

President's Letter

To the Members,

The life span of the President of the System Dynamics Society is very short and this newsletter from me will be my last. Your President next year will be Peter Gardiner and I wish him well in the task. My personal thanks to all Officers and members of the Society for their support during my Presidency.

My brief spell at the top has led me to believe that the Society is developing well. However, I feel very strongly that its rate of growth could be greater. My departing message, therefore, is in the form of a plea. It is, that all members be more pro-active in taking Society based initiatives.

Please use all your academic, research and consultancy activities to promote the Society. Remember that you must play your part as individuals in order to create a viable organisation.

Eric. F. Wolstenholme, President

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1989 System Dynamics Conference

This years Conference was held at the University of Stuttgart in West Germany and was organised by Erich Zahn and Peter Milling. This was a great success and those members of the Society who did not attend missed both good papers and convivial company. My personal thanks to all those involved with the organisation.

I would also like to thank those members of the Policy Council of the Society who attended the conference and who sat through many hours of meetings to further the cause of the Society. In particular I would like to mention Bob Eberlein who so diligently took the minutes in all these meetings.

Future Conferences

The 1990 System Dynamic Conference will be held in Boston Massachusetts from 10th to 13th July. Abstracts of papers for this were due on the 1st November 1989 and full papers should be submitted by the 15th April 1990. If anyone still wishes to submit an abstract, they should forward this with all haste to:

Kathy Chazen Stone
International System Dynamics Conference
Rockefeller Institute of Government
411 State Street
Albany NY 12203
(Phone. 581-472-1300)

At the Stuttgart meeting the Policy Council of the Society gave considerable thought to a longer term strategy for Conferences beyond 1990.

In 1991 it was decided to deviate from the normal pattern of alternation between American and European sites. Consideration was given to locating the conference in India and Thailand, both of whom have been instrumental in developing the subject. The final decision was made in favour of Thailand and the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok will host the 1991 Conference.

Subsequent conferences will revert to the normal European/American sequence. It is now Society policy that Conference sites should be chosen two years in advance on the basis of formal proposals. A paper outlining the required format for proposals is available from the Principal Office.

In 1992 the International Conference will be held in

Europe. Proposals from sites interested in holding this conference should be submitted to the Society's Principal Office by the 31st December 1989. Two cities have so far shown interest in holding this conference. These are Milan and Utrecht.

The 1993 Conference will be held in America and the 1994 in Europe. Proposals for these events should be made at the latest by 31st December 1990 and 1991 respectively.

Chapters of the Society

Developments have taken place to finalise the rules by which the Chapters of the Society can be formed and the Society is in the process of finalising the formal relationship between itself and the Italian Chapter.

In future, the Chapters of the Society will be represented at the Policy Council by a non voting member. The person so designated by the Chapter will be able to sit on all Policy Council meetings and receive the minutes of those meetings.

Society Dues Structures

From next year there will be a two tier dues structure. Full members will be charged U.S. \$60 whilst students and persons whose self assessed gross family income is less than U.S. \$20,000 per year will be charged U.S. \$30 per year.

The organisers of the 1990 Conference in Boston will be considering a differential conference fee for Society members.

Society's Finances

The finances of the Society are basically sound and this is in no small way due to the efforts of Jack Pugh in his role as Vice President, Finance. A small cash surplus is expected for 1989 and there is some scope to spend this on selective items. The Society does, however, still require to generate further sponsorship and all members are requested to pursue this matter in their home countries.

Membership of the Society

Membership of the Society is reasonably steady with sufficient new recruits being made to balance those leaving. Apart from encouraging further members it is important for the Society to understand the cause of the attrition rate and to reduce it.

A Membership Directory is now available and this

will facilitate the analysis of trends in the membership.

System Dynamics Review

The journal is developing well and there is currently a very healthy surplus of papers awaiting publication. The lead time for publication of papers is now approximately two years. The quality of papers is also increasing. Congratulations are in order to George Richardson and his team for creating this sound situation.

To accommodate the backlog of papers the average size of each issue will be increased from 100 to 120 pages. This increase will be funded from the Society's surplus revenue. Further expansion of the journal to three issues per year will be kept under review.

Mike Radzicki is promoting the journal in other journals through shared advertising.

The Department of Peace Studies at Notre Dame has sponsored a \$1,000 prize for articles in the journal dealing with peace and nominations for this prize should be sent to:

Dr. Michael J. Radzicki
Assistant Professor of Management
University of Notre Dame
College of Business Administration
Notre Dame
Indiana 46556
U.S.A.

Administration of the Society

We are very much indebted to Julie Pugh and the ad hoc Planning Committee of the Society for their efforts in improving the management of the society. However, there is a growing need to strengthen the administration of the Society and, in particular, to make new Officers of the Society more aware of their responsibilities.

