

Dear Colleagues,

Ready or not, fall semester is well and truly in view, and spring semester fast disappearing from the rear-view mirror. It was an unprecedented semester. For those of us in higher education, it highlighted the fact that while we may have a reputation for being slow to act and innovate, we can pivot with the best of them. The efforts of our members to transition to remote teaching on a few days' notice while remaining responsive to the needs of our students was both impressive and inspirational. We have an opportunity to show that we too can be resilient, and to have conversations about the innovation culture of our business schools. DSI members should lead as we embrace the instructional and financial challenges ahead, learn from the current crisis, and make our institutions more agile before the next crisis hits.

Despite the times, the work of the institute continues at full speed. Indeed, the increased use of Zoom and WebEx has perhaps taken communication and collaboration to new levels. As reported previously, we unexpectedly found ourselves in need of a new Co-Editor for Decision Sciences Journal. Mark Ferguson took on the role two and a half years ago, and working first with Cheri Speier-Pero and more recently Xen Koufteros, helped bring stability to the journal. A new editorial structure was established and steps taken to elevate the journal's stature. These efforts are beginning to bear fruit, the most recent Journal Citation Report showing the journal to be on a positive trajectory.

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2-year Impact Factor | 1.641 | 1.960 | 2.014 |
| 5-year Impact Factor | 2.479 | 2.799 | 3.00 |

While there is work still to be done, I am confident that, under the leadership of Xen and now Sri Talluri, continued progress will be made. Xen and Sri are committed to improving the review process and providing a higher level of service to authors, attracting leading scholars both as members of the leadership team and authors, and developing a strategy to elevate the journal to the ranks of the elite.

July 1 also saw the start of Susan Palocsay's tenure as editor of Decision Sciences Journal of Innovative Education. Having brought Susan on as an Associate Editor during my tenure as editor, I am well aware of her editorial leadership qualities and commitment to elevating the journal's standing. She has a record of accomplishment in decision sciences education that brings credibility to the role of DSJIE editor. I am sure Susan will build on the efforts of Matthew Drake who ably led the journal for the last four years, and worked diligently to raise its visibility.

Planning for the first DSI virtual conference is also progressing well. As of the time of writing, well over 500 submissions have been received. This is very encouraging in comparison to submission levels in more 'normal' years, and anticipating the typical large wave of deadline day submissions still to come. A working group was established to evaluate online conference platforms that would best fit our conference needs and provide the features, functionality, and support required to ensure another successful, albeit virtual, event. They enthusiastically made their recommendation to the board for approval. Another working group will be tasked to support program leadership and explore how to creatively incorporate the social element in the conference, a hallmark of DSI meetings. There is a certain excitement among those involved in planning for the conference.

Despite being only six weeks removed from receiving their marching orders, several committees are already deep into their charges. For example, the Information Management Committee is on track to unveil DSI's Web Gallery initiative that will give greater visibility to regions and chapters on the DSI web site. The Marketing Committee is at an advanced stage of developing a Call for Proposals that will enable us to move forward with a much-needed brand analysis. The Publications Committee has begun the process of searching for an editor for our new professional development publication, and developing a review process for the institute's publication editors. The Regional/International Presidents' Committee has been meeting regularly to exchange ideas and consider the ramifications of the COVID-19 situation for regional meetings in 2021.

Despite being barely two months into the board year, the Board's commitment to helping DSI move forward quickly yet deliberately in challenging times is apparent. We have already had to make several key decisions that will impact the institute's present and future, and the Board has been ready to engage, discuss, and act. While I would be delighted for the remainder of my term as President to be less 'exciting', I am comforted by being surrounded by a team that is ready regardless of what is in front of them.

Have a safe, healthy, and relaxing rest of summer.

Vijay R. Kannan
President