

NORTHEAST DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE
Minutes of Officers and Board Meeting
Pittsburgh, PA
March 22, 2001

Presiding: Susan Pariseau

Present:

John Affisco	Scott Dellana	Fred Kohun	Fariborz Partovi
Bill Allen	Maling Ebrahimpour	Paul Mangiameli	David Pentico
Rhonda Aull-Hyde	Bruce Han	Saeed Mohaghegh	Bill Sipple
Bill Bistline	Neset Hikmet	Bill Naumes	David West
Karen Brown	Julie Kendall	Peggy Naumes	Barbara Withers
Shaw Chen	Chris Kydd	Sue Pariseau	

1. Susan Pariseau called the meeting to order at 12:10p.m. The minutes of the November 20, 2000 meeting in Orlando were corrected and approved.
2. Fred Kohun reported on the 2001 meeting. As of meeting time, there were 152 paid registrants with approximately 10 more people expected. Total hotel costs were reported to be \$14,900 and he expects the conference to break even.
3. Barbara Withers reported on the progress for the March 20-22, 2002 meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Open discussion addressed possible administrative changes including posting paper acceptance on the web page so that more timely notification occurs. Concerns included the need for written notification of paper acceptance for use in promotion and merit binders as well as the need to share reviewer feedback. It was agreed that initial notification would be via the web page followed-up with official written notification including reviewer feedback.

Based on cost projections, Barbara made a motion, that was seconded, that the fee for the 2002 conference be increased to \$125. Discussion followed and a friendly amendment was offered by Bill Allen to increase the fee to \$149. The amended motion passed.

Other discussion followed regarding the need for better information about the number of attendees at various events and activities. As a result of this discussion, paperwork (registration form) will include requests for information about the number of accompanying persons who will participate in coffee breaks, attend the president's reception, etc. Accompanying persons will be allowed to attend the Friday luncheon for an additional charge.

4. Sue Pariseau, reporting for Janelle Heineke, indicated that no progress had been made with respect to accommodations for the 2003 meeting. Concerns were raised about the short time remaining to locate and negotiate an appropriate hotel. Discussion ensued on possible alternative locations including Portsmouth, NH, and Portland, ME. Concern was raised regarding weather issues. Several people volunteered to research alternative sites. Sue indicated the necessity that board members' inputs on locations will need to be disseminated to board members by email. Decision on the site and hotel will also need to occur by email since a contract will need to be signed prior to our next meeting at the DSI conference in San Francisco in November.

5. Bill Bistline reported on the 2004 meeting. Most likely site will be Philadelphia. He will provide details and a full report at the board meeting in San Francisco in November.
6. Bill Bistline provided the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of March 2001 is \$31,341.36.
7. Paul Mangiameli offered the Regional Vice President's report.
 - The Information Technology Committee report indicated continued progress toward increasing the use of technology for the organization, including CD proceedings, electronic submissions, etc. Effective with the 2002 meeting, all paper submissions will be electronic, submissions for the proceedings will be to the web site, and the proceedings will be published only on CD.
 - Due to declining attendance at national meetings, DSI has established a new Marketing Director position to promote DSI and the meetings. The first Marketing Director is Terry Williams from Western Washington University.
 - The DSI board voted to eliminate Sunday breakfasts starting with the 2002 meeting. The money will be used for other social events.
 - Beginning with 2002, there will be a two-tiered approach for paper submissions for the national conference. One tier will be identical to the current method (papers submitted, blind review, publish three page summary in proceedings). The other tier will have a later submission date (about three months later) and will require only a short abstract, primarily for scheduling purposes. All abstracts submitted will be accepted for presentation at the conference.
Numerous questions were raised by NEDSI board members regarding this new policy. Concerns were voiced about impacts on the quality of the conference itself. There is confusion about whether the "abstract" presentations will be equivalent to the old "table topic" presentations as well as whether the "table topic" format will be eliminated as an option for regularly submitted papers. Paul was uncertain about the details and will try to get clarification.
 - Effective with the 2001 meeting, national DSI will eliminate discussants at the paper presentations. This change was necessary because of the difficulty in getting discussants to participate at the meetings.
NEDSI board members raised strong concerns about this new policy, worried that DSI conferences will become comparable to INFORMS and similar meetings.
8. Julie Kendall, VP Communications, reported on the NEDSI website. It has been difficult to work on the "vanity" URL at Towson since she is not a Towson faculty member. Neset Hikmet emphasized the need to identify a permanent NEDSI server location. A motion was made and seconded that a Communications Subcommittee would be established to look into our web and communication needs. The motion passed. The subcommittee will make recommendations at the next board meeting.
9. Karen Brown, VP Member Services, reported on her thoughts about the Campus Rep program. Her ideas were distributed earlier this month via email to board members. Karen requested specific inputs from board members regarding these ideas and particularly the following issues:
 - Using the web site for announcements regarding campus reps.
 - Implementing a sunset clause for campus rep. appointments
 - Instituting a requirement for participation at NEDSI meetings to maintain appointment
 - Recognition of campus reps at the Friday luncheon for their efforts promoting NEDSI, etc.

