

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

January 30, 1992 (92-1)

Last years Minutes: January 14, 1991 (91-1), August 27, 1991 (91-2)

In Attendance: Julie Pugh (Executive Director),

Officers: Bob Eberlein (Secretary), Alan Graham (VP Member Activities), Jim Hines (VP at large), Jack Pugh (VP Finance), Mike Radzicki (VP Meetings), John Sterman (President),

Policy Council: Henry Weil

Guests: Kip Cooper, Jay Forrester, Nathan Forrester

1. Bibliography

Kip Cooper with the help of Bill Steinhurst has compiled and verified an extensive bibliography of work relating to System Dynamics. A vote of appreciation was extended by the meeting for the effort undertaken. Kip and Bill will be reimbursed for direct costs, and provide Kip with End-Note Plus for the PC. The bibliography, like conference proceedings, will be made available from the society at a price of \$35.00 for members and \$105.00 for nonmembers. The price was chosen to cover costs and provide modest revenue to the Society just as with the sale of conference proceedings. It was agreed that allowing Kip and Bill to try to sell the bibliography for profit was not a good idea since it potentially puts them in a conflict of interest with the Society, and might damage the Societies reputation.

2. Forrester Prize

Concern was expressed that the surprise nature of the Forrester prize was not helping the image and impact of the prize. A number of alternative formats were discussed including announcing the prize before the conference, having a formal acceptance speech and requiring an article in the Review before the prize money is paid. The Forrester Award committee (chaired by David Andersen) is charged with considering these alternatives. Nathan Forrester will look into the making of a plaque for the award, since the originally proposed medal was never made to satisfaction.

3. Treasurers Report (Jack Pugh reporting)

Cash in 1991 was lower because all 1991 dues were paid to Wiley in 1991 while some were received in 1990. With the current circulation of the Review and given our contract with Wiley we can expect income over expenses of approximately \$14,000.00 per year, so there is some room to spend. The most recent membership count was 330 members and 88 supported members.

4. The System Dynamics Review

Currently slotted for 3 issues/year. Some concern about whether this is sustainable, though next year is no problem. A request that all active society members think more strongly about submitting papers. George wants feedback on the quality of the journal as it is being published by Wiley. We continue to retain Alice Chayer at a the Society of about \$800.00 per issue to copy edit and assure high quality. Wiley is undertaking promotional activities for the Review, but we do not yet know the impact on circulation and visibility.

5. Setting of Society Dues

The dues have to be set the summer before they will take effect so that Wiley can be told what to bill for. A recommendation will be submitted by the President for approval at the policy council meeting held during the conference each year.

6. Future Conferences

1992 - Utrecht, Netherlands - planning is underway and progressing well.

1993 - Mexico (Mexico City) - Mike Radzicki will write to Enrique Zepeda to request formal written proposal and enquire progress.

1994 - Undecided but England is a possibility.

1995 - Japan.

7. Policy Council Nominations

Of the policy council slate for 1993 approved at the summer conference one (Pernendu Mandel) is not a member of the Society and not eligible to participate and one (Enrique Zepeda) has not yet accepted the nomination.

Moved by Jack Pugh that Jim Lyneis be added to the Policy Council Slate with Eric Larsen held in reserve if Enrique Zepeda refuses his nomination. Mike Radzicki Seconded. Motion was passed. Bob Eberlein will follow up and contact Eric Wolstenholme regarding Pernendu Mandel.

8. Revision of Presidency

Concern was expressed that lengthening the term of the President would place an undo burden on the President without really increasing continuity. A number of alternatives to changing the term of the President were discussed including: hiring full time administrative support, making longer term appointments to the policy council (fellows), mandating executive activity, requiring a presidential address at each conference, requiring and supporting travel to policy council meeting and providing outlines of expected officer activities.

It was the consensus of the meeting that it would not be appropriate to try to change the term of the Presidency, but rather that some combination of informing officers of their responsibilities, mandating officer activity and supporting (financially) officer activity is appropriate.

Without any formal motions, it was agreed that developing time lines for the President and all officers, and ensuring that these time lines are impressed upon nominees at the time of nomination would be a positive thing and can be done without any change to policies or bylaws. It was also the consensus of the meeting that assuring that both the President and President elect attend two policy council meetings a year is desirable, though a formal motion determining how this be done was put off until the conference meeting of the policy council.

John Sterman is going to consider the continuity problem and, as appropriate, make recommendations on action to be taken at the policy council meeting during this years conference.

9. Committee Meetings at Conferences

The dates and times of policy council and other committee meetings at conferences are not currently specified in the conference guidelines. This should be corrected. At each conference there need to be 2 policy council meeting of 2 hours each, a publication committee meeting and a Forrester award committee meeting. These meetings should not overlap, should be scheduled outside of regular sessions, and should be set well in advance of the conference start with the appropriate people notified. Mike Radzicki is going to revise the conference guidelines appropriately, and make sure things are set up for Utrecht.

10. European Journal of Operations Research

The European Journal of Operations Research is having a special issue devoted to learning using System Dynamics. While it is desirable that people know about this issue, it was agreed that it would not be efficient to try to buy a number of these for resale by the society.

11. Beer Game Distribution

As part of supporting the dissemination of information about the field it was agreed that it would be appropriate to sell beer game boards and instructions. Mike Radzicki has a Macintosh disk that contains printable beer game boards that can be taped together. Jim Hines will look into getting more substantial boards made, or buying them from Innovation Associates who already are having them made.

12. Society Fax Machine 617 259 0969

It was agreed that it is appropriate for the Society to have a dedicated Fax and that the appropriate place for this would be in Julies house. The Society will pay for the Fax and the phone line required to support it. Julie has since obtained a Fax and the new Fax number is (617) 259-0969.