

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE OPERATIONAL RESEARCH SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

Date: December 3 2009

Time: 17:00

Place: Central Lecture Block Room C2
University of Canterbury
Christchurch

Attending: Don McNickle, Alastair Duffy, Eduard Bulog, Karl Ho, Antony Phillips, Qi-Shan Lim, James Kirch, Kane Harton, Adrian Van Nierop, Simon Bull, Wing Ki Kam, Alastair McNaughton, Anthony Downward, Grant Read, Oddo Zhang, Andrea Raith, Kenneth Kuhn, Vicky Mabin, Nicola Petty, Ross James, Matthias Ehergott, Andy Philpott, John Paynter, John F Raffensperger, Shane Dye, Andrew Mason, Fernando Beltran.

Apologies: Mark Johnston, Golbon Zakeri, David Ryan

Proxies received: None

Minuted by: Fernando Beltran

A. Minutes of 2008 AGM and matters arising from it

Andrew Mason informed the audience that the subject of de-registering the society for GST purposes had been discussed by the Council as requested at the last AGM. Council had resolved to de-register for GST.

He also pointed out that the Council had not yet addressed the issue of timing of the Annual Conference which was referred to Council at the last AGM. In response to this, the meeting also discussed the 2011 conference which, as agreed at the 2010 AGM, will take place as part of the 2011 IFORS conference in Melbourne. There was some discussion about funding the 2010 YPP prize winners to attend the 2011 conference. Andy Philpott said it is not necessarily a good idea to send the students as a large time will have elapsed between their work being completed and the IFORS conference, and many will be in the workforce at this time making attendance more difficult.

The President proposed that:

1. The timing of the Annual Conference not be changed for the 2010 ORSNZ conference in Auckland.
2. There be no 2011 annual conference in NZ, but that the ORSNZ conference and the ORSNZ AGM will take place during the 2011 IFORS Conference in Melbourne, 10–15 July 2011.

3. The funding of travel for one or more 2010 YPP winners to attend the IFORS conference in Australia in 2011 will be considered at the 2010 ORSNZ AGM.

Andrew Mason moved that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted as true and correct. John Paynter seconded. Carried unanimously.

B. President's Report

The President presented his annual report. He stressed the issues of GST de-registration, the society operating under its new constitution, and the latest membership figures. The President mentioned that the on-line registration system has been upgraded and improved.

The President announced that John Paynter will be stepping down as Treasurer this year and asked the AGM to thank him for his 6 years as Treasurer. John Paynter was thanked by the AGM with acclamation.

The President also

- noted that two ORSNZ visiting fellows will be visiting in 2009 (and speaking at the conference)
- announced that the newsletter editor, Matthias Ehrgott, is stepping aside. Matthias was thanked by the AGM with acclamation,
- reported that no "physical" Council meetings were held during the year, but that a number of decisions were reached over email,
- thanked Council members for various contributions,
- asked the AGM to congratulate Edelman finalists and society members, Andy Philpot and Graeme Everett,
- thanked the last conference organizers.

Andrew Mason moved that the President's report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

D. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, John Paynter, spoke to the Treasurer's report.

John Paynter offered an overview of what had happened to the society's accounts since he took over in February 2003. By going over his 2009 Treasurer's report, he presented the accounts to the AGM.

The President pointed out the important numbers from the accounts: opening balance and closing balance.

Fritz Raffensperger asked about the \$35 a month cost for credit card transactions. The cost of this service is now about 400 dollars a year. The President compared the old paper system with the new online system, noting the advantages of the new system. He clarified that the \$35 charge is not “all new” cost. This cost may change in the future because of recent Commerce Commission rulings regarding credit card fees.

Grant Read commented on the amount of money saved by the Society and questioned what this money is being saved for.

John Paynter commented that the timing of GST refund/payment depends on when we receive the bills from the hosting University (e.g. if we pay before end of Dec then our GST payment for the six months is reduced; else we have to wait another 6 months to claim it). Any difficulties this year were due to having multiple accounts (the system is designed for only one).

Vicky Mabin wondered what members get from the society in return for paying their fees. In explaining the nature of Society’s expenses, the Treasurer listed the following expenses: banking services, cost of newsletter, postal services, IFORs and the Royal Society, and P.O. Box rental. In addition, sending out proceedings to libraries and members not attending the conference is also a cost born by the Society.

The President recalled that when he took over in 2008 he proposed to the AGM to move the society to a lower cost operation. That also included a drop in membership fees to zero in the future.

E. Annual Report

The President acknowledged the Wellington and Christchurch reports. The Christchurch branch chair reported that a few meetings were held during the year.

Speaking to the Newsletter Editor’s report, Matthias Ehrgott called the AGM’s attention to the difficulties in running the newsletter, which include asking people to contribute written material. The editor asked for a volunteer to take over.

The issue of moving to an online non–printed newsletter was raised and several problems were mentioned. The President suggested the issue be considered by Council.

Andrew Mason moved that the Annual Report be accepted. Vicky Mabin seconded. Carried unanimously.

F. Election of Officers for 2009/10

The President chaired the election of Society officers.

John Paynter stepped down as Treasurer. Matthias Ehr Gott stepped down as Newsletter editor.

The President proposed that John Paynter continue as a Council member, in which role he would assist with a smooth handover to the new treasurer.

The President asked for a volunteer to take over as Editor of the newsletter. Fritz Raffensperger nominated Ken Kuhn to be editor. Ken accepted the nomination. The President asked for people to second the Newsletter Editor nomination. Nomination was carried unanimously.

The President nominated Andrea Raith to be Treasurer. Andrea Raith accepted the nomination. The President asked for people to second the Treasurer nomination. The nomination was carried unanimously.

The Council members proposed were as follows:

Council members Nominees

President Andrew Mason
Vice President Matthias Ehr Gott
Newsletter Editor Ken Kuhn
Treasurer Andrea Raith
Secretary Fernando Beltran
APORS IFORS Rep David Ryan
Liaison Officer David Ryan
Industry Representative Geoff Leyland
John Paynter
Stefanka Chukova
Ross James
Alastair McNaughton
Andy Philpott
Auckland Branch Chair Golbon Zakeri
Wellington Branch Chair Mark Johnston
Christchurch Branch Chair Grant Read
Paul Rouse will be the Honorary Auditor.

Andrew Mason moved that all nominees be elected to these positions.
Carried unanimously and with acclamation.

G. Membership Fees

The President reminded the AGM of his vision to move fees to zero in the long term. He moved that the current membership fees be maintained.

Alastair McNaughton asked students attending the AGM how they feel about membership fees. Fritz Raffensperger asked to reduce any student's membership fees to zero.

Several AGM attendants discussed various ideas for lowering or removing student membership fees. Andy Philpott commented that all students coming to the University of Auckland Engineering Science programme may wish to be members, if fees are zero. The President reminded the AGM that students still receive items posted in the mail for those fees.

Shane Dye reminded the AGM that once students stop being students they do not keep their membership, and commented that zero fees would devalue membership.

Grant Read suggested that the Society offers free electronic membership to students and monitors how it works. If students want to get paper copies of proceedings, then they can join as a regular student member to gain such access.

The President proposed a new membership category for students only with electronic subscription and zero fees, and that Council should be left to decide the details of this. Fritz Raffensperger seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

Fritz Raffensperger requested that Council report specifically on the implementation and consequences of the new member category.

The President requested that the newsletter-only fee (for libraries) be reduced to zero and that the Society covers the costs. He noted that this should also include libraries receiving copies of the proceedings. Shane Dye seconded the motion. Carried unanimously.

At 17:56, the 2009 AGM meeting was closed.