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# MWDSI Newsletter

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Newsletter of the Midwest Region Decision Sciences Institute  
Volume 21 Number 2 • Fall 2008

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The MWDSI Newsletter is published once each semester. Suggestions, opinions, announcements, and other contributions are welcome.



## Editor:

Hokey Min  
James R. Good Chair in Global Supply  
Chain Strategy,  
Department of Management  
College of Business Administration  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Green, OH 43403  
fax: (419) 372-6057  
e-mail: [hmin@bgsu.edu](mailto:hmin@bgsu.edu)

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**MIDWEST DECISION SCIENCES  
INSTITUTE (MWDSI)**



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ceyhun Ozgur, Ph.D.  
Professor of Information and Decision Sciences  
College of Business Administration  
Valparaiso University  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

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Midwest DSI Colleagues,



I hope that this newsletter finds you well and actively engaged in a full complement of satisfying and productive activities.

Midwest DSI is alive and well in 2008. The Midwest Region of Decision Sciences held its 39th Annual Meeting on April 17-19, in Erie, Penn. The conference was hosted by Penn State – Erie, The Behrend College (Sam & Irene Black School of Business). In addition, three other local colleges and universities were also actively involved as co-hosts: Gannon University, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and Mercyhurst College. The program chair of this MWDSI conference was Diane Parente of Penn State – Erie.

The special consortium of academic units provided a tremendous program team with energy and commitment to new ideas and approaches to the conference. The 2008 MWDSI conference was completed successfully. There were over 90 submissions of papers and abstracts. Eighty were ultimately presented as abstracts or papers. There were 20 paper presentation sessions and 21 special sessions. The conference was held at the Courtyard Marriott and the Penn State Erie School of Business. There were 130 registrations of members, non-members and students. The sessions included: Research papers and abstracts, administrative sessions, publishing with the experts, a two-session presentation and discussion on SCM 2010 and beyond, a two-session student paper competition including masters and undergraduate papers, a two-session case competition of MBA and undergraduate teams, a panel discussion on interdisciplinary programs focusing on business and engineering, a statistics tutorial given by J. Burdeane Orris on how to effectively use computer and Excel to help in teaching statistics, four hands-on sessions: online procurement auctions, RFID, Financial Trading Floor and SAP enterprise systems

Papers presented at the Erie MWDSI Conference as full papers are eligible to be considered for publication at *International Journal of Operations & Quantitative Management (IJOQM)*, guest edited by Ceyhun Ozgur. Of the eligible papers, there were eight papers submitted to the special issue. Out of these eight papers, two papers got accepted for publication in IJOQM, three papers got rejected, and the remaining three papers are still under review at this point.

Ceyhun Ozgur  
2008 – 2009 President Midwest DSI

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# 2009 MIDWEST DSI ANNUAL MEETING: ANNOUNCEMENT

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The Midwest region of Decision Sciences will hold its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on April 16-18, 2009 in Oxford, OH.

<http://www.fsb.muohio.edu/mwdsi2009/>

The Program Team has been busy planning some unique experiences and sessions at the MWDSI Conference. Our objective is to provide a quality, accessible, regional program. With today's budget crises in higher education, many academics do not have the resources to travel to the national conferences. We hope that the attendees will include colleagues from institutions of all sizes. The conference is hosted by the Farmer School of Business at Miami University. The conference will be held in Miami's Marcum Conference center and Inn (513-529-1611, <http://www.hdg.muohio.edu/marcum/>). Deadline for submissions will be 2/13/09. Questions can be sent to Dr. W. Rocky Newman at Miami's Farmer School of Business, [newmanw@muohio.edu](mailto:newmanw@muohio.edu).

Thursday, April 16, will include the traditional Doctoral Consortium. PhD students should apply to Dr. Gerry Aase, Northern Illinois University, at [gaase@niu.edu](mailto:gaase@niu.edu).

As we are also targeting the smaller colleges in our region, we have many new and cross-functional tracks designed to incorporate the faculty from all business and economics departments, even those in the liberal arts schools. Some of the new tracks include Information Security, Innovative Education & On-line Instruction, Ethics and Sustainability, and Business Economics.

