A PROTOCOL FOR SPECIAL ISSUES OF *JIBS*

In November 1994, the Executive Board of the Academy of International Business considered the question of whether *JIBS* should occasionally have Special Issues, and if so, what protocol should govern the process. *JIBS* has had Special Issues in the past: for example, the third issue of 1984 was on Strategic Planning, Autonomy and Control Processes in MNCs.

The consensus of the Board was that *JIBS* should consider Special Issues, where the topic is of broad enough interest to our readership. Approval for possible Special Issues, and the associated review procedures, would be governed through a committee made up of two officers of the AIB Executive Board (the President and one of the Vice-Presidents), plus the *JIBS* Editor.

The review process for any Special Issue would be expected to be similar - but perhaps not identical - to that already in place for regular *JIBS* submissions. At a minimum, it would include an initial double-blind review by three reviewers. Reviewers would be drawn from those already providing such a service to *JIBS* as well as from additional subject-matter experts.

The financial implications to the AIB and *JIBS* of Special Issues can range widely. Most of the costs of publishing *JIBS* are fixed, yet there are obviously incremental costs of organizing the reviewing and publication of a Special Issue. Requests for modest financial support for a Special Issue will be considered by the AIB Executive Board.

An alternative scenario, successfully employed elsewhere, is to obtain a grant or financial sponsor to support these incremental costs. In this case, the sponsor will not be allowed to exert influence on the editorial content of the Special Issue.

Under most circumstances, a Special Issue would be expected to replace one of the normal quarterly issues. Only in the event of significant external financial support would the publication of a fifth issue be considered.

We welcome proposals for Special Issues from any AIB members.

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AIB President

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