

Message from the President (March 2019)

Dear DSI Colleagues:

I write, as my term as President of DSI nears conclusion (April 30, 2019), for several reasons. As usual, I intend to keep my communiqué “short and, hopefully, sweet.”

Tradition dictates that my final communiqué reports on accomplishments during my term as your DSI President. Let me say unequivocally that these are our collective accomplishments. I simply planted some seeds, worked with the DSI Board of Directors to remove obstacles and provide support, and am now reporting. Together, and for example, we have:

Annual DSI Conference

- Reaffirmed a three-pillar structure for the annual DSI conference to include research, pedagogical research, and professional development.
- Added a professional development “plant tour” to the programming for the annual DSI conference.
- Implemented a conference app to complement the traditional paper version of the annual DSI conference program.
- Launched a new competitive session at the annual DSI conference to highlight and recognize regional best paper presentations.
- Continued to host a DSI-regions open forum at the annual DSI conference for mutual exchange of ideas between DSI and regions and among regions.

DSI

- Adopted a new Bylaws document to replace the archaic Constitution and the voluminous Bylaws documents.
- Removed the confounding of international entities affiliated with DSI and US-based regions of DSI by relabeling international entities as Chapters (a temporary label in place until international chapters adopt a new document governing their relationship with DSI).
- Drafted and shared a new “strawman” Charter document for US-based regions to adapt and adopt that protects the 501(c)(3) non-profit status of DSI.
- Initiated discussions with international chapters on three options to properly structure the relationship between DSI and international chapters that protects the 501(c)(3) non-profit status of DSI.
- Approved a new tagline that brands and recognizes DSI as a community of Scholars, Educators, and Problem-Solvers.
- Approved a new DSI logo to serve as the basis for regional logos to be implemented in the coming year.
- Launched and awarded a new honor to recognize DSI members for distinction in the educating of others – the Lifetime Distinguished Educator Award.

- *Revised and approved for the soon-to-be-approved new Policies and Procedures, for the following committees: Nominating, Fellows, Dennis E. Grawoig Distinguished Service Award, and Lifetime Distinguished Educator Award.*
- *Approved revised financial guidelines governing the handling of money matters by regions and between DSI and regions.*

Details about why, how, and what for these accomplishments are shared in my previous communiqués and in the regular reports from our Executive Director, Vivian Landrum. These communiqués and reports are archived and can be found in previous Decision Line issues.

I am honored to have had your trust and to serve as your President. However, without an effective DSI Board of Directors, your trust in me would have been in vain. As such, I want to take this opportunity to recognize the various members of the DSI Board, especially those whose term is also ending on April 30, 2019:

- *Jeet Gupta, University of Alabama at Huntsville, Immediate Past President*
- *Jan Hartley, Bowling Green State University, President-Elect and incoming DSI President*
- *Anand Nair, Michigan State University, Secretary*
- *Sri Talluri, Michigan State University, VP Marketing*
- *Natalie Simpson, State University of New York at Buffalo, VP Information Systems*
- *Jennifer Blackhurst, University of Iowa*
- *Ravi Kumar Jain, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management - India*

These individuals, and those who are continuing on the Board, have set a high standard on how to work together in our digital environment. They have been recipients of numerous emails and phone calls about DSI matters. None have complained and all have been gracious to hear me out whenever I made contact. Thank you. I am in your debt.

Elections to replace these individuals on the DSI Board has concluded. To those elected, congratulations. Please read my previous paragraphs to understand the important role that you have agreed to take on and the impact that you will have as you work with Jan Hartley, the incoming DSI President. To those of you who were nominated but not elected, please do not be disheartened. I had, myself, previously run unsuccessfully for Treasurer, but continued to be of service to DSI. This is my sincere advice to you as well. Continue to volunteer in a capacity that reflects your expertise and passion and you will succeed.

As I assume the role of Immediate Past President on May 1, rest assured that I will take a cue from many of our past DSI Presidents. I will provide advice if and when solicited, I will execute my responsibilities given but not sought by me, and, when doing so, I will always do so with the welfare of DSI and its members as Priority #1.

Sincerely,

Johnny Rungtusanatham

2018-2019 President, Decision Sciences Institute