*Dr. W. Rocky Newman*  
*2009 Midwest DSI Program Chair*  
Professor and Coordinator for Supply Chain and Operations Management  
Farmer School of Business  
307 Laws Hall  
Miami University  
Oxford, OH 45056  
[newmanw@muohio.edu](mailto:newmanw@muohio.edu)  
v-513-529-4219  
f-513-529-2342



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## 2007-2008 MIDWEST DSI FELLOWS: DR. LESTER DIGMAN AND DR. BYRON J. FINCH

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Each year the Midwest Decision Sciences Institute (MWDSI) has the opportunity to recognize as many as two of its members for contributions to the Midwest Region of the Institute. The designation of MWDSI Fellow is awarded to active or historical supporters in recognition of distinguished service to the Midwest Region of the Decision Sciences Institute. For the 2007-2008 academic year, the designation of MWDSI Fellow was awarded to **Dr. Lester A. Digman** and **Dr. Byron J. Finch**.

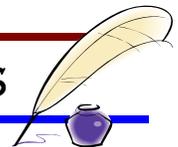
Please join me in thanking both Dr. Lester Digman and Dr. Byron Finch for their extensive contributions to both the regional and national societies and in congratulating him for this well-deserved recognition as MWDSI Fellow.

Dick Penlesky, Chair of the 2007-2008 MWDSI Fellows Committee

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## MIDWEST DSI FELLOWS NOMINATIONS

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The designation of “Midwest Fellow” may be awarded to members of the Midwest Decision Sciences Institute in recognition of distinguished service to the Midwest regional subdivision of the Decision Sciences Institute. Current Midwest DSI fellows include Lester Digman, Byron Finch, Chan Hahn, Stan Hardy, William C. Perkins, Anne Koehler, and Charlie Watts.

Nominators must submit a statement of qualifications which highlights the nominee’s service contributions to Midwest DSI. For 2009 consideration, please send nominations to Ceyhun Ozgur, ([ceyhun.ozgur@valpo.edu](mailto:ceyhun.ozgur@valpo.edu)) by **February 19, 2009**.

Ceyhun Ozgur  
Valparaiso University  
2008-2009 Midwest DSI President

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## 2008 STAN HARDY AWARD

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“Outsourcing Impact on Manufacturing Firms’ Value: Evidence from Japan,” authored by Bin Jiang, James A. Belohlav and Scott T. Young and published in Volume 25, Issue 4 (June 2007, pp. 885-900) of the *Journal of Operations Management*, was selected as the winner of the 2008 Midwest DSI Stan Hardy Award. The winning paper was officially announced at the annual meeting of Midwest DSI in Erie PA (April 2008). The paper was selected based on its current relevance and contribution to the field of Operations Management, its practicality and contribution to industry practice, and its rigor, creativity and readability.

A total of ten papers were nominated by the editors of *Decision Sciences* (Vicki Smith-Daniels, editor), *International Journal of Production Research* (J. E. Middle, editor), *Journal of Operations Management* (Kenneth K. Boyer and Morgan L. Swink, co-editors), *Manufacturing & Service Operations Management* (Gérard P. Cachon, editor) and *Production and Operations Management* (Kalyan Singhal, editor). The panel of judges included Karen L. Brown (Missouri State University), Ed Duplaga (Winona State University), Richard Penlesky (Carroll University), Peter Salzarulo (Miami University) and Tobias Schoenherr (Michigan State University).

On behalf of Midwest DSI, I extend congratulations to the award winners and appreciation to the journal editors, the judges and the authors of all the high-quality manuscripts considered for the 2008 award.

Dick Penlesky  
Carroll University  
2008 Stan Hardy Committee Chair



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# 2009 CALL FOR PAPERS

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## International Journal of Integrated Supply Management (IJISM)

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### A Special Issue on Supply Chain Operations during the World-Wide Economic Crisis

Website: [www.inderscience.com](http://www.inderscience.com)

#### Aims and Scope

The global financial crisis has swept through more than two-thirds of the free economic world ever since we witnessed a colossal collapse of major financial institutions in the United States in 2008. Despite a series of government bailouts and economic stimulus plans, there is still no sign of hopes for quick recovery. Indeed, this ongoing financial crisis is believed to be the worst of its kind since Great Depression. In this time of global financial crisis, single failure in any part of the stretched supply chain can lead to a chain of failures across the entire supply chain as illustrated by the automobile industry. Thus, the viability of the companies may rely on the weakest link of their supply chains. To beef up the weakest link of the supply chain, supply chain partners should find ways to share risks and resources through coordination and integration across the entire supply chain.

