

North East Decision Sciences Institute  
Minutes of Officers and Board Meeting  
Brooklyn, NY  
March 29, 2008

Presiding: Jennifer Swanson

Present:

Rhonda Aull-Hyde	Joy Field	Peggy Lee	Al Avery
Ed Arnheiter	Laura Forker	David Levine	Dan Reid
Snehamay Banerjee	Brett McKenzie	Luis Rivera-Solis	John Affisco
Shaw Chen	Doug Hales	Paul Mangiameli	Ken Sousa
Mark Davis	Neset Hikmet	Larry Meile	Maling Ebrahimpour
Chris Kydd	Susan Pariseau	Eric Stein	Fariborz Partovi
Doug White			

Visiting: Ken Kendall, DSI

1. Jennifer Swanson called the meeting to order at 12:45. Brett McKenzie, NEDSI Secretary took the minutes.
2. Minutes from DSI 2007, Phoenix, AZ APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY (PAUL MOVED THE MOTION, LARRY SECONDED).
3. Update on 2008 NEDSI Brooklyn meeting  
Snehamay noted 221 professional registrations and 277 total registrations and visitors. All present applauded the organization, quality of the conference and the hotel. (Joy Field, Great Job! – other comments, “Best hotel value!”)
4. Update on 2009 NEDSI meeting – Mohegan Sun, CT (Status report attached)  
Ken Sousa, Program Chair, still trying to dispose of holy dice. After fierce negotiations, has agreement for a room rate of \$199. Room rates require conference run from Wed – Fri due to room costs. (“Wed regular rate \$279, Thursday, \$459, don’t ask about Friday”). Need to reinforce to members that rooms MUST be booked through Mohegan site to get conference rate. Book early, as rooms are scarce.  
HOTSHOTS dinner will be on-site. Looking for restaurant that is better than a cafeteria but not where the “high-rollers” dine on their winnings.  
NEDSI09.ORG is setup as the conference website (see notes for VP Tech report on website organization and management) and contains information about the location.  
Remind the membership that this conference introduces the new membership fee of \$175.
5. Update on 2010 NEDSI meeting – Washington DC  
Neset Hikmet, Program Chair, will move to Nicolls State University in Louisiana to take up an endowed chair (Congratulations all around). With an existing program in Costa Rica, Neset opened the floor to discussion of changing the venue from Washington DC to Costa Rica.

Jenn Swanson: 2011 is our international conference and Minoo is making arrangements for Costa Rica.

Rhonda Hyde & John Affisco: Concern about travel outside US territory.

Mark Davis: Does an offshore site serve the primary constituency?

Peggy Lee and John Affisco: use State Dept. advisories and concern that travel expenses would be high.

Neset: costs of rooms are lower and may offset travel costs. Off shore conferences attract a larger international contingent.

Larry Meile: Do we have data on attendance at the off shore conference who become members and continue with NEDSI?

Luis Rivera-Solis: a recent trip was a highly positive experience.

Larry Meile: Moved the motion "Make the status of an off shore conference an action item at DSI meeting" Paul seconded motion. Pass Unanimously.

SENSE OF THE BOARD NEDSI 2010 WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON, DC.

#### 6. Discussion of later NEDSI annual meetings

Jennifer Swanson: Minoo is Program Chair for 2011, planned for Costa Rica. NEDSI is looking for a Program Chair for 2012.

#### 7. Officer Reports and Updates:

##### VP of Technology Report and Update

Doug White reported on the new status of the web. New addresses, NEDSI08.org, NEDSI09.org etc. will be setup for each conference. The annual site, for example NEDSI09.org will be setup for the Program Chair to build the site. When appropriate, suggested date July of prior year, the annual site will also point to NEDSI.org the primary site for NEDSI. This method allows for an archiving of the annual site and ensures that NEDSI.org will always be current.

The servers are owned by RWU with sufficient disk space and bandwidth. Hit rate is running at approximately 2000/month for NEDSI.org.

The hit rate for NEDSI09 is about 35/month noting that people are looking to the future conference. The registration with search engines is being tweaked for more visibility. A new template for web design is expected from DSI.

Doug White: needs guidance on archiving and backup policy, especially in light of added search features and the proceedings being prepared for EBSCO (see VP Proceedings).

Mark Davis proposes and email discussion and decision to determine archive policy and annual site to NEDSI site cut over date. Also included may be a discussion of no longer printing CD and having proceedings on-line only.

SENSE OF THE BOARD: DOUG WILL INITIATE AN EMAIL DISCUSSION AS PROPOSED BY MARK DAVIS.

Eric Stein suggested a wiki/blog.

John Affisco and Neset Hikmet questioned maintenance of wki/blog. Decision was to delay discussion until after new web presence stabilized.

##### VP of Proceedings Report and Update

Al Avery: completing negotiations with EBSCO for posting proceedings.

#### VP of Communications Report and Update

Joy Field: The success of the newsletter will be closely tied to the development of the membership database. Newsletter will be published in May and Sept/Oct and distributed via email. It will be functional to NEDSI activities (call for papers etc.) rather than a newsletter with member information.

#### VP of Member Services Report and Update

Eric Stein: distributed two reports on membership.

Paul Mangiameli noted that Maryland and Delaware are members of the NEDSI (in spite of Wikipedia and the census not including them as New England states).

Larry Meile: MOTION TO REIMBURSE ERIC STEIN FOR EXPENSES TO OBTAIN NAMES. Seconded Paul. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion ensued regarding purchasing of faculty names for prospects from AACSB and other regions.

Paul Mangiameli: MOTION TO ALLOCATE FUNDS (NOT TO EXCEED \$1000) TO VP MEMBER SERVICES TO CONTRACT OR PURCHASE FACULTY NAMES BEGINNING WITH BUSINESS SCHOOLS. Seconded Sue Pariseau. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Al Afficso suggests measuring the success of business school solicitation then moving to other schools (health care areas etc.)

#### VP of Promotions Report and Update

(Report attached) Noted that the change in vendor pricing occurred after acceptance from vendors. Discussed options to get more vendors in times of cutting travel budgets. Suggested working with local reps.

#### Treasurer's Report and Update

Neset Hikmet reports on conference:

Revenue \$36,505.00

Expenses \$24,427.52

Balance \$12,077.48

Expect that the outstanding conference bills will be about break even. Have not used other finds.

Jennifer Swanson: MOTION TO ALLOW PROGRAM CHAIR TO USE NEDSI CREDIT CARD TO MAKE DOWNPAYMENTS AND CONFERENCE ARRANGEMENTS, Second Sue Pariseau. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### Northeast National VP Report and Update

8. DSI decision to eliminate Regionally-Elected VPs from DSI Board of Directors  
President response on issue distributed to board.  
Sense of the board that regional VPs should be kept.

9. Conference Issues (securing credit, policy decisions, etc.)

Credit card – see above.

Request for conference mailing list. Significant concerns expressed regarding privacy, requirement for “opt-out”. Suggestion to Table Email discussion without change to current policy. No formal vote but nods of agreement.

Policy regarding refunds.

Snehamay noted policy on website and only 7-10 refunds for NYC

Action Item: Refunds will remain at the discretion of the Program Chair

10. Proceedings Issues (format of proceedings, etc.)

Proceeding and Article Template

Authors do not follow the template. This is not the issue that it was once now that a CD is distributed. The time line for publication does not allow for ‘editorial review’ for style.

Action Item: Program Chair will note status for 2009.

11. Old business

None

12. New business

None

13. Slate for officers moved by Larry Meile. Seconded Joy Field.

14. Adjourned 1:17 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Brett McKenzie, Secretary.