

NEDSI Business Meeting
Sunday, November 15, 2009 1:00 – 2:30pm
Location: Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana

Presiding:

Snehamay Banerjee

Present:

Snehamay Banerjee, Shaw Chen, Maling Ebrahimpour, Laura Forker, **Doug Hales**, Janelle Heineke, Neset Hikmet, Rhonda Hyde, Chris Kydd, David Levine, Linda Boardman Liu, Paul Mangiameli, Larry Meile, **Margaret J. Naumes**, **William Naumes**, Javad Paknejad, Susan Pariseau, Fariborz Partovi, David Pentico, Dan Reid, Luis Eduardo Rivera-Solis, Kaushik Sengupta, Eric Stein

Absent:

John Affisco, Al Avery, Gerry Campbell, Arthur Chen, Mark Davis, Joy Field, Doug Hales, Frimette Kass, Mike Maggard, Robert Parsons, Ken Sousa, Effie Stavoulaki, Deb Sledgianowski, Minoo Tehrani, Doug White, Angela Wicks
There were a lot of officers and advisory council members absent who are not listed

Guest: Mehmet the Mysterious

1. Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Snehamay Banerjee.
2. Snehamay welcomed new NEDSI board member Kaushik Sengupta.
3. Larry Meile moved that the minutes from the 2009 NEDSI Mohegan Sun meeting be approved. Dan Reid seconded the motion. All in favor; motion passed with minor revisions.
4. Report on 2009 Mohegan Sun meeting

Snehamay reported on the 2009 NEDSI conference for Ken Sousa (2009 Program Chair) who was unable to attend.

An initial operating loss of \$11,631 was reported for the 2009 conference but was later revised down to \$2,988.75. A discussion ensued regarding reasons for the loss. The discussion focused on hotel rooms reserved for conference attendees that

were not filled. Susan pointed out that an \$81 cost per room was incurred by NEDSI whether people who signed up for the conference stayed in the hotel or not. Apparently many conference attendees drove to the conference site but did not stay overnight at Mohegan Sun. Larry suggested the creation of an instruction manual for the Program Chair containing a set of rules to follow when negotiating with hotel representatives regarding room reservations. Three concise paragraphs would be sufficient to sum up previous Program Chairs' experiences. Susan emphasized the importance of better communication with the NEDSI membership regarding the additional cost NEDSI incurs if conference attendees don't stay at the conference hotel. Paul and David reiterated Larry's point of capturing institutional memory in writing to assist future Program Chairs with planning and negotiating.

Snehamay moved that official thanks be extended to Ken for his work on the conference; Neset seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion passed.

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

Local arrangements chair Snehamay Banerjee updated Board on conference. Two hundred and thirty (290?) rooms have been reserved at the Alexandria Hilton for the conference (Friday, Saturday, and one half day on Sunday). Snehamay recommended negotiating with the hotel regarding room rates; the conference rate NEDSI negotiated is \$189 per night but when Snehamay called separately and inquired about the room rate, he was told that it was \$125 per night. Snehamay also reported that \$13,600 had been spent on food and drink so far with \$400 remaining from a \$14,000 contracted food and drink budget.

Program Chair Neset Hikmet reported that 105 papers had already been submitted; 120 papers were projected to be submitted with 170 attendees forecasted. Neset reported that many papers were submitted to the Asian, Supply Chain Management, and Management Science/Operations Research tracks; the Business Ethics and Marketing tracks had the lowest numbers of submitted papers.

Rhonda questioned how all paper reviews could be completed between the November 15th submission deadline and December 25th. Neset replied that additional time will be allocated for reviews this year; notifications of paper acceptances may occur later.

Susan asked for historical data on submissions to previous NEDSI conferences. Rhonda replied that there were 130-140 submissions to the Baltimore conference; Snehamay said that there were 120-125 submitted to the Brooklyn conference. Susan remembered 150 or more conference submissions when she was Program Chair. Susan reiterated the need for historical data regarding: the number of papers submitted, the number of papers accepted, and the number of papers presented.

Rhonda proposed that prior conference chairs (2009 conference up to 10 years earlier) pool their data to assemble these numbers as well as numbers regarding hotel rooms contracted for, rooms actually paid for by conference attendees, and the number of people attending each conference. It was proposed to contact Mike Maggard (NEDSI archivist) for any information that might be in prior NEDSI meeting minutes and to contact Al Avery to see if he might have the names of previous conference attendees, their affiliations, etc.

