

NEDSI Business Meeting

Thursday, April 2 11:30 – 1:30pm

Location: Ballroom Salon A3, Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Presiding:

Rhonda Hyde

Present:

John Affisco, Ed Arnheiter , Snehamay Banerjee, Hande Benson, Arthur Chen, Mark Davis, Maling Ebrahimpour, Joy Field, Laura Forker, Doug Hales, Neset Hikmet, Rhonda Hyde, Frimette Kass, Chris Kydd, Mike Maggard, Paul Mangiameli, Larry Meile, Margaret J. Naumes, William Naumes, Javad Paknejad, Susan Pariseau, Fariborz Partovi, Janet Prichard, Dan Reid, Deb Sledgianowski, Ken Sousa, Jennifer Swanson, Angela Wicks

Absent:

William Allen, Al Avery, Shaw Chen, Janelle Heineke, Peggy Lee, David Levine, Robert Parsons, Robert Pavan, David Pentico, Luis Eduardo Rivera-Solis, Effie Stavoulaki, Eric Stein, Doug White, Barbara Withers

1. Meeting called to order at 11:45 a.m. by Rhonda Hyde.
2. Mike Maggard moved that minutes from the 2008 DSI Baltimore meeting be approved. All in favor; motion passed.
3. Report on 2009 NEDSI meeting

John Affisco introduced as Northeast representative to national DSI.

Ken Sousa expressed thanks to all those attending the conference and to all contributors. Attendance down 30-40 people from last year's conference. Two hundred and forty hotel rooms reserved; NEDSI responsible for 204 rooms (\$75 cancellation fee per room). Food and beverage dispute resolved; 50% difference (\$2700) credited to NEDSI. All meeting rooms are at cost on Annual Conference Income Statement; 19% was taken out of meeting room cost (NEDSI not responsible for that) with \$4,400 hotel room penalty remaining.

Rhonda thanked Ken for all his hard work organizing the conference.

4. Update on 2010 NEDSI meeting (*Program Chair: Neset Hikmet*)

Local arrangements chair Snehamay Banerjee updated Board on conference. Alexandria Hilton reserved for the conference (Friday, Saturday, and one half day on Sunday). Snehamay has reserved a boat so that the awards ceremony can be held on the Potomac River. Contract will be signed around mid June – mid July.

5. Discussion of later NEDSI annual meetings

a. 2011 conference (*Program Chair: Minoos Tehrani*)

Minoos proposed that the 2011 NEDSI conference be held in Montreal at the Montreal Marriott. Marriott has 150 guest rooms available. No penalty if the rooms are not filled. (The Marriott will increase the number of rooms if needed.) The Canadian \$/American \$ exchange rate is currently quite favorable to Americans. Minoos has invited faculty at the University of Montreal and faculty attending the international conference in France to participate at the 2010 NEDSI conference as track chairs, etc. She projects that 35 professors from Canadian universities and 30 people from European universities will attend the 2010 conference. She reports that 170 universities are involved with the international conference in France; Minoos hopes to pull participants from the international conference to come to the Montreal conference. She has been able to secure a good hotel rate for the conference (\$159/room) because the meeting will be held in the off-season from a tourism perspective. Ken Sousa expressed concern with NEDSI liability for hotel rooms if bad weather (e.g. snowstorm) keeps people away from attending the conference. Also, he said that NEDSI can't count on the international attendees attending. Minoos said that the meeting could be pushed further into April in hopes of better weather. Rhonda expressed concern about possible low attendance from northeastern U.S. universities. Mike noted that U.S. attendees may choose the national DSI conference over the regional NEDSI conference due to budget constraints on travel. Also, people traveling on visas may have trouble getting back into the U.S. Minoos is confident that people will attend the conference due to the favorable exchange rate and the conference location. Fariboz remarked that the NEDSI reach can be extended into Canada; this is a good opportunity to attract conference attendees from Canada. Ken expressed concern that two NEDSI meetings in a row will be far from the northeast U.S. (2010 meeting in D.C. and 2011 meeting in Montreal). The travel involved for both may discourage attendees. Minoos replied that the Montreal Marriott is centrally located in Montreal with close access to the airport, train station and other transport mediums. Neset and Paul supported the conference location in Montreal; both said that this will be a great opportunity to attract Canadian universities to the conference. Both suggested that Minoos get cancellation insurance in case of bad weather. Paul moved that the 2011 conference be held in Montreal; Neset and Susan Pariseau seconded the motion. All at Board meeting were in favor; none were opposed.

b. 2012 conference

Rhonda asked for volunteers to chair the 2012 conference. Angela Wicks and Jan Prichard volunteered to co-chair it. Susan noted that there will be a problem with conference co-chairs due to the traditional succession of former Program Chair to NEDSI President the following year. Program Chair and Assistant Program Chair would be a better arrangement. Larry stated that the conference location should be located as centrally as possible in the Northeast. Fariboz suggested that a large city should be chosen in order to increase conference attendance.

