

**NORTHEAST DECISION SCIENCES INSTITUTE**  
**Draft Minutes of Officer and Board Meeting (Not Yet Approved)**  
**Providence, RI**  
**March 28, 2003**

**Presiding:** Shaw Chen

**Present:**

Bill Allen	David Levine	Bill Sipple
Al Avery	Saeed Mohaghegh	Luis Rivera-Solis
Shaw Chen	Paul Mangiamelli	Jennifer Swanson
Mark Davis	Larry Meile	Mohammed Tafti
Scott Dellana	Alan Olinsky	Minoo Tehrani
Maling Ebrahimpour	Sue Pariseau	Nancy Weida
Janelle Heineke	Fariborz Partovi	Keith Willoughby
Tom Jones, DSI President	Bob Pavan	Barbara Withers
Julie Kendall	David Pentico	
Chris Kydd	Dan Reid	

1. Shaw Chen called the meeting to order at 11:54 a.m. The minutes of the November 24, 2002 meeting in San Diego, California were approved without changes.
2. Tom Jones, President of DSI, was introduced and warmly received. He announced that Barbara Flynn would take over as President on April 1, and that members should share concerns and interests with any officer of DSI. The Northeast region is well represented at National, and includes newly-elected Vice President (At-Large) Nancy Weida. Tom made several announcements, including:
  - The first issue of the Institute's teaching journal (*DSJIE*) is in press
  - There will be a strategic planning workshop at the 2003 Annual Meeting in Washington DC
  - Future DSI Annual Meetings' locations include Boston (2004), San Francisco (2005; so soon to avoid a hotel monetary penalty from poor post-9/11 attendance in 2001), San Antonio (2006), Phoenix (2007).
  - The paper deadline for the Washington Annual Meeting has been extended to April 8; the abstract and workshop deadline remains May 1Tom concluded his remarks by saying "Ut Prosim." Your Secretary later determined that this can be roughly translated as "that I may serve."
3. Janelle Heineke reported on the current conference, noting that there are approximately 204 participants, including several new faces, and that all appears to be going well, despite a larger than usual number of pre-paid registrants not appearing. She was pleased to report that we were able to support all doctoral students by waiving the conference registration fee, and that she expects that the conference will net \$4000 to \$5000. She thanked the many people who have helped her, and reserved special thanks for Larry Meile. The group reacted with heartfelt applause for Janelle and Larry.
4. Larry Meile reported on the 2004 conference in Atlantic City, including the fact that massive renovations are ongoing at the Tropicana. All submissions will be electronic, and there is a special e-mail address for the conference: [NEDSI@BC.EDU](mailto:NEDSI@BC.EDU). Discussion then centered on how best to integrate CMS with electronic submissions, and whether the Proceedings should be submitted and produced electronically (as a CD) as well. It was agreed that the Proceedings Editor will look into these issues, after seeing the relevant results of this conference's questionnaire. Various ideas were discussed, including how to handle authors who expect the Proceedings Editor to format papers, the difficulty international authors have meeting the current formatting requirements, and the fact that using a CD would allow us to remove the page limit restriction in our current

Proceedings. Larry reported that he also needs a few track chairs; volunteers identified themselves, and other suggestions were named.

**Action Item: No later than November, a group composed of Larry Meile, Fariborz Partovi, and others they choose, will report on two issues: (1) publishing the Proceedings on a CD; (2) using electronic submission of papers to be published in the Proceedings.**

5. Fariborz Partovi discussed the Philadelphia meeting, including the pros and cons of a downtown location, and the fact that the current tentative dates coincide with Easter weekend. In choosing other dates, Fariborz was reminded to consider Passover, Orthodox Easter, and other special days. General (and separate) discussions ensued concerning the pros and cons of a Wednesday-Friday versus a Thursday-Saturday schedule. The main issues appear to be the fact that many airlines are relaxing Saturday restrictions for reduced fares, the fact that attendees have to cancel more classes the earlier in the week the conference begins, and the reality that many people are unwilling to give up their weekends for Saturday conference participation. The effect on the hotel of location was also discussed, in particular, the fact that when we are close to the Boston area we tend to have more commuters.