Javad proposed reviving the Campus Rep. program. Dan remarked that this program was abandoned at the national level and suggested reviving the program before national does. Dan stated that the Campus Rep should be a point person at each campus who encourages people to submit papers to and to attend the NEDSI conference. Eric, Paul, and Dan agreed to work together to revive the Campus Rep program.

Susan proposed reinstating the reception for new NEDSI conference attendees; Rhonda and Dan seconded the motion. Snehamay said that if this reception is to be held at the 2010 conference, it will have to be held Thursday evening due to other conference commitments.

6. Discussion of later NEDSI annual meetings

a. Update on 2011 conference (*Program Chair: Minoo Tehrani*)

Snehamay reported on the 2011 conference given Minoo's absence. Hotel room rates for the conference in Montreal will be around \$240-270 per room. Several people reiterated that Minoo needs to check the 2011 calendar and make sure that the conference does not overlap with any religious holidays (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, other) as well as other DSI regional conferences. Snehamay will relay this message to her.

b. Update on 2012 conference

Neither conference chair for the 2012 conference (Angela Wicks or Jan Prichard) was present at the NEDSI business meeting and neither had communicated any information to Snehamay. It is unknown whether either has received approval for financial support of the conference from Bryant. Rhonda expressed concern that Angela may not have enough experience with NEDSI to know how to negotiate with hotels for lower rates or how to plan a conference. Larry said that if Angela and Jan don't communicate with the Board soon, that another conference chair should be considered. Snehamay will ask Angela and Jan for details regarding what they have investigated and what they have found.

Susan stated that there should be only one conference chair and one associate conference chair so enable one point person to take ultimate responsibility.

7. Action items from previous meetings

a. Size of Board of Directors

Should there be only 6-8 members? The consensus of those present was to table the discussion of board size until the next meeting.

b. 2013 Conference

No one has volunteered to chair the 2013 conference. Position is open.

8. Officer Reports

a. Treasurer

John Affisco was not in attendance.

b. VP of Technology

Doug White was not in attendance

c. VP of Member Services

Eric Stein Eric is setting up a Linked-In group for NEDSI officers and the NEDSI board. Will work with Dan and Paul regarding resurrection of the Campus Reps program.

d. VP of Promotional Activities

Javad Paknejad spoke with the former VP of Promotional Activities (Ed Arnheiter) to find out about the number of publishers with booths at the NEDSI meeting. Javad asked Board members to look for potential supporters of the annual NEDSI meeting (e.g., deans, text book reps they know, etc.). David noted that text book publishers' Marketing Managers and Editors make the decisions about having a booth at conferences, not sales representatives.

e. VP of Communications

Joy Field was not in attendance. Larry spoke for Joy in her absence. Joy needs information for the NEDSI newsletter (e-mail her at fieldj@bc.edu). David

moved that we thank Joy for her great job on the NEDSI newsletter. Larry seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Motion passed.

f. VP of Proceedings

Al Avery was not in attendance.

9. Northeast VP report

Dan Reid updated search for new editor of *Decision Sciences*: three finalists are currently being evaluated. Survey of membership showed that approximately 50% of the membership wanted no change in the (usual) timing of the conference. The national meeting was one week earlier this year because the original hotel contacted for the venue backed out of their agreement; no other conference facilities were available right before Thanksgiving. A subcommittee has been formed to study the relationship between the national and regional institutes: what do the regions want from national DSI? What is the value of the regions with respect to membership benefits? Dan asked for comments and ideas (e-mail: dan.reid@unh.edu).

The newly formed EDSI (European DSI) proposed a lower fee structure for other countries joining DSI; the DSI Board rejected that proposal. The next national DSI Board meeting is in January 2010.

10. Old business

Snehamay reminded the Board about the NEDSI dinner and distributed additional NEDSI flyers.

11. New business

Snehamay raised the questions of how NEDSI will pay for future conferences. NEDSI pays a 3 ½% - 4% fee for using PayPal. Shaw Chen extended a big thank you to Maling for organizing the 2009 DSI conference. Everyone agreed and extended thanks. It was noted that Minoo needs to attend the next NEDSI Board meeting and update the Board about the 2011 conference in Montreal.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Forker