

SYSTEM DYNAMICS SOCIETY

MAILING ADDRESS:

c/o System Dynamics Group
M.I.T., E40-294
Cambridge, MA 02139
U.S.A.

SUBJECT: Status of the System Dynamics Society

FROM: Jay W. Forrester, President 1983-1984

DATE: August 29, 1984

Substantial progress has been made during the last year in organizing the System Dynamics Society. The meeting in Oslo, Norway in early August provided an opportunity for the Policy Council to meet, the Nominations Committee to be approved and to meet, and plans for the Society's journal to become much clearer. I will report on matters as I now see them.

1. Officers for 1984-85.

Attached is a list of Officers, Policy Council, and Committees for the 1984-85 year. Some Committee positions are still unfilled. The new President, David Andersen, will appoint these as necessary with the approval of the Policy Council.

2. Nomination Procedure.

We are following the Nominating Committee procedure as outlined in the draft constitution that has been sent to members. The Nominating Committee was appointed and the appointments were approved by the Policy Council in Oslo. The Nominating Committee met and decided on their choices of nominees. The nominees were approved by the Policy Council. Acceptance has not yet been received from several nominees so an announcement of names will be forthcoming in early February as the election procedure gets underway.

The nominating procedure will be irregular in one respect during the coming year. It is necessary for the continuity of the Society that officers and members of the Policy Council have staggered 3-year terms. In order to start this interleaving of terms it is necessary at this stage to designate some officers and Policy Council members for terms of one, two, and three-years. On the other hand, to avoid excessive dominance of the Society by the present officers, it was decided that the persons holding two and three-year terms would come up for election and authentication of their appointments in this coming election. The

Nominating Committee will submit for those positions only a single nominee, that is, the present incumbent. The nominating procedure does allow other nominations by the membership if there are sufficiently strong feelings to justify such action. The Nominating Committee will submit two names for those offices in which the terms end in 1985.

3. Society Dues.

In anticipation of the first volume of the Journal of the SYSTEM DYNAMICS Society appearing in 1985, the Policy Council approved dues for new members in the forthcoming year of \$50 (U.S.).

For both historical and fairness reasons, those who were members in 1983-84 can renew for \$30 (U.S.). The historical reason arises from renewal notices having been mailed at that rate last spring before a journal was foreseen in 1985. The fairness reason arises from the fact that past members will have paid \$60 (U.S.) for their two years and will have received only a few organizational mailings during the first year. Therefore, part of the first year dues can be carried over to apply to the journal in the second year.

New student dues will be \$20 (U.S.) and renewal student dues \$15 (U.S.).

Enclosed is the red membership renewal form. Please renew your membership promptly if you have not already done so.

Also I am enclosing two white membership forms for new members. Please encourage others to join. We can send more forms, or you can copy these.

4. The SYSTEM DYNAMICS Journal

Very good progress was made in Oslo toward organizing a journal for the Society. This effort had the wise counsel and support and agreement of Eric Wolstenholme in representing DYNAMICA.

The December issue in 1984 will be the last issue of DYNAMICA.

George Richardson accepted the position of Vice-President of Publications and will be working with the Publications Committee to launch the Society's journal in 1985.

The present plan is for a journal with two issues per year. In time, the issues might be increased to quarterly. For 1985 the plan is to launch the journal with an inaugural issue that will combine Numbers 1 and 2 of the first volume. This inaugural double-size issue should be expected in late summer or fall of 1985. Thereafter, the annual volume will consist of an issue in January and August.

Further information and development of plans will be forthcoming from the Publications Vice-President as information is available.

5. Future Meetings

The Policy Council decided that three years is needed for adequate preparation of the annual international meeting. Therefore, and because interesting proposals were available, the following schedule was adopted:

1985. The meeting to be held at a conference center in Keystone, Colorado, U.S.A. in the mountains about 75 miles from Denver. Requests for information and correspondence about papers should go to:

Professor Nathan B. Forrester
College of Business Administration
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588 U.S.A.

1986. The meeting is reserved for a location in Europe. The host and location are yet to be determined. Plans are to be recommended by Michael Karsky. Communications can be addressed to:

Michael Karsky
40 rue Charlot
Paris 75003
FRANCE

1987. The 1987 conference is scheduled for Shanghai, China at the Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering. Please communicate with the Vice-President for meetings or with:

Qifan Wang
Shanghai Institute of Mechanical Engineering
System Dynamics Group
516 Jun Gong Road
Shanghai, China

6. Constitution of the Society

A draft constitution was mailed to members in June. Detailed suggestions were received from two members. The lawyers for the Society have made revisions to conform with legal requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to meet the requirements for becoming a tax-exempt organization. In Oslo at the annual meeting, there was a brief discussion of the constitution with some additional suggestions.

When another version of the constitution has been edited, we hope to have the final text that will allow the Society to come into official existence. Most of the business and activities of the Society will be governed in the bylaws, which can be amended as needed by the Council or the membership.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer at the Oslo meeting submitted a report which is enclosed. There are legal fees for organizing the Society and duplication and mailing charges for recent communications to the Society that have not yet been paid.

8. Mailing Address

The Society needs a mailing address from which communications can be routed to the appropriate officers. Such an address should change as seldom as possible to avoid unnecessary confusion. The System Dynamics Group at M.I.T. has offered to handle such mailing and rerouting until the Policy Council makes some other arrangement. The address is given at the top of this report.

Enclosed are the addresses of Society officers and Council members. Communications for these individuals should be mailed directly to them. Until further notice, communications about the journal including submission of papers can go to George Richardson, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, 02766, U.S.A.

9. Increasing Membership

The Society appears to be off to a good start. I look forward to aggressive growth in membership and an increasing participation of members in the affairs of the Society and the field of System Dynamics.

It is important that membership be increased so that the journal can be strengthened and expanded. I believe there are large numbers of people who would be interested in the Society who have not yet been approached for membership. Please communicate with the President, the Secretary, or the Vice-President for Member Activities to make suggestions for reaching prospective members. Their addresses are listed on an enclosed sheet.

Jay W. Forrester
President 1983-1984
System Dynamics Group
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Cambridge, MA 02139
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Enclosures: List of Officers, Council, and Committees
Treasurer's Report
Mailing addresses of Officers and Council
One membership renewal form
Two new-membership forms

JWF/dh