

Minutes of the 2013 AGM of the ORSNZ

Meeting held 26 November 2013 commencing at 4.45pm.

Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as true and accurate.

Membership arrangements.

- Historic under- and over-payments of membership fees will not be pursued further.
- The society's large cash holdings create a risk of hostile takeover. There was some discussion of whether this risk has been increased by the elimination of annual membership fees. C. Walker pointed out that any fees paid are added to the cash balance, so are potentially recoverable by the hostile parties.
- Council is to discuss the adoption of a new e-mail distribution list (MailChimp). Now that we no longer need to keep track of fee payments or different categories of members, the existing membership database is likely to become redundant; the MailChimp list alone will suffice.

Royal Society membership. The Royal Society has offered us membership as a Constituent Organisation (not "Affiliate Organisation", which is a lesser status) at a reduced rate of \$250 per annum. V. Mabin: This seems acceptable. A. Mason: There isn't much value to ORSNZ in Royal Society membership, but worth continuing for one more year at this rate.

Credit card processing fees. We have negotiated a reduced fee for credit card processing with the Bank of New Zealand. The fixed cost is now \$15/month (vs. \$35/month previously). This could potentially be reduced further by moving to a competing institution.

IFORS fees. A. Raith: Should we still pay these? A. Mason: We can probably avoid IFORS fees in the future.

Canterbury branch. Despite the lack of activity post-earthquake, the Canterbury branch is not to be wound up.

Wellington branch. M. Johnston noted that the OR program at Victoria now has only 1.5 staff and approximately 6 students per annum. In response to a question from G. Zakeri, he admitted to having little ability to influence hiring at Victoria. He also requested an e-mail sub-list for Wellington-based members; this should be possible in MailChimp.

Election of officers. The following changes were proposed and passed:

G. Zakeri succeeds A. Mason as ORSNZ President.

C. Walker succeeds G. Zakeri as Auckland Branch Chair.

A. Philpott succeeds D. Ryan as IFORS Representative.

A. Mason, V. Mabin, and K. Frew were elected to Council, succeeding D. Ryan, S. Chukova and R. James.

The following officers continue in their roles: I. Ziedins (Vice-President); G. Pritchard (Secretary); A. Raith (Treasurer); A. Downward (Newsletter Editor); M. Johnston (Wellington Branch Chair); G. Read (Christchurch Branch Chair); J. Buchanan (Waikato Branch Chair); F. Beltran, G. Leyland, J. Paynter, K. Ross, P. Rouse (Council).

V. Mabin queried whether Paul Rouse can be both Auditor and on Council.

Membership fees. The society retains a joining fee for new members; this is primarily to facilitate joint conferences that have a higher registration fee for non-members. C. Walker urged that even this fee be eliminated in the longer term, to avoid any disincentive to joining. V. Mabin suggested that the success of the zero-fee model would have to be determined over time. A motion approving current fees for 2014 was proposed and passed.

Next conference. The 2014 ORSNZ conference is likely to be in Wellington. There was some general discussion of partnering with another organisation; organisations suggested were the NZ Statistical Association (as in 2013), the Australian OR Society (via video link), the NZ Software Association, and ANZIAM. It was noted that ANZIAM conferences are much larger and more expensive than ours. G. Zakeri suggested the possibility of dedicated OR tracks or sessions at ANZIAM.

Young Practitioner's Prize eligibility. V. Mabin suggested that the age limit of 30 for the YPP be replaced by "within 5 years of graduation", suggesting that this might encourage more entrants from outside Auckland. Council to discuss.

Other matters.

The recent passing of John Scott was noted.

A vote of thanks was given to Andrew Mason for his 18 years of service to the ORSNZ.

The meeting closed at 5.57pm.