With that in mind, the main purpose of this special issue is to seek for research works that develop resilient supply chain frameworks and innovative thinking processes to cope with unprecedented global financial crisis. As such, all submitted papers are expected to address the core issue of this journal - *integration*. In particular, we seek cutting edge advances, concepts, practices, and research agenda in supply chain crisis/risk management. Studies that build theory or test theory with rigor are especially welcomed. Studies that extend existing theory in different contexts of risk and crisis management or different cultural environments (e.g., emerging economies) are also welcomed. Furthermore, papers that synthesize the past evolution of supply chain crisis/risk management and provide future research directions are strongly encouraged. This special issue is open to a variety of research methodologies that encompass mathematical models, simulation, rigorous case studies, exploratory studies, or empirical studies based on questionnaire surveys. The topics of interest are included but are not limited to the following:

#### Topics

- Global supply chain resilience
- Supply chain cost control using activity based management
- Lean supply chain management by doing more with less

- Asset management in the logistics industry (including trucking firms, third party logistics providers, warehousing firms)
- Assessment of supply chain risks
- Disruptions in global sourcing
- Logistics service pricing
- Financial Logistics
- Revenue/Yield management
- Fuel management
- Outsourcing relationship management
- Downsizing in the logistics or supply network
- Mergers/Acquisitions and their impact on supply chain resilience
- Financial implications of strategic alliance or supply chain partnerships
- Performance measurement and benchmarking of supply chain operations
- Institutional perspectives or the government's role in supply chain management

Full papers should not exceed 30 double-spaced paper length of letter (A4) including figures and illustrations. Leading (or corresponding) authors should provide complete address, fax/phone number and e-mail address. Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the format requirements of IJISM (see IJISM website at [www.inderscience.com/ijism](http://www.inderscience.com/ijism) for author guidelines) and Inderscience Publishers (visit the Inderscience Publishers' website at <http://www.inderscience.com/editorialindex.html>). Interested authors should submit either an electronic version (a MS word file) of papers to either one of the guest editors, **Dr. Hokey Min** and **Dr. Subramanian Nachiappan**, by the due date below. Submitted papers should not have been previously published nor be currently under review for publication elsewhere.

Full paper due: April 30, 2009

Notification of acceptance: June 30, 2009

Final version of the paper due: August 31, 2009

### **Guest Editors**

Dr. Hokey Min (North America, Latin America, Europe, Far East – China, Japan, Korea)

James R. Good Chair in Global Supply Chain Strategy

Department of Management, BAA 3008C

College of Business Administration

Bowling Green State University

Bowling Green, Ohio 43403, USA

Tel: 419-372-3442; Fax: 419-372-6057

Email: [hmin@bgsu.edu](mailto:hmin@bgsu.edu)

Dr. Subramanian Nachiappan (Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa)

BOYSCAST Fellow, Department of Mechanical Engineering,

Thaigarajar College of Engineering, Madurai – 625015, INDIA

Tel: +91-452-2482240; Fax: +91-452-2483427

Email: [spnmech@tce.edu](mailto:spnmech@tce.edu) (or) [sp\\_nachi@yahoo.com](mailto:sp_nachi@yahoo.com)

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# 2008-2009 MIDWEST DSI OFFICERS

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Position	Officer, School	Email Address
Past President	Charles Petersen, Northern Illinois University	cpetersen@niu.edu
President	Ceyhun Ozgur, Valparaiso University	ceyhun.ozgur@valpo.edu
President-Elect	Tobias Schoenherr, Michigan State University	schoenherr@bus.msu.edu
Secretary	Jack Marchewka, Northern Illinois	jmarchewka@niu.edu
Treasurer	Xiaodong Deng, Oakland University	deng@oakland.edu
VP for Planning & Development	Arvid Johnson, Dominican University	ajohnson@dom.edu
VP for Publications	Hokey Min, Bowling Green State University	hmin@bgsu.edu
VP for Member Services	Peter B. Southard, Penn State University – Erie	pbs11@psu.edu
VP for Student Liaison	Gerry Aase, Northern Illinois	gaase@niu.edu
VP for Industry Liaison	Brad Hull, John Carroll University	bzhull@jcu.edu
Archivist	Charles Watts, John Carroll University	drwatts@jcu.edu
Midwest Regionally-Elected VP	Gene Fliedner, Oakland University	fliedner@oakland.edu
Program Chair	Rocky Newman, Miami University	newmanw@muohio.edu
Webmaster	Gene Fliedner, Oakland University	fliedner@oakland.edu

