



NORTHEAST DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE
Minutes of Officers and Board Meeting
San Juan, Puerto Rico
March 21, 2002

Presiding: Luis Rivera-Solis

Present:

Rhonda Aull-Hyde	Janelle Heineke	Bill Naumes	Fariborz Partovi
Bill Bistline	Chris Kydd	Peggy Naumes	David Pentico
Shaw Chen	Mike Maggard	Javad Paknejad	Dan Reid
Mark Davis	Saeed Mohaghegh	Sue Pariseau	Mohammed Tafti
Maling Ebrahimpour	Paul Mangiameli	Bob Parsons	Minoo Tehrani
Bruce Han	Larry Meile	Bob Pavan	Barbara Withers

1. Luis Rivera-Solis called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.. The minutes of the November 19, 2001 meeting in San Francisco were approved without changes.
2. Sue Pariseau Reported that the nominating committee formed at the last meeting had nominated Shaw Chen and Mark Davis to be on the slate for election for NEDSI President. Both candidates agreed to run.
3. Mark Davis suggested, in line with the last item of business, that there be more than one president candidate on the slate each year, rather than having automatic progression from Program Chair to President Elect and then President. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Board always has the option to have more than one candidate on the slate and that that option can be invoked when appropriate.
4. Barbara Withers reported on the progress of the San Juan meeting. There were 150 paid registrants and Barbara expects that the income from the meeting will cover meeting expenses.
5. Janelle Heineke reported on the progress for planning the 2003 meeting in Providence. The contract has been signed and the city of Providence has undergone a major renovation since NEDSI's last meeting there, so it should be a popular place for the meeting.

Janelle initiated discussion about sending the Call for Papers electronically only (no hard-copy mailing). This would enable some other marketing tactics, such as providing links to the NEDSI website, while reducing the cost of printing and mailing.

6. Bill Bistline reported that planning for the 2004 meeting in Atlantic City is on track.
7. Bill Bistline gave the Treasurer's report, stating that after the San Juan meeting NEDSI will have approximately \$22,000 in assets.

The Board discussed fee to be charged for the 2003 meeting. With some members supporting dropping the fee back to the pre-San Juan \$98 and others supporting keeping the fee at \$149, the solution was to compromise on a \$125 conference fee for 2003.

Dave Pentico noted that, with NEDSI coffers lower than we like them to be, we can plan ways to

increase revenues, but we can also consider ways to decrease costs. One way to reduce costs, he suggested, would be to control the costs of the NEDSI dinner at the national meeting, perhaps by charging guests who attend. The group decided that it should be up to the President whether NEDSI could afford to cover the meal for guests as well as for officers and board members.

There was also some discussion about what the appropriate level of assets for NEDSI should be. Mark Davis, Paul Mangiameli and Bill Bistline all strongly supported having about \$30,000 – enough to cover expenses for two years if meeting revenues were very weak.

There was also some discussion about how much should be charged for doctoral student registrations. There is a fund available for doctoral student scholarships (\$500 each year), which would enable NEDSI to register 10 doctoral students for \$50. The Board voted to increase the registration fee to \$50 as long as the scholarship is available with one dissenting vote.

Larry Meile reported that he had collected \$4000 from publishers and encouraged the Board to stop by and greet the reps who attended the meeting.

8. Minoos Tehrani, VP Placement, described some of the efforts she will make to improve the placement process. There was some discussion about the timing of the NEDSI meeting being rather late for placements, but there was ultimate agreement that for schools that hire late or for both schools and applicants who want an “early look” the year before hiring decisions are made, NEDSI’s placement activities can add significant value.
9. Karen Brown, VP Communication, introduced her plan for a regular NEDSI newsletter, which would not only be a vehicle for communication among current NEDSI members but which could also be a recruiting vehicle. Karen will work with Julie Kendall to get the newsletter on the website.
10. Paul Mangiameli, regionally elected VP to DSI, reported on the Institute (“National”). Both National membership and meeting attendance have been declining. Among efforts to reverse this trend are the appointment of Terry Williams as Marketing Director. Terry will send a letter to regional DSI members inviting them to join the Institute, citing benefits such as subscriptions to *Decision Sciences* and the new teaching journal, *The Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education*.

The Institute is also considering the purchase of a web-based conference management program that would reside on its own server, rather than having the Program Chairs of each meeting jury-rig their own systems. The Institute board will vote on whether or not to purchase a program in April. If a program is purchased, the Institute will need to decide whether and how it will be made available to the regions.

11. The Advisory Committee met and made the following suggestions:
 - a. That each of the Board members and officers encourage new members to join NEDSI.
 - b. That the President Elect be responsible for configuring best paper award review committees and that the chairs of those committees be recognized as members of the Program Committee. The Board voted unanimously to approve this suggestion.
12. There was some discussion of a proposal brought to a Board member that NEDSI be a beta test site for a group that is developing a web-based conference scheduling program. The Board agreed that the risks of engaging in testing of a new program during an actual conference cycle are too high. There was agreement, however, that Program chairs should investigate options available to them to move NEDSI forward with a standard conference management program with web capabilities.

13. Bill Bistline noted that there have been changes to the regional accounting procedures requiring changes in their bylaws. NEDSI Bylaw 5(2)c should now read:

”He/she shall be responsible for conducting the financial affairs of the Northeast Region in accordance with the constitution and Bylaws of both the Northeast Region, the Decision Sciences Institute, and the *Guidelines for Regional Financial Management*. (0201)”

14. There was some discussion about whether some of the NEDSI awards should still bear the Pearson name. There was a unanimous vote to approve continuing to use the Pearson name at least through 2003.
15. It was noted that the Call for Papers for the 2003 meeting did not include David Levine’s award for papers. Janelle will fix the error before the Call is sent out electronically.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janelle Heineke