



NORTHEAST DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE
Minutes of Officers and Board Meeting
Las Vegas, Nevada
November 23, 1998

Presiding: Steve Schiffman

Present:

Rhonda Aull-Hyde	Janelle Heineke	Larry Meile	Dan Reid
Al Avery	Neshet Hikmet	Bill Naumes	Luis Rivera-Solis
Bill Bistline	Julie Kendall	Peggy Naumes	Rose Sebastianelli
Karen Brown	Chris Kydd	Sue Pariseau	Minoo Tehrani
Shaw Chen	Fred Kohun	Bob Parsons	Nancy Weida
Mark Davis	David Levine	Sue Pariseau	Barbara Withers
Maling Ebrahimpour	Mike Maggard	Fariborz Partovi	
Bruce Han	Paul Mangiameli	David Pentico	

1. Steve Schiffman called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. The minutes of the March 26, 1998 meeting in Boston, Massachusetts were approved without changes.
2. Shaw Chen reported on the 1998 meeting in Boston. Approximately 250 attended the meeting. The meeting went well.
3. Susan Pariseau reported on the progress of the March 1999 meeting in Newport, Rhode Island. The hotel has been recently renovated; approximately 130 papers have been submitted and have been sent out to reviewers. A new track, Outcome Assessment, has been added. Plant tours will be conducted on Thursday (Mark Davis and Maling Ebrahimpour are arranging them).
4. Luis Rivera-Solis reported on the progress of the 2000 Atlantic City Meeting. Bill Bistline is the local arrangements chair. He described the two possible hotels, The Trump Plaza and the Resorts. The Resorts is smaller and has conference facilities for only one meeting. Resorts has offered to upgrade board members' rooms to suites (first-come, first served). Al Avery moved to hold the meeting at Resorts. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Luis called for volunteers for track chairs. Barbara Withers will continue on as *Proceedings* editor.

5. Avijit Banerjee was slated to be the Program Chair for the 2001 meeting to be held in either Puerto Rico or the Virgin Islands, but Steve Schiffman has not heard from him. There was discussion about whether the meeting to be chaired by Fred Kohun in Pittsburgh should be moved up to 2000.

Mark Davis raised for discussion whether the NEDSI mission is supported by having meetings offshore as often as every five years. Al Avery noted that there was some evidence of drop-off in regional attendance after the St. Croix meeting (although the meeting was very well attended, many attendants were not from the Northeast region).

After discussion of the pros and cons of an offshore meeting, a vote was called to hold the 2000 meeting in Pittsburgh. The vote passed: 21 in favor, 6 opposed, 2 abstentions. The Pittsburgh meeting will be held at the Doubletree Inn.

6. Sue Pariseau provided the Treasurer's Report in Mike Ebert's absence. As of June 30, 1998, NEDSI has \$35,429.96 in its account – up approximately \$2000 from last year.
7. Mark Davis, Northeast Vice President, reported on National DSI activities. There has been nearly 100% turnover of support staff in the home office, causing some confusion in the membership database. Regions are asking how to best add value to their membership, in reaction to some concern that the model for meetings is becoming stale.

Sites for future National DSI meetings are:

1999: New Orleans
2000: Orlando
2001: San Francisco
2002: San Diego
2003 and 2004: Washington and Boston (not finalized which for which year)

This meeting's attendance is now at 1820 – making it the biggest meeting ever.

8. The Regional Activities Report was provided by Steve Schiffman and Shaw Chen.
 - Regional meetings for 2000 and 2001 are being planned.
 - The Southwest region has developed a promotional brochure; Shaw asked whether NEDSI should consider developing one.
 - Progress is being made toward electronic submissions for future meetings.
 - Jim Evans will be the National representative at the Newport meeting.
 - There was discussion at the meeting about whether the regions should sponsor receptions at the National meeting.
 - Other regions have a regular distinguished service award. Should NEDSI develop one?
 - The turnover at National has resulted in some problems with financial administration. NEDSI needs to carefully track.
 - There was some discussion about purchasing conference cancellation insurance. Al Avery pointed out that we don't have significant costs to cover, unlike National, therefore paying \$500 annually to insure against acts of God was not determined to be necessary. No motion was made regarding the purchase of insurance.
 - NEDSI should budget \$500 each year for insurance, which protects Program Chairs from personal liability. This is necessary for all regions in order for the National organization to be covered.
9. Bill Bistline reported on the Pearson Award funding status. At this time, Mr. Pearson's family does not plan to fund the awards. A motion was made to have NEDSI continue the four awards at \$250 per paper (not per author) and that NEDSI would continue to provide a plaque to each author. The motion carried unanimously. Steve Schiffman will write a letter to the Pearson family informing them of this decision and inviting them to attend the meeting to present the awards.
10. Mark Davis reported on the "Future of NEDSI" ad hoc committee. There are four topics to be addressed:
 - The mission and goals of NEDSI
 - Restructuring the format of the Annual Meeting
 - Having other value-added activities, such as more interaction with practitioners
 - More meeting attention to teaching, such as Course Technology presentations

11. Old Business: No old business was brought up for discussion.

12. New Business

- Neshet Hikmet described an award to be offered by NEDSI in honor of his aunt, who was recently deceased. Steve Schiffman will write a letter of thanks to the foundation.
- Julie Kendall and Maling Ebrahimpour are on the ballot for nationally elected vice-presidents.
- The NEDSI dinner will be held at 7:30.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janelle Heineke