Please congratulate these individuals and feel free to contact them in order to express your concerns and suggestions for how MWDSI can better serve your needs.

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## GET MORE INVOLVED IN MIDWEST DSI

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Would you like to get more involved in MWDSI and be part of the leadership team? Nominations are being accepted for seven positions on the Executive Board of Midwest DSI.

The following positions will be up for election this spring (2009) for 2009-2010 terms of office (unless noted otherwise):

- President-Elect
- Secretary
- VP for Planning and Development (two-year term)
- VP for Member Services
- VP for Student Liaison
- VP for Industry Liaison



Descriptions of the duties and responsibilities of each position can be found in the By-laws at [www.mwdsi.org](http://www.mwdsi.org). If you are interested in being nominated for a position, contact one of the

following individuals by Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009: Ceyhun Ozgur, current President, [ceyhun.ozgur@valpo.edu](mailto:ceyhun.ozgur@valpo.edu) or Jack Marchewka, Northern Illinois University, current Secretary, [jmarchewka@niu.edu](mailto:jmarchewka@niu.edu).

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## MIDWEST DSI NEWS UPDATE

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Fellow Midwest DSI Members:

I have two news items to share with you. First, let me call to your attention to the fact that the annual National DSI meeting for 2009 will be held a week earlier than tradition suggests. It will be held November 14-17 at the New Orleans Marriott in New Orleans, Louisiana. This meeting marks DSI's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For more information, see the DSI website at: <http://www.decisionsciences.org/conferences/default.asp>

Second, the Decision Sciences Institute approved Midwest DSI's proposed bylaw change at its November Board of Director's meeting. This change was approved by the MWDSI membership and MWDSI Board of Directors in April. This change effects Midwest Bylaws 3 and 5 and effectively adds a webmaster as a nonvoting, four-year appointed officer. This position is responsible for identifying current events and maintaining a history of relevant events and news items of the organization and a collection of documents prepared and distributed by the organization on the MWDSI.org website. You may view the changes by clicking on the following link: <http://www.pom.edu/mwdsi/Bylaws%20of%20the%20Midwest%20Region.htm> As your representative to DSI, please email me if you have concerns, suggestions or issues that you believe should be brought to the attention of the Decision Sciences Institute. Thank you,

Gene Fliedner, Midwest Region V.P.

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## MIDWEST DSI OFFICERS MEETING MINUTES

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Monday, November 24, 2008  
Baltimore, MD

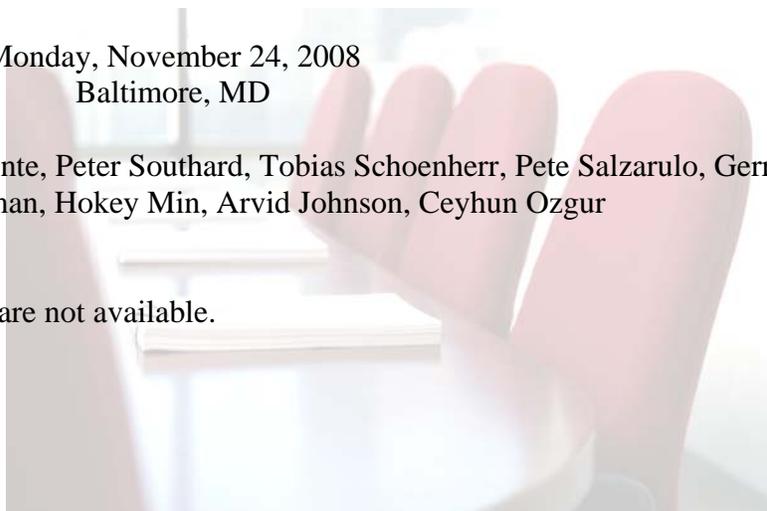
Present: Gene Fliedner, Diane Parente, Peter Southard, Tobias Schoenherr, Pete Salzarulo, Gerry Aase, Dick Penlesky, Rocky Newman, Hokey Min, Arvid Johnson, Ceyhun Ozgur