**Action Item: Fariborz Partovi will report back no later than November concerning hotel and dates of the 2005 conference.**

6. Future conferences were discussed, and the importance of encouraging others to organize conferences was emphasized.

The broader issue of getting new people involved in NEDSI evolved from this discussion. The need for clarity concerning the roles of various officers was emphasized. Concern was expressed about what happened to the VP Placement position, a position Wallace Growney had held and done well "forever." Paul Mangiamelli noted that the VP Placement position was missing from the list of officers on the slate. It was agreed that Jennifer Swanson would be added to the proposed slate for this position, and Dave Pentico would be added to the slate in the resulting vacated Board position.

General and side discussions ensued concerning the roles of various positions. A motion to have each VP describe his/her job was withdrawn in favor of the following action item:

**Action Item: The President and Advisory Board will post NEDSI bylaws on the NEDSI web site as soon as is feasible, after asking Carol Latta to send them. In addition, the roles of each VP position will be sent to the officers and members of the Board via e-mail.**

It was reiterated that Jennifer Swanson will be placed on the slate as VP Placement, and David Pentico will be on the slate for a two-year term on the Board of Directors. Larry Meile moved that this updated slate be approved. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7. The treasurer's report was presented by Chris Kydd, due to the absence of Rhonda Aull-Hyde. Chris pointed out that the large current balance is because the 2003 conference bills have not yet been paid.
8. Susan Pariseau, Northeast Regionally Elected VP, presented a written report from the January 11, 2003 DSI Board of Directors Meeting. She drew our attention to underlined items, among them, Alpha Iota Delta's concern about the long-term feasibility of underwriting the Innovative Education Awards for the regions, the role of the regions, and the timeslot for regions to meet at the Annual Meeting (Sunday, after the sessions). When questioned, Sue clarified that any new regions will be added internationally.
9. As the slate for new and continuing and continuing officers and board members was approved earlier (see #6 above), we moved on to the next agenda item.

10. Old Business: The Advisory Council is concerned with the task of attracting more people to join NEDSI and attend our meetings. A general discussion ensued concerning the importance of strategic planning. A draft document "NEDSI Goals & Objectives" was distributed. We agreed to study the document, and make suggestions. It was agreed that the President-Elect (Janelle Heineke this year) should be in charge of the Sunday regional event at the November Annual Meeting.

**Action Item: All officers, members of the Board, and members of the Advisory Board will study the draft of the document "NEDSI Goals & Objectives" and make suggestions to Barbara Withers.**

**Action Item: By May, Janelle will have a game plan for this Sunday event.**

Paul Mangiamelli requested that the minutes be distributed within a few weeks of the meeting, and that they include specific and clear action items, including due dates and people who are responsible for completing the tasks. The minutes can then be e-mailed, and posted on the web site by Julie Kendall. Our by-laws need to be posted also (as agreed earlier), a copy of which can be requested from Carol Latta. Tom Jones suggested we get copies of other regions' by-laws as well.

**Action Item: Julie Kendall will post meeting minutes on the NEDSI web site, when they are available.**

Mark Davis, as Program Chair for the 2003 Annual Meeting, requested submissions from the region.

It was pointed out that VP Industrial Liaison should be added to the Goals & Objectives document.

It was brought up that Item 9 from the November 2002 minutes directs us to vote on the registration fee for our next meeting. A motion was proposed, seconded and unanimously approved to keep the registration fee at \$125 for the 2004 NEDSI Conference, but give Larry Meile leeway to increase it to \$150, if necessary.

The issue of eliminating discussants was discussed (no pun intended), and will be discussed (still no pun intended) again in November.

11. New Business: Barbara Withers suggested that we name one of the Pearson Awards in memory of our dear friend Bill Bistline.

**Action Item: The Advisory Council will report in November concerning the naming of awards.**

12. Shaw Chen adjourned the meeting at 1:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy C. Weida