6. Officer reports

a. Treasurer

John Affisco presented the income statement for the 2009 conference and noted that Ken increased conference attendance to yield a positive instead of negative balance for the 2009 conference (\$42,000 in the bank prior to the 2009 conference).

b. VP of Technology

Doug White not in attendance; he sent an e-mail to Rhonda stating that the servers are up for the NEDSI organization as well as the 2009 and 2010 conferences. Doug asked that anyone notify him if there are any problems with the server.

c. VP of Member Services

Eric Stein was not in attendance at the meeting.

d. VP of Promotional Activities

Ed Arnheiter indicated that only one publisher came to the 2009 meeting (Cengage); he said that it's difficult to get publishers to come to the NEDSI meeting. Revenue from sponsors is down: \$8400 this year versus \$15,000 last year. Ed observed that company sponsors don't see the benefit of supporting local conferences; industries are also consolidating leaving fewer companies to solicit support from. Mike said that NEDSI used to lobby sponsors of the national conference to come to the local conference; perhaps Ed could pursue that path.

e. VP of Communication

Joy Field stated that the newsletter is on a two issue per year schedule: June and December. She asked the incoming President to write something about the 2009 conference for the newsletter.

7. Northeast VP report

Dan Reid updated last year's threats to the regions by the national DSI board. Last year the national Board attempted to remove the regional VPs from the national Board; that threat is gone now. There is also no more tax threatened for the regions. Dan pointed out that it's important to check off your NEDSI affiliation on your DSI membership renewal form; DSI requires at least 75 members in a region to have a regional VP on the national Board. Dan noted that this year's national Board will be dominated by volunteers from NEDSI.

A new editor for *Decision Sciences* is being sought. A new journal – *Supply Chain Management* co-edited by Soumen Ghosh and Ram Narasimhan is coming out.

8. 2009 – 2010 officer and board slate

Rhonda noted that certain people will be coming off the NEDSI Board in the near future. Coming off in 2009 are:

Hande Benson
Peggy Lee
Javad Paknejad

Coming off in March 2010 are:

Doug Hales
Frimette Kass
Angela Wicks

Dan Reid will no longer be the Northeast Regional VP in April 2010.

Coming off in 2011 are:

Arthur Chen
Deb Sledgianowski
Effie Stavoulaki

Snehamay and Rhonda suggested modifying the size of the NEDSI board from its current nine member total to a maximum of six (two every other year). Do we need to simply modify the bylaws to reduce the number? Is the number dictated by national DSI? Do we need to solicit the Advisory Board's opinion? Maling suggested looking at the bylaws to see if the role of a BOD member is specified.

BOD members should be willing to step in as Treasurer and other officer positions. The purpose of service on the BOD is to attend meetings, learn how the organization works, and to learn about different officer positions.

Mike Maggard asked which positions would be eliminated if we reduce the number of BOD positions. John Affisco suggested asking members who are active in the campus representative program to be on the Board. The rationale for doing this is to see who shows up at meetings, who doesn't, who is willing to help, who isn't. Mark Davis said there should be term limits for BOD positions; up or out after three years. People shouldn't be allowed to be a Board member forever; they should be willing to step in and help out with various officer positions. Rhonda suggested that we could invite volunteers to planning sessions to clarify the expectations of Board members. Paul added that once selected, we should watch Board members to see who shows up at meetings, who doesn't, who offers to help, and who just comes to meetings for the free meals. BOD members are supposed to be officers-in-waiting. John stated that we need to integrate the program meeting with the functions of the Board. Ken suggested requiring an incoming Board member to be a Track Chair at the NEDSI meeting before being invited onto the Board. Susan said that people who have done an exceptional job as Track Chair have been invited onto the Board, the intent being that reliable people would serve on the Board and be observed to see who might be willing to be a Program Chair in the future. Snehamay supported the idea of inviting reliable Track Chairs onto the Board but added that we need to clarify the selection process, the roles and expectations of Board members, and the number of BOD members to have. Is nine the right number? Should it be reduced to six or another number? Larry suggested setting up a task force to investigate these issues. John stated that the task force should be under the direction of the VP of Member Services (Eric Stein). Eric should chair this task force; Paul, Dan, and Deb could be members. Joy could integrate the recommendations of the task force into the NEDSI newsletter.

