

DECISION LINE

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2010 Officers' Nominees Selected

President-Elect

Krishna S. Dhir, Berry College
 Marc J. Schniederjans, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

At-Large Vice Presidents

Thomas Choi, Arizona State University
 Binshan Lin, Louisiana State University-Shreveport
 M. "Mo" Adam Mahmood, University of Texas at El Paso
 Funda Sahin, University of Tennessee-Knoxville
 Chetan Sankar, Auburn University
 J.P. Shim, Mississippi State University
 Marion G. Sobol, Southern Methodist University
 Merrill Warkentin, Mississippi State University

Treasurer

Shaw K. Chen, University of Rhode Island
 Peter Ittig, University of Massachusetts-Boston

Asia-Pacific Regionally-Elected Vice President

Norma J. Harrison, CEIBS

European Regionally-Elected Vice President - TBD

Mexico Regionally-Elected Vice President - TBD

Midwest Regionally-Elected Vice President - TBD

Northeast Regionally-Elected Vice President

Paul Mangiameli, University of Rhode Island
 Larry Meile, Boston College

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Update on Board Actions

by Ram Narasimhan, President, DSI

Dear Colleagues, in this column, I would like to inform you about some of the initiatives that the Board is pursuing to reposition the Institute for competitive strength. A mid-year meeting of the DSI Board was held in Chicago, in conjunction with the Academy of Management annual conference, to

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Beginning with the July 2009 issue of *Decision Line* and until further notice, this publication will be available in electronic (pdf) format only.

consider strategic initiatives that should be pursued to strengthen the Institute. There was concurrence among the Board members that the strength of the Institute is the broad disciplinary interests of its membership. To take advantage of this and to potentially increase the membership of the Institute, the Board decided to start three Special Interest Groups (SIG) in the following areas: (1) Project Management, (2) Healthcare Decision Making and Policy, and (3) Innovation and Entrepreneurship. These SIGs are intended to bring together scholars in multiple disciplines to focus on cross-disciplinary research topics, and the groups will be established with the help of scholars who have an interest in these multi-disciplinary topics.

The Project Management SIG is expected to be established with some involvement from the Project Management Institute (PMI), although we don't have a firm commitment yet. I have initiated talks with PMI to assess their interest in this SIG. Gary Klein, a member of the DSI Board, is expected to play a lead role in establishing this SIG. The Healthcare Decision Making and Policy SIG will be established with Rachna Shah and Susan Meyer as the lead individuals from the Carlson School of Management at University of Minnesota. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship SIG will be established with Roger Calantone as the lead individual from the Broad Graduate School of Management at Michigan State University. These three special interest groups will provide an opportunity to involve scholars from allied disciplines such as healthcare economics, project management, product development and innovation management, strategic management and cognitive psychology in the Institute's conference and other activities. Initially, two or three special sessions under these SIGs are being planned for the 2010 conference. The SIGs can promote intellectual discussion and exchange of ideas among a broad base of scholars through the conference sessions and the DSI website. The strategic objectives in starting these SIGs are to broaden our membership base and to involve strong

researchers in allied fields in our annual conferences.

The Board also approved the establishment of the *European Region of the Decision Sciences Institute (EDSI)*. In July, I chaired an organizing meeting that was held in Paris prior to the international DSI conference in Nancy, France. I had

There will be a special reception at the annual conference in New Orleans to celebrate the addition of the European Region to the DSI family.

contacted a number of colleagues from major European schools to assess their interest in starting a European region. My enquiries were well received by all that I contacted. It was evident after some discussions that there was considerable enthusiasm and interest in starting a European region. The Board had earlier established the start of this region as a strategic objective. It contributes to growth in membership and further internationalizes the Institute. Although many scholars from Europe have been attending DSI annual conferences regularly, we hadn't capitalized on this opportunity before. I think this strengthens and broadens the Institute further. A core group of five individuals has been working diligently to draft the bylaws and the mission statement for the region. This core group ("The G5" group) is comprised of Gyula Vastag from Hungary, Richard Pibernik and Constantin Blome from Germany, Marc Sachon from Spain, and Jan Arlbjorn from Denmark. There will be a special reception at the annual conference in New Orleans to celebrate the addition of this new region to the DSI family. Please be sure to attend the reception and meet the principals from EDSI.

Launch of the *Supply Chain Management Research* journal is progressing, albeit a bit slower than anticipated. The Board at its August meeting decided to solicit proposals from two other publish-

ers for the DSI journals in addition to Blackwell-Wiley, the current publisher. The proposals are due October 15th. The Board will then discuss the proposals and select a publisher for the DSI journals. We have secured commitments from several prominent researchers to be department editors for SCMR. The associate editor team is currently being assembled. As of now, plans to launch SCMR in 2010 remain unchanged.

The Board is continuing to discuss and *implement* actions to strengthen the Institute and better serve its members. Some initiatives that are under consideration or underway include the following: marketing the Institute to our constituents, redefining the Fellows selection criteria, improvements to the design and quality of the annual conference, a redesigned DSI website with more useful and interesting content, podcasting of selected sessions from the annual conference, and leveraging web-based technology to share information with members and facilitating interactions among members. I have the privilege of working with a Board that is collegial, creative, and engaged in the strategic interests of the Institute. The Board has been truly focused on strategic change and effecting major improvements to many facets of the Institute's operations. You should see constructive changes in what we do and how we do things as we move forward. Please feel free to contact any of us with exciting and creative suggestions for improvements. Ultimately, DSI's future rests with all of us acting in concert to promote the interests of the Institute. ■