### **1. Approval of minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting are not available.

### **2. Annual meeting reports**

a. 2008, Erie – Diane Parente



(NOTE: the recording of the meeting minutes had not yet begun so the following is based on memory. The minutes were first recorded for the discussion of this year's regional meeting, item b.) The meeting was successful. It brought in approximately \$16,000 in sponsorships and registrations and was the first time a conference had been profitable in a while. Much of the success could be attributed to going after smaller schools and getting them involved. It was also helpful to have the Track Chairs be responsible for soliciting presentations from colleagues.

b. 2009, Oxford – Rocky Newman

- The dates for the conference are set, although it interferes with the national DSI board meeting. The cost for hotel is less than \$100 per night. The cost for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and breaks is \$80-\$90 per day. It is possible to separate this cost into individual meals if need be.
- A website is up and currently only holds the contents of the flyer Rocky made for the meeting. It was discussed how to accept payments. Diane mentioned that Paypal worked well for them and it may be possible to have the person set that up for the Erie meeting to also set it up for the upcoming meeting. It may also be possible to just copy over the entire website from the Erie meeting.
- As of now, the Doctoral Student consortium will be Thursday, with the reception Thursday night. The bulk of the material will be Friday so that more people can make it. Diane recommended that something interesting be done Saturday morning to entice people to stay over for the whole conference. The plant tour is not yet set, although it could be a tour of the Miller Brewery in Trenton, or Jungle Jim's in Cincinnati. The limiting factor is that Miami is somewhat isolated and anything over 20 miles from the conference site is too long.
- E-mail Rocky if you would like to update the track list, the goal is to assign Track Chairs by Christmas break.
- The meeting currently does not have a theme. Rocky informed the group that he is open to suggestions.

c. 2010, Toledo –

- The dates need to be changed as they do not currently fall on a weekend. The new dates must be checked so that they do not overlap with holidays, meetings, etc.
- Toledo already has a theme for the conference.
- Two tracks need to be added – Quantitative Analysis and MIS.

### 3. Officer Reports

a. President-elect – Tobias Schoenherr

- The MWDSI reception had eight schools donate \$3,500 and expenses were approximately \$2,700. One school, Indiana, has yet to pay.
- A discussion followed as to what to do with the surplus. It was moved that up to \$1,750 go towards a reception at the MWDSI meeting in Oxford. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Treasurer – Xiaodong Deng

- Xiaodong was not present so the projected budget for 2008-2009 was discussed by another board member. The budget as was shown on the document handed-out at the

meeting displayed a \$50 surplus, however, we need to include Insurance (line 6721 on the spreadsheet) for the amount of \$750. It was noted that the budget is projected, and so some of the numbers are only approximate.

- There was a brief discussion as to whether or not there is such a thing as MWDSI membership dues. It was generally agreed that the cost structure for the conference is such that the difference in registration cost between members and non-members constitutes the dues.

c. Secretary – Jack Marchewka

*No report (not present)*

d. Planning and Development – Arvid Johnson

- Midwest DSI has begun cycling amongst a small group of schools. The question was posed as to whether or not there is a reason for this. The group discussed the need for a central location, somewhat narrowing the schools able to host.
- Columbus would seem to be a good fit for the conference as it has several schools nearby and seems to be centrally located and easy to get to. Arvid assigned a board member to contact a colleague in Columbus to discuss.
- It was also determined that Louisville and WKU need to be contacted to finalize their involvement sometime before this year's conference.

e. Membership Services – Peter Southard

Peter had nothing to report.

f. Industry Liaison – Brad Hull

*Not present*

g. Student Liaison – Gerry Aase

- There will once again be a doctoral student consortium at MWDSI. Gerry proposed that, rather than standard material for a doctoral consortium, it may be better to make the consortium a case teaching workshop.
- It was noted, however, that while the case teaching workshop may be good for students on the job market, younger students may not see the benefit. For them, it would better to have topics such as “how to choose an advisor”.

