents Letter

The presidents newsletter is being prepared by Eric Zahn and Julie and will go out in February. It should include conferences, the 1991 Slate of officers nominees, request for nominations for the Forrester Award, the wiley takeover of the Review and information on the Gordon S. Brown fund.

8 Sponsors

Sponsors brought in \$5,500.00 dollars last year. We will create a sponsors list and Julie will get on peoples back to write letters or make phone calls. Possible sponsors include Daimler Benz, Siemens, SEL, IBM, Apple, DEC, High Performance Systems,

HP, Shell, Kodak, Polaroid, Exxon, Philips and VW. It might also be worthwhile seeing if any Japanese firms might be interested in sponsorship possibly in conjunction with the Japanese chapter. The benefits given to sponsors might be reviewed to make sponsorship more attractive.

9 Membership

There were 362 members at the end of 1990. So far 225 people have renewed. It was suggested that Alan graham look into the reasons that people drop out - if it is new members or old members that are leaving.

10 Gordon S. Brown Fund

No disbursements have been made from the Gordon S. Brown as yet. The fund is intended to convert accomplished results for wider dissemination. To do this it is probably best to find people who are known and push them one step further to creating the teaching materials for others to use. The committee will get a list of people to ask for proposals, and this may require helping these people write the proposals.

11 Bibliography

The bibliography has been reorganized and set up as a proper database. It still needs more citations to bring it up to date.

12 Teaching and Research Activities

The System Dynamics Newsletter used to list the teaching and research activities. This is no longer available. The Review is publishing a list of working papers that will keep people more up to date. Short statements of research activities are also encouraged. One page in the Review or a few pages in the Membership directory could be a useful way of focussing this information.

13 Slate of Officers

Subsequent to the meeting a mail ballot was send out with the following motion:

The following slate of officers is proposed for election in 1992

President:	Peter M. Milling
Vice President for Meetings:	Michael J. Radzicki
Vice President at Large:	James H. Hines
Policy Council:	Juan Rego
	Saburo Kameyama
	Douglas Franco
	Jack B. Homer

The motion was passed.