

ORSNZ AGM 2012 – 10 December 2012

by TONY DOWNWARD

Meeting starts at 5:04pm

Attendees

John F. Raffenspeger, Kevin Ross, Andy Philpott, Tava Olsen, Golbon Zakeri, Alastair McNaughton, Andrea Raith, Matthias Ehgott, David Ryan, Shane Dye, Grant Read, Mark Johnston, Stefanka Chukova, Vicky Mabin, Bob Cavana, Tony Downward.

Apologies

Geoff Pritchard, Ross James

Minutes of previous meeting

Andrew moves that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted and true and accurate.

Seconded by Fritz.

Regarding previous discussion surrounding the Central management of Conference sponsors etc., this year Andrew and Grant approached some sponsors.

President's Report

- Membership remains unchanged, (Andrew received one application).
- Thanks the Wellington group, Mark, John and Stefanka, for conference organisation.
- OR at Canterbury is in doubt with the program being all but shut-down at Canterbury University.

There are no comments on this report.

Treasurer's Report

- Gained \$199.69 since last report, due to no conference, and no membership subs.
- Some people have paid, late/early, and we may need to charge/refund them if we decide to abolish membership rates.
- There are still low branch expenses.
- Engineering Science has contributed to the travel expenses of its students.
- Visa expenses are \$35 per month, fixed. This should be addressed.
- Website fees for 3 years have recently been paid.

There are no questions or comments on this report.

Branch Reports

Christchurch Branch

Grant: Management Science is not discontinued at Canterbury.

Shane: Honours program has been put on hold.

A number of staff (6) have left or will leave Canterbury, leaving only 3 OM staff. Shane Dye is continuing next year.

Grant: Canterbury businesses have limited OR jobs, most graduates go to Wellington or overseas.

Wellington Branch

Mark: Have been working on the conference, however, this was difficult with a small team.

Andrew thanks them.

Auckland Branch

Golbon: We saw a large crop of part iv students specializing in OR. OR has been popular amongst our students and this trend has continued in 2012. We have had several OR visitors in the department this year. It will be sad to say goodbye to Matthias who is leaving early next year. Tony Downward accepted a lectureship in the department last year. Javad Khazaei successfully defended his PhD in May 2012 and has taken up a postdoctoral fellowship at Princeton University. The OR staff have gone to standard international conferences: ISMP, and INFORMS.

Discussion about Christchurch Branch

Bob Cavana commented on the importance of OR in business. What went wrong in Christchurch?

Fritz: every person has a different point of view. Perhaps interview people, you'll find a range of things that went wrong.

David Ryan: In Auckland, OR has been shut down in the business school.

Fritz: University of Chicago cut the management science a number of years ago, but it's picking up.

Tava: 15 years ago MS/OR was killed in the US, but analytics is coming back. (MBA etc.) OM claims analytics.

Andrew: the way forward is by embracing Analytics.

Kevin Ross: People within Fonterra were shocked that Canterbury was down-sized, but no one consulted

them. Industry is here to support.

Bob: We need more active industry participation.

Nomination for members for council

Matthias is moving overseas, and Alastair McNoughton is retiring. Andrew thanks them.

Andrew nominates Izle Ziedens as vice-president. *Seconded by Golbon.*

Kevin Ross is nominated as an industry member. *Seconded by Andy.*

Andrew proposes the council be accepted. *Seconded by Fritz; passed unanimously.*

Andrew nominates Paul Rouse as auditor, and thanks him for auditing the accounts. *Seconded by Andrea, passed unanimously.*

Subscription Rates

It has been previously proposed to reduced rates to zero. Andrew proposes that there is no annual sub once you are a member, however there would be an entry fee for regular members set to be the current annual rate (\$75), and \$0 for OR students (who present at a conference). Members will continue to be offered reduced conference fees.

- Members will continue to have lower rates for conferences.
- We have separate mailing lists for members and non-members.
- Can people re-join the society for free?
- This will hopefully improve linkages with other societies.
- Corporate memberships will continue as an annual fee. They receive reduced conference fees for their nominees.

Andrew asks for feedback:

David Ryan: is concerned about the corporate arrangements. They may be incentivised to get their people to get membership.

Vicki: What is the difference between corporate members and sponsors?

Grant: We should have multiple levels of corporate sponsorship. Why does it mean to be a corporate member? The issue of corporate membership and sponsorship, as well as the need for constitutional changes was delegated to council.

Fritz asks whether students will need to pay to upgrade to regular membership. Andrew says they will not.

Golbon: there are expenses, what will cover these?

Andrew: Conference profits and other things.

Andrea: some people haven't paid, and some have overpaid. How will these be settled? This is delegated to Council to consider.

Tava: we should send a final notice explaining their balance.

Andrew: people who do not wish to be members can be invited to just join the mailing list.

Bob Cavana: if there are no fees, people won't value the society. We need more industry members; we have no representation at Palmerton North nor Dunedin.

Grant: \$59,000 (the current ORSNZ balance) is excessive for the needs of this society. Value proposition in this day and age is that things are free.

Andrew: we should do this as an experiment, and if it costs us, we can reverse it.

Vicky and Grant: there are fewer branch activities due to greater communication avenues.

Andrew proposes that the new membership structure, other than corporate (excluding lapsed members). *Seconded by Tava; passed unanimously.*

Andy is concerned that people could join the society and disburse the society's money.

David Ryan: suggests that the membership structure should be delegated to council.

Andrew is reluctant to make changes to constitution.

All other membership issues, such as dealing with members who current owe subs, are delegated to council. *Seconded by Alastair; passed unanimously.*

New email distribution list and self-management website

Andrew asks for \$2,500 to fund this improvement. *Bob seconded, passed unanimously.*

Jim Philpott will be scanning in past documents, and putting up on website.

Including: past proceedings, NZ operational research journal, newsletters.

Other branches are invited to do similar work.

Royal Society Membership

The Royal Society asks for \$690+GST for 150 members, (there is a minimum rate of \$600+GST).

Andrew proposes we discontinue membership to the Royal Society.

Vicky says it's a science body which runs a number of fairs, and lobbying.

David Ryan suggests we discuss with them that we no longer charge members. Andrew has already done that.

David suggests we write a letter to the Royal Society.

Andy suggests that we can be affiliated rather than a member, and the an increase in ORSNZ membership may be costly here.

Andrew: we also are a member of IFORS, seeing as we are going to have free membership, we should ask for an IFORS rate based on this.

Andrew proposes to delegate this to council to find a better value proposition. *Seconded by Vicky; passed unanimously.*

Credit Card Processing Fees

Andrew will approach BNZ and ask for a better rate. There is another company without monthly fees.

Future Conference Arrangements

Talking to Shane and Grant, a Christchurch conference is not an option. Andrew suggests having a joint conference with the Stats Society in the middle of next year in Waikato. Organise it from Auckland. Making conference organisation easier, maybe have joint conference alternating with Auckland. Wellington is difficult due to the small team.

David: having in the middle of the year makes the YPP more difficult.

Bob Cavana suggests some joint conferences: ANZAM June/July 2014, ANZAM 2015.

Grant: if we have electronic management then the location is less of an issue.

An ORSNZ workshop was suggested, rather than a conference, or perhaps a student-focussed workshop.

Vicky: Does ORSNZ needs a makeover to attract a wider audience?

Meeting closed at 6:18pm.