It has been agreed that the Past President, President and President Elect should all attend at least two meetings of the Policy Council per year. This should help to improve continuity of operations as officers change positions.

Electronic Bibliography

Pugh Roberts Associates have offered to develop a data base for system dynamics publications at their

own expense. The Society have welcomed this development.

Jay. W. Forrester Award

The 1989 Jay Forrester Award went to Barry Richmond for his work in developing STELLA. Many congratulations to him.

The nominating committee for the Jay W. Forrester Award has reported that it was pleased with the flow of suggestions for the 1989 award and that there is a good response so far for the 1990 award. Nominations for 1990 are still being welcomed. Please send your suggestions to:

Professor David Anderson
ULB 96
State University of New York
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
U.S.A.

The nominating committee is also charged with reviewing the amount of the award for 1990.

Election of Candidates for 1990

Taking office in January 1990 are:

Erich Zahn - President (1990-Elect, 1991 President, 1992 Past)
Alan Graham - VP Membership (12/92)
Jack Pugh - VP Finance (12/92)
Jose Machuca - VP Meetings (12/91, two year appointment to replace Erich Zahn)
Ralph Levine - Policy council (12/92)
Henry Weil - Policy council (12/92)
Andres Brieter - Policy council (12/92)
Ali Mashieki - Policy council (12/92)

(The numbers in brackets refer to the date of termination of these appointments.)

The above Officers were nominated by the 1989 Nominating Committee of the Society and their names circulated to Members in the President's Letter, Number 3, March 1989. No alternative nominations were received by the deadline set for this (May 15th 1989) and hence, under the constitution of the Society, the nominees are now elected.

Slate of candidates for 1990 election of the Society (to take office in 1991).

The Nominating Committee for the 1990 elections of officers of the Society, has put forward the following slate of officers. This slate was approved by the Policy Council of the Society at the Stuttgart Conference:

President Elect - John Sterman
Vice President Publications - John Morecroft
Secretary - Bob Eberlein
Policy Council - Jack Vennix
- Brian Dangerfield
- Maurice Laroche
- Peter Galbraith

Members are encouraged to submit additional nominations for the offices listed above if they so desire. Any nominee must be a member in good standing of the Society. Nominations must be made in writing by a member of the Society and must be supported by a signatures of 9 (nine) additional members in good standing. The total of ten members signatures may accompany the nomination letter or the signatures may arrive in separate letters of support. In any event, the nomination and at least ten valid signatures must be received at the principal office of the Society no later than May 15th 1990.

If alternatives are nominated, a ballot will be mailed to all members by early June 1990, to be returned by 30th June 1990. Election results will be announced at the 1990 Conference in Boston and in subsequent issues of the President's letter.

Gordon S. Brown Fund

A \$200,000 fund has been established by Gordon S. Brown to stimulate the teaching of System Dynamics in primary and secondary schools. The primary objective is to help train teachers in the use of system dynamics. This is a very generous initiative and the Society will take charge of the administration of this fund and organise an investment and award committee to manage it.

The System Dynamics Society

Officers, Policy Council, Administrators - 1989

(Dates in parentheses indicate expiration of term)

President Eric F. Wolstenholme
President Elect: Peter Gardiner
Past President: Nathan Forrester
Secretary: Robert L. Eberlein (12/90)

Vice Presidents:

Publications: David F. Andersen (12/90)
Finance: Alexander L. Pugh (12/89)
Membership: Roelant R. O. Beijdorff (12/89)
Meetings: Erich Zahn (12/91)
At Large: John D. Sterman (12/91)

Policy Council:

Peter Milling (12/91)
Antonio S. Camera (12/91)
Erling Moxnes (12/91)
Erik Mosekilde (12/91)
Khalid Saeed (12/90)
Wilburt Wils (12/90)
Toshiro Shimada (12/90)
Michael J. Radzicki (12/90)
Javier Aracil (12/89)
Alan K. Graham (12/89)
Andrew Ford (12/89)
Nancy H. Roberts (12/89)

Executive Director: Julia S. Pugh

Addresses

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Cambridge, MA 02139 USA

System Dynamics Review:
(518) 442-3859

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Milne 308, Rockefeller College
SUNY Albany
Albany, NY 12222 USA

Executive Director:
(617) 259-8259

Mrs. Julie S. Pugh
49 Bedford Road
Lincoln, MA 01773 USA

President:
0274 542299 ext. 277

Dr. Eric F. Wolstenholme
University of Bradford
Management Centre
Emm Lane, Bradford
England, BD9 4JL

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Return to: System Dynamics Society, E40-294, MIT, Cambridge, MA, 02139 USA (617) 253-1549