A discussion ensued regarding nominations for incoming NEDSI officers. The following slate was proposed:

President:	Snehamay Banerjee
President Elect:	Ken Sousa
Program Chair for 2010:	Neset Hikmet
VP- Communications:	Joy Field
VP – Member Services:	Eric Stein (tentative)
VP – Programs:	Minoo Tehrani
VP – Proceedings:	Al Avery
VP – Promotional Activities:	Javad Paknejad
VP – Technology:	Doug White
Treasurer:	John Affisco
Secretary:	Laura Forker
Archivist:	Mike Maggard
Northeast Regional VP:	TBD
Local Arrangements Chair:	Snehamay Banerjee

A discussion ensued regarding possible individuals who could replace the three BOD members whose terms are up in 2009. Gerry Campbell from Fairfield University has expressed an interest and has served as a Track Chair already at a national DSI meeting. Maling highly recommended him. Kaushik Sengupta was also proposed; he has been a Track Chair at a NEDSI meeting. John Affisco supported his candidacy saying that he has many attributes.

Doug White is in his last year as VP of Technology but would like to stay in the position in order to complete development of the NEDSI web site; Roger Williams University will allow NEDSI to continue to use its server. Ed Arnheiter is coming off a four year term as VP of Promotional Activities and would like to step down from the position although he is willing to serve for one more year. Linda Liu was suggested as a possible replacement for VP of Promotional Activities. Larry indicated that Linda is a Boston University doctoral student who is near completion and is currently teaching at Simmons College. He indicated that Linda is active at national DSI and comes highly recommended. Paul suggested putting Linda on the BOD instead of immediately as a VP to see how well she does. It was agreed that Rhonda will contact Eric Stein to see if he wanted to continue as VP of Membership Services before making any further decisions regarding that position.

Three people are coming off the BOD: Hande Benson, Peggy Lee, and Javad Paknejad. The consensus was that these three individuals should be approached about becoming NEDSI officers. Peggy Lee may be moving (uncertain) and therefore may not be able to commit to future service in NEDSI.

The slate stated earlier was voted on and approved by all in attendance.

Gerry Campbell, Linda Liu, and Kaushik Sengupta have all agreed to serve on the NEDSI Board.

9. Nominations for regional VP

Two candidates need to be nominated for Regional VP by Fall 2009; individuals may not nominate themselves. NEDSI Nominating Committee needs to nominate the candidates. The current NEDSI President as well as the immediate past President are not eligible this year. As of April 3, 2009 the NEDSI Nominating Committee consists of Snehamay Banerjee , Rhonda Hyde, and Ken Sousa. Larry Meile suggested as one candidate; Paul Mangiameli is willing to be the other candidate.

10. Old business

None.

11. New business

a. 2009 national DSI meeting – Maling

The 2009 DSI conference will be in New Orleans. Maling has extended the submission deadline to April 9, 2009. Submissions are up: 290+ this year as opposed to 260 at this time last year. A paddle boat cruise on the Mississippi River is being planned; also a band and parade to the restaurant with dancing and dinner. A Harrah's casino night is being investigated; \$37,000 minimum required by Harrah's. Conference location will be in the Marriott Hotel right next to the French Quarter (within walking distance). Neset Hikmet and Dan Reid said that safety is no longer a concern in New Orleans.

b. Best Implementation Award

A new award is being planned for next year's NEDSI conference – the Best Implementation Award. The award will be offered for charitable service or for public service. The award will come with a \$500 award the first year to be awarded to the charity at which the implementation was done.

c. 2009 NEDSI Conference Wrap-Ups

Ken said that the conference CDs can be read on XP right now; also the wrong conference location is stated on the CD labels. Ken is sending the 2009 Proceedings to Proquest. Concerns about copyright issues were expressed due to the ability of anyone to obtain the password. Conference participants also need to wear their name tags to tonight's President Reception; some people have tried to get in without paying in previous conferences.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Forker