

MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Date: 28 November 2004
Time: 4:10pm
Place: Room 401.439, School of Engineering, The University of Auckland

Attending:

David Ryan (Chair), Mohammad Babul Hasan, Bruce Benseman, Matthias Ehr Gott, Les Foulds, John George, Matthew Gordon, Ross James, Alastair McNaughton, Andrew Mason, Michael O'Sullivan, Stuart Mitchell, John Paynter, Nicola Petty, Andy Philpott, Fritz Raffensperger, Grant Read, Tim Thompson, Hamish Waterer, David Whitaker, Golbon Zakeri

Apologies:

Chuda Basnet, Kevin Broad, John Buchanan, Jim Corner, Vicky Mabin

Proxies Received:

Minuted by: Hamish Waterer

A. Minutes of 2003 AGM

David Ryan proposed that the section of the minutes under Other Business giving thanks to Les Foulds be amended to read:

“David Ryan proposed a vote of thanks to Les Foulds for his service as Society President. Carried with acclamation.”

Amendment carried unanimously. David Ryan proposed that the minutes of the previous AGM (as sent out to all paid-up members), subject to the above amendment, be accepted as true and correct. Carried unanimously.

B. Matters arising from the 2003 AGM

Grant Read raised the matter of the level of assistance participants of the Young Practitioners Prize are allowed to receive, in particular, the question of single authorship. This matter was referred to the Council last year, but was never resolved. To be considered by Council in 2005.

C. President's Report

The President's Report was tabled at the meeting. David Ryan acknowledged help received and work carried out by various members and noted that the larger number of attendees at this year's Annual Conference was encouraging.

Andrew Mason commented that the decline in student numbers would be larger than the number documented. Students receive free membership if they are competing in the Young Practitioner Prize. Recent years participants have not renewed their membership and are due to be deleted.

Les Foulds reminded the meeting that due to personal reasons, visiting lecturer Russell Cheng did in fact not visit, and that the money he was awarded had been refunded to the Society. John Paynter was to verify that the returned money had been received.

D. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and the Auditor's Report for the 2003-2004 financial year were tabled at the meeting. The Treasurer, John Paynter, spoke to the reports. David Ryan deferred discussion of the matter of the liability towards the production of material to promote Operations Research in schools to General Business. Nicola Petty questioned whether the monthly fee of approximately \$30 paid to Quicksilver, the Society's ISP, was excessive. Andrew Mason thought that it was reasonable. Andy Philpott is to enquire as to whether the Royal Society of New Zealand could help in this respect. Nicola Petty is to look into the use of "Min and Max's" ISP.

E. Election of Officers for 2005

The election of Society officers was chaired by David Ryan. Kevin Broad declined his nomination as a Council member. The following nominations were received.

Position	Nominee
President	David Ryan
Vice President	Andrew Mason
Treasurer	John Paynter
Secretary	Hamish Waterer
Council members	Jim Corner
Newsletter Editor	Matthias Ehrgott
	Les Foulds
	Tom Halliburton*
	Alastair McNaughton
Liaison Officer	Vicky Mabin
	Michael O'Sullivan
	Nicola Petty
	Golbon Zakeri
Auckland Branch Chair	Andy Philpott
Wellington Branch Chair	David Boland
Christchurch Branch Chair	Ross James

* Practitioner

The current auditor, Paul Rouse, was nominated for 2005 by David Ryan.

David Ryan proposed that all nominees be elected to these positions. Carried unanimously.

F. Membership Fees

There was a discussion regarding decreasing subscription rates based on the Society's current bank balance as well as increasing subscription rates for corporate members and sponsors.

David Ryan proposed that the current membership fees be maintained. Carried unanimously.

G. General Business

1. Funding for Branch activities

Bruce Benseman sought confirmation on the Council's policy regarding financial support for Branch activities, in particular, the refunding of Branch expenses for running meetings. His experience was that the Council's stance was negative. David Ryan assured the meeting that money was available.

