

ORSNZ Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023

Friday 24 November 2023

Attendees:

Michael O'Sullivan, Andrea Raith, Cameron Walker, Valery Pavlov, Grant Reed, Sarah Marshall, James Tidswell, Dominic Keehan, Andrew Mason, Kevin Jia, Oscar Dowson, Lisa Hillas, Jonathan Symons, Mazyar Zarepour

Apologies:

Meeting opened at 9:33 am

- The minutes from the last AGM are shared between the attendees and briefly discussed.
- The agenda is shown on the screen. Also link to the previous president's report is provided (<https://orsnz.org.nz/AGMDocuments/PresidentReport202122.pdf>)
- There are no issues arising from the 2022 minutes.
- Mike moves that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the 2022 AGM, Andrea seconds the motion; it is passed unopposed.

President's Report

General topics

- Probably the matter influences ORSNZ the most, Tony left the Department of Engineering Science which made Mike feel a little bit alone. Tony was a huge asset anytime for ORSNZ events. Best wishes for him and whatever he is doing now and hope to see him back in ORSNZ.
- Tom has been amazing organising this conference with Mike and others.
- Karl Zhu also has left. He is at now at MIT. He was our communication person. There are 5 council members now, Mike thinks.

- Mike discusses Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The ORSNZ SIG on Healthcare Analytics (OSHA) combined with Te Punaha Matatini Health. Mike has worked with Tom; this is about the ORSNZ SIG on Health Care Analytics (OSHA) combined with Te Punaha Matatini Health Cluster. They did a workshop on making modelling meaningful for Healthcare Workshop down in Wellington with Te Whatu Ora coming along. It went pretty well and there is an interest in doing another one. Mike would do that again and maybe get some policy people come along.
- A good idea that also mentioned before. ORSNZ should spend some of the money (about 60,000 dollars according to Tom). People can be sent to INFORMS, APORS, also, allow people to come from around the country to come to ORSNZ.

ORSNZ website

- The staging site is shown. This is based on a web design prepared by small group. Mike has got nice structure in place, history, resources, etc. It has also got "Latest New Project Case Studies" to cover case studies (part of the research group) that Cam and Mike and also Tom are part of. There might be case studies which people often look at and come to talk to us about what we do.
- There's lots of space that is filled with space fillers for now and also there is Cam's picture on the new website :).
- Mike thinks the next step for this going to be putting on texts on the website/updating the website. Probably 10 pages a month. Anyone who feels really interested to be part of this they will be more than welcome to be part of that. Andrew asks about the plans for old conferences. According to Mike, the plan is to get them here at some point.
- The point of the website refresh was to keep people connected during Covid, updating the website and everything. Mike is hoping to make the website a hub for people to be engaged with conferences and other ORSNZ events.
- We have an archive of everything, we need to think about the process of transferring all the contents to the new website and confirm it's done in a right way.
- Jonathan suggests doing something like Google ads so that way the hidden pages come at the top. Mike thinks there is a possibility to do some search engine optimisation.
- Mike has got a list of people on the website advisory group. If anyone is keen, depending on what council decide, Mike can touch base to them. But if anyone else is keen then is welcome to be involved to move the content over (as a part-time position) to the new website.
- Mike really would like to have looked at the roles and responsibilities and trying to simplify them a little bit – but didn't have time to do this. Maybe a strategic retreat for council to work through this and other strategies for future of ORSNZ.
- Mike thinks this might be a good idea to have some kind of standard calendar for what's to be done, etc. for ORSNZ. Also, using cheat sheets, something to show planning for council

meetings a year, etc. are discussed. The calendar is useful, so the future leaders and council have some sort of planning/activities to keep everything going.

- Mike is passionate about the idea of history of ORSNZ. Andrew has done some work on this, and most of them are copy-pasted to the new website. Vicky Mabin's daughter is a budding historian. She would be potentially interested to do a little bit of interview to gather some history of ORSNZ. To recognize and acknowledge some of the people who contributed to the past of the ORSNZ. Maybe, a few thousand to five thousand dollars to start capturing anything is no longer capturable, etc. Kevin suggests finding a history student through summer scholarship to do something like that.

Succession Planning

- This is almost seven years Mike is the president of ORSNZ, he thinks it's time for someone else to take lead. He's happy to put energy into the new website and the history of ORSNZ though.
- Mike acknowledges Tony being an active secretary and how things have been tough without him. He also acknowledges Tom's help. But it's really time for someone to take the lead.
- Mike thinks a new strong strategic leadership combined with good organisation are needed to keep things going. Also, consistent plan for council meeting is needed so people feel a bit more engaged.

Treasurer's Report

- Tom presents the balances, income and expenses. The report is attached.
- Tom says even though we are gaining interest, we're losing money in our checking accounts, so maybe at some point we get to transfer (not a huge issue). Also, some matters about accessing the money are discussed.
- Tom says, we just had 3 BNZ accounts and one ANZ account.

Regional Special Interest Groups

- Grant says there really is an opportunity at the moment. Christchurch can be more involved with the ORSNZ. We should think of a way to engage people outside Auckland, funding the travel, etc. Also, an upcoming SIG event is mentioned.
- Valery mentions that we have INFORMS student chapter at the university. Abtin, Valery's PhD student, set up this student chapter a couple of years ago. He was the president, arranged treasury, groups, etc. But since he is completing his PhD and has got a full-time job so no time to do it more. So, we need a new president to take care of that. Valery thinks an announcement should be made and look for a bigger group of students to find a good replacement. Mike can broadcast that through ORSNZ. Andrea suggests we can recruit from the old group if they are still available at all or look for new recruits.

- Mike notes that it's possible to spend some budget for the student chapter. Andrea adds that the department also has some fundings that can be used toward student research groups. Valery notes that the bottleneck is still someone to do it.
- If you need to start an SIG, you need two people/members and then the process should go through the council. And they will have access to five hundred dollars a year and maybe more through council's confirmation. The complete conditions are put on the website,

Future Conferences

- We can discuss about different dates and locations (maybe out of Auckland?) in the upcoming council's meetings.

Appointment of Council Roles

- Mike shows the current council members and explains each member's status. Tom does the communication since Karl left. Mike asks if there is anyone wants to step down or wants a new position. We need a president, vice president, secretary, industry representative and communications person, etc. After the discussions, the following people are chosen for the mentioned roles. It is seconded and passed without objection.

President: Andrea Raith

Vice President: Sarah Marshall

Secretary: Lisa Hillas

Industry Representative: Oscar Dowson

Communications: Cameron Walker

Meeting closed at 10:31 am.