Karen requested feedback/input from board members by email.

10. Bruce Han, VP Placement, reported that a placement bulletin board had been set up in the registration area. He solicited any other ideas or suggestions for improving the placement effort.
11. Rhonda Aull-Hyde, VP Proceedings, reported that the Campus Rep. Listing page had been eliminated from the proceedings this year because it is not current. Rhonda recommended that we begin using a template for proceedings submissions in order to reduce (or eliminate) the wide variation in submission styles and formats. Linking to the DSI template was discussed and recommended, but some concerns were raised about the continuous availability of the DSI template as well as its veracity. The Communications Subcommittee will look into this issue as well. Ideally, the template will simply be available on the NEDSI web page. The option of having the proceedings issued on CD was raised briefly and it was agreed that the board would discuss it further at the November meeting in San Francisco.
12. Sue Pariseau presented the slate of officers. It was moved and seconded that the board approve the slate for presentation at the business meeting. The slate was approved as presented.
13. Sue Pariseau presented the NEDSI mission statement. She requested comments/feedback by email.
14. New Business
 - Paul Mangiamelli made a motion that after the 2002 meeting in Puerto Rico, the NEDSI conference days be changed from Wednesday-Thursday-Friday to Thursday-Friday-Saturday. The motion was seconded and passed.
 - Fred Kohun proposed that we convert the current form of the proceedings to a journal having a Library of Congress ISSN. This change is simple, will only take 2 weeks, and will add status/prestige to the proceedings. Discussion followed and concerns/issues were raised. Paul Mangiamelli recommended delaying the decision until the November meeting to allow time to check with national and other sources regarding potential copyright issues. A motion was made and seconded to table the issue until the end of April. In the interim time, Paul Mangiamelli and Chris Kydd will contact national for information and Fred Kohun will investigate other organizations to determine all ramifications of the proposed change. Paul/Chris and Fred will provide input to Sue by the beginning of May with their results. Based on the results of these investigations, Sue will solicit a vote via email on a motion of whether to make this change. The motion will include the specific wording that would address publication conditions and definitions. This email vote will occur by May 15, 2001.
 - Sue Pariseau introduced a proposal from David Levine regarding the Alpha Iota Delta Innovative Education Award. David would like to endow an additional \$100 (doubles the current award amount to \$200) to this award and rename the award The David M. Levine/Alpha Iota Delta Innovative Education Best Paper Award. It was moved, seconded and passed that NEDSI establish this combined award unless this decision creates a problem with national. Paul will look into whether national has any problems or concerns with us piggy-backing onto the Alpha Iota Delta award.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Withers, acting for Janelle Heineke