

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

Date: November 29th 2010

Time: 17:30

Place: Clock Tower, University of Auckland

Attending: Alastair Duffy, Alastair McNaughton, Andrea Raith, Kenneth Kuhn, Nicola Petty, Ross James, Matthias Ehr Gott, John Paynter, John F Raffensperger, Shane Dye, Andrew Mason, Fernando Beltran, Mark Johnston, Bruce Benseman, Tiru Arthanari, Bob Cavana, John Buchanan, Geoff Leyland, Golbon Zakeri

Apologies: Vicky Mabin, Stefanka Chukova

Proxies received: None

Minuted by: Fernando Beltran

A. Minutes of 2009 AGM and matters arising from it

Andrew Mason asked comments to the audience on the Minutes of the 2009 AGM .

John F Raffensperger discussed the “zero fee” option for students wishing to join the Society.

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

B. President’s Report

The President presented his annual report, which had previously sent via e-mail.

The President spoke about the membership. He pointed out that the number of paid members has gone up. In 2010 accepting payments over on the Web has been a contributor to improving numbers.

He also reported on the electronic option for students. Out of four students, two switched to the “no fee” option. The President said he could not draw any conclusion on the matter. Nevertheless, he is confident that next year a higher number of students will opt for such option.

The President thanked Andrea Raith for her work as Treasurer and reminded the audience of the excellent job done by the auditor Paul Rouse. He also highlighted Kenneth Kuhn’s commitment to editing the he Newsletter in the previous year.

On the issue of GST deregistration the President concluded that the move was worth it. It was pointed out that Hoare Research continues to pay for the Newsletter.

The move on hosting ORSNZ site to GoDaddy was a bit slow but acceptable. Online credit card payments are working fine. Payments are still being done on the Engineering Science website. For that reason the President recommends switching to Pay Pal.

After thanking last year's conference organizers, the President announced there will be no 2011 ORSNZ Conference and encouraged the members to register for Melbourne IFORS 2011.

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

D. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Andrea Raith, spoke to the Treasurer's report as of June 2010.

The Treasurer reported on having \$ 48,000 at the beginning of 2010. As many payments arrived in August and the report refers to Society's revenues as of June 2010, they were not registered in the current report.

The Treasurer reports the Society sponsored the Conference in the amount of \$6,000.

On the matter of credit card operation charges by Visa, the Society pays \$778 in fees.

Bob Cavana questioned the advantages of the GST deregistration. The President answered that an analysis was done for the 2009 AGM and results were positive.

A discussion ensued on the pros and cons of GST deregistration. President reiterated that the analysis used 7 years of data and insisted on how positive results were.

Nicola Petty moved to acclaim the Treasurer's work over the last year.

John Paynter moved that the President's report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

E. Annual Report

The President acknowledged the Wellington, Christchurch and Auckland reports, and then requested comments on the reports.

Bob Cavana noted that University of Lancaster Professor Mike Wright's visit to Wellington occurred in 2009 but was reported on the 2010 Wellington branch report.

The President moved that the branches reports be accepted. Carried unanimously.

The President also thanked the Newsletter Editor, Kenneth Kuhn, with acclamation. Kenneth then mentioned the possibility of turning the Newsletter into a semi-annual publication.

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

F. Election of Officers for 2009/10

The President chaired the election of Society officers.

The President announced Geoff Pritchard as the new Society's Secretary and asked John Buchanan to be Waikato University representative.

John F Raffensperger welcomed a Waikato branch and moved that the AG declare that it welcomes a Waikato branch. Bob Cavana seconded the move.

The President proposed Paul Rouse continued to be the auditor.

The President moved that all changes in the Council be accepted.

Nicola Petty asked the AG for acclamation for the President's role. Carried unanimously.

The Council members proposed were as follows:

Council members Nominees

President Andrew Mason

Vice President Matthias Erhgott

Newsletter Editor Ken Kuhn

Treasurer Andrea Raith

Secretary Geoff Pritchard

APORS IFORS Rep David Ryan

Liaison Officer David Ryan

Industry Representative Geoff Leyland

Fernando Beltran

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

Waikato Branch Chair John Buchanan

Paul Rouse is the Honorary Auditor.

Andrew Mason moved that all nominees be elected to these positions.

Carried unanimously and with acclamation.

G. Other business

Matthias Erghott reminded the audience of the idea of having zero fee subscription payments. The President moved rates be unchanged, so membership fees be maintained. Move passed.

On the 2011 AGM:

The President commented on the infeasibility of AGM happening in Melbourne in 2011 and suggested an electronic meeting done on Skype in October or November. He also mentioned the use of Karen and mentioned that other societies use Karen for nationwide meetings. He also commented on the possibility of using Karen to hold visitor's conference.

Shane Dye proposed at least one branch member be present at the 2011 AGM and asked to previously check Karen's availability for the meeting.

John F Raffensperger asked the words "electronic" and "electronically" be used instead of "Skype" in the minutes.

Bob Cavana pointed at the "unrepresented cheques" denomination on the accounts. The issue was clarified by the Treasurer. He insisted that branches would have acknowledged the presence of Professor Professor Mike Wright in New Zealand in 2009. The President asked for amendments to reports to reflect such request.

On the 2011 YPP:

On the issue of whether paying for the YPP participants to go to Melbourne the President recommended not having the prize in 2011. Bob Cavana suggested a review committee for the submitted papers followed by an electronic discussion as the competition could still be run electronically. The President reminded the audience of the benefits of having "physical" presentation for the YPP. Finally, the President suggested the discussion be moved to the Council.

On the proposed "online" newsletter:

The President says posting the newsletter "gives something in return" to members. John Paynter added that postage costs are about \$250 per year and reminds the AGM that the newsletter is currently on-line too.

It was suggested that people opt for not having paper newsletter and getting a discount on membership fee. John Buchanan suggested sending next newsletter with an announcement saying the newsletter will be switched to electronic form.

John F Raffensperger suggested running an on-site query on who would prefer to switch to getting the newsletter on the e-mail. Then the President asked the AG who would like to keep receiving a paper copy. As a result the President proposed to include a tick box on the subscription form to opt for paper newsletter or not, with an option to get a discount

Matthias Erghott seconded the proposal.

On the issue of Society's cash funds:

Nicola Petty mentioned the \$40,000 plus dollars the Society currently owns and asked whether such money could be used to pay for our web site upgrades.

On the issue electronic proceedings:

The President suggested getting rid of paper (hardcopy) proceedings. Bob Cavana reminded the audience that many conferences produce CD-ROMs or have websites with access to proceedings and the asked "why spend money on printed proceedings"?

President summarized the discussion. Proposed to only have a collection of printed abstracts and keep production of proceedings. He wants the Society to move to electronic means of communications.

A long discussion ensued on the benefits of not having hardcopies of proceedings. Golbon Zakeri asked whether proceedings could be made PBRF eligible. John F Raffensperger reminded the AG that incentives remain to submit a paper to conference if there is still a deadline, which would be enforced when proceedings have to be printed. Matthias backed John's claim.

The President asked the AG to vote the issue. 4 members voted for the paper option. The rest of attendants voted for the electronic option.

John F Raffensperger asked the Council to consider scanning all previous proceedings and make them available on the Society's website.

The President asked the Council to consider moving to electronic issues of proceedings.

The President also proposed no changes in the frequency of the newsletter be made.

On a final issue

The President reported that Shane Henderson, a prospective visiting fellow, would no longer be able to attend. He proposed an announcement on that news be made on next newsletter.

At 18:40, the 2010 AGM meeting was closed.