2. Council policies on sponsorship

Grant Read called for a more coherent sponsorship arrangement for both the conference and the newsletter. David Ryan stated that the newsletter is now acceptably sponsored by Hoare Research Software Ltd and that sponsors of the Young Practitioner Prize should change frequently. Grant Read asked for the Council to draft policies on sponsorship.

3. Location of the 40th Annual Conference of the Society

The Annual Conference in 2005 will mark the Society's fortieth anniversary. Council had previously agreed to hold this conference in Wellington, the birthplace of the Society. Also occurring in 2005 is the Systems in Management Annual ANZSys Conference which will be held in Christchurch. Earlier Council discussion via email on whether to have a joint ORSNZ/ANZSys conference in Christchurch had been inadequate, had left an impression that Wellington were reluctant to host the Annual Conference, and had led to confusion over whether the Annual Conference would be hosted by Canterbury or Wellington.

Ross James reported that Bob Cavana had suggested a joint conference may be appropriate due to the overlap of interests. Ross pointed out that, due to people being on leave, Canterbury wouldn't have the personnel to host a conference. Moreover, ANZSys don't want a joint conference. It had been suggested that the Society be a sponsor of the ANZSys conference and that the Society's Annual Conference be a stream within the ANZSys conference. ANZSys agreed, but this was never approved by Council. It was thought that there would be a loss of ORSNZ identity.

Les Foulds stated that it was his impression that Wellington were happy to host the Annual Conference. David Ryan stated that Wellington made more sense. Andrew Mason cited Vicky Mabin's email when stating that she had said the conference should be held in Christchurch if a suitable arrangement could be made with ANZSys. Alastair McNaughton reiterated that key people at Canterbury would be on sabbatical and that local involvement was key to the success of the conference. He suggested that the AGM vote for Wellington. Andy Philpott agreed and suggested that Wellington host the 2005 Annual Conference and Canterbury the 2006 conference as the Council had previously agreed, and that the Society's conference should not overlap with ANZSys so that people could attend both. David Ryan also agreed with Alastair and offered the Council's assistance in hosting the conference in Wellington. Like other attendees of the AGM, he wanted it to be special, with former members of the Society being invited. Les Foulds pointed out that former members would be unlikely to travel, that the conference would be more special for everyone if it was hosted by Wellington, and that they should be provided support. David Ryan concluded that the consensus at the AGM was that Wellington should host the conference and that support would be provided.

Andrew Mason verified that Bob Cavana's email questions had been answered. David Ryan is to speak to Vicky Mabin. Les Foulds offered to prepare the proceedings if necessary.

4. Funding for the Canterbury Operations Research promotional initiative Min and Max
Previously Council had promised to contribute \$2500 to this promotion and a further \$1000 if efforts to find a sponsor were not successful. Nicola Petty reported that they had not been able to find a sponsor. David Ryan requested that a document outlining what sponsorship efforts had been made be presented to Council. Such a document is necessary for Council to provide the additional \$1000.

Nicola Petty reported that the promotion would have to be scaled back as a result of the smaller than anticipated budget. This would mean that promotional material would only be available to 400 of the 500 high schools in NZ. Andy Philpott proposed that material be made available to all schools and that the Society provide the additional funds. Carried unanimously.

Nicola Petty raised the matter that Operation Research does not appear in career material available to high school students and their parents. She requested a travel grant to attend the NZ Association of Mathematics Teachers biennial conference to be held in Christchurch in 2005.

5. Resolving Council matters by email

David Ryan raised the matter of whether email was an appropriate medium for the Council to use to resolve matters, in particular, as a method of voting. Grant Read suggested that conference calls may be a better medium. He also suggested an annual Council retreat. Nicola Petty was concerned that non-Auckland Council members were being left out of the decision process. She also questioned whether the Annual Conference was an appropriate date for the Council meeting. David Ryan suggested the need for an agenda with well defined items that had been previously verified by email. Andy Philpott proposed that email be the default medium for discussion, but that a Council member had the right to request a telephone conference. David Ryan would recommend this to Council.

The meeting closed at 5:43pm.