h. Publications – Hokey Min

The newsletter is delayed. In the next publication he will add the list of new members. If you have something you want submitted, the deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>.

i. Archivist – Charles Watts

*Not Present*

j. Regional VP – Gene Fliedner

- In April we had submitted to National a change in the by-laws that would officially create the position of Webmaster. It would be a four year appointment. The change has been approved and now Webmaster is an official position within our region.
- Unfortunately, we also included our entire by-laws in our submission which has created some controversy with the honoring of members with the designation of “Midwest DSI Fellow”. The controversy is the actual designation of “MWDSI Fellow” in our by-laws (Bylaw 9). National has asked us to vote on changing the designation to “Midwest Fellow.” A motion was made to table the discussion. The motion was seconded.
- The announcement was made that we please attend the OM Keynote speaker from 3:00 to 4:00. Any help in improving attendance to this event would be appreciated. 4. 4. Reimbursement/cash advance for Regional-elected VP
- The regional VP attends National DSI three board meetings a year. Historically, before accepting the VP nomination, the VP has checked with their Dean to ensure that the school will financially support travel to these conferences. The problem arises, however, that since there is no opportunity to present at two of the meetings, we could run into the situation whereby the VP would be rejected funding and would be put in the position where they may be forced to pay for a trip to the meeting out-of-pocket.
- It was discussed whether or not the Midwest region should begin to reimburse for the travel to these meetings. It was discussed that it would not be in the best interest of MWDSI to pay for the travel when we could have the VP’s school pay. Consequently, whatever we agree upon should leave open the opportunity to have the school pay. The danger is that if we were to set a yearly dollar amount that MWDSI would be willing to pay, eventually the VP would just begin to rely on this money and would not seek funding from their school. Discussion ended with the understanding that, as of now, we would not specify that we will provide yearly funding, but if the need ever arose because the school denied funding, we would reimburse the VP.

## **5. Report on publishing the selected papers from the MWDSI conference in International Journal of Operations & Quantitative Management**

- Anyone who presents a paper at MWDSI has the opportunity to submit the paper to IJOQM. Last year, out of the nine papers submitted, three have been accepted. Other six papers were rejected for a variety of reasons. One problem that arose is that some papers were not suitable for publication in the journal because the content did not match the journal’s focus. To alleviate this, it was discussed that we could be affiliated with two journals, IJOQM and The American Journal of Business, which is a more diverse journal.

## **6. Revisit/reconsider MWDSI reception at the national DSI meeting**

- The MWDSI hosts a yearly reception at the national meeting and is intended for MWDSI members. Unfortunately, over the years it has become common for many non MWDSI members to attend. It was discussed that the current arrangement is not fair to MWDSI members of who do not attend the national meeting who in effect have their money going to non-MWDSI members at the national meeting.
- If we were to terminate the reception we would have to inform national so that they could perhaps provide their own reception that night. We would also need to notify Indiana and Bowling Green whose receptions the MWDSI reception essentially replaced/merged.

## **New Business**

- Bylaw 9, point 4, states that the MWDSI Fellows Committee shall have five MWDSI Fellows who are not members of the Executive committee. Of all Fellows, there are only five who are not members of the Executive committee so we would need these five individuals to comprise the Fellows Committee. Some, however, may not have the desire or ability to serve on the committee. A motion was passed unanimously that Dick will contact the five to see if they are willing to serve on the committee on either a one or two year term.

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## THE PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

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The MWDSI present-elect, **Tobias Schoenherr**, who previously taught at Eastern Michigan University, joined the Department of Supply Chain Management in the Eli Broad College of Business at the Michigan State University as an Assistant Professor in 2008. He holds a Ph.D. in Operations Management and Decision Sciences from Indiana University, Bloomington, from where he also obtained his B.Sc. and M.B. He also holds a Diplom-Betriebswirt (FH) from the European School of Business, Reutlingen University, Germany, and is an APICS Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP).



**Geogre A. Zsidisin**, who previously taught at the Colorado State University, joined the Department of Management at Bowling Green State University as an Associate Professor of Supply Chain Management in the summer of 2008.

