

Minutes of ORSNZ AGM 28 May 2012

The ORSNZ AGM was held electronically using the Karen high-speed network. Members attended via Karen-equipped rooms at the Universities, and via Karen software running on their home computers.

Members

Present

Auckland: Andrew Mason, Matthias Ehrgott, Golbon Zakeri, Andrea Raith, Tony Downward, Fernando Beltran, Alastair McNaughton, John Paynter

Canterbury: Fritz Raffensperger, Shane Dye, Ross James, Grant Read

Wellington: Vicky Mabin, Mark Johnston, John Davies, Mark Pickup, Bob Cavana

Apologies

Andy Philpott, Oliver Weide, Stefanka Chukova.

Proxies

Geoff Leyland (in favour of Andrew Mason)

Oliver Weide (in favour of Andrea Raith)

Minutes of the last meeting

Andrew Mason moved that the minutes of the previous meeting were a true and accurate representation of the November 2010 AGM; Golbon Zakeri seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Matters arising from previous minutes

Andrew commented that while there had been discussion regarding the hosting of the credit card payment website within Engineering Science it appears that this can continue. This does not stop the Society also considering Paypal transactions (which are cheaper for the society).

The members of the society have been asked over the past year whether they object to a digital only newsletter. There was only one objection.

President's Report

Andrew Mason noted the following in his report.

Membership

There are no student members in the society. Student members must submit a form each year to verify their status as students. All student members were upgraded to standard membership in March 2011, and then required to re-confirm their student status by returning their membership form. No such forms were returned. Furthermore, there was no 2011 conference, meaning that no new students joined.

Andrew suggested that all such members who hadn't paid their fees (or regained student member status) by the next billing round should be dropped.

There was discussion that the supervisors should enrol their students (or perhaps encourage/remind the student to do so).

Grant Read suggested that there was no reason to drop them since they cost the society nothing (given that the newsletter is now digital only).

Andrew proposed not to drop any members at this stage; this was seconded by Grant and passed unanimously.

It was suggested that the society have two classes of membership: members who annually renew their membership and affiliates (those who may have previously been members, but haven't renewed). This will ensure the mailing list is large for events, but also give a more accurate reflection of the current membership.

It was brought up that currently there are two types of student membership; the free electronic membership and the \$15 paper based membership. Grant stated that it was not possible to sign up for the electronic member when filling out the membership form.

Newsletters

Kenneth Kuhn has left Canterbury and returned to the United States. The society thanked him for his service. Tony Downward has volunteered to be the new newsletter editor.

Other

Andrew encouraged members to attend the APORS Conference in Shiyan, China.

He noted with pleasure that Professor David Ryan has been awarded the Pickering medal.

The society expressed their appreciation for contributions by Andrea Raith as treasurer, Paul Rouse as auditor, and Geoff Pritchard as secretary.

Andrew moved that the President's Report be accepted; Golbon seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Andrea Raith noted the following in her report.

In the past financial year there was an excess of receipts over expenditure of over \$12,000. This, in part, was due to 2009-2010 fees being collected in 2010-2011.

Sponsorship for the 2010 conference was good, leading to a net income for the conference of approximately \$5,000.

Golbon stated that there is usually a profit for conferences, often around \$1,000-\$2,000.

Andrea suggested in future years, the sponsorship of the YPP be arranged as \$1,000 for the students and \$1,000 for the society, since this is the most publicised part of the conference.

There has been little to no expenditure by Branches.

\$400 in the past year was spent on shipping Conference proceedings overseas (\$20 per item).

Credit card transactions are more convenient than cheques. Andrea suggested that cheques be discouraged.

Andrew moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, Matthias and Fritz seconded, it was passed unanimously.

Wellington Branch Report

Mark Johnston reported that Matthias spent a day in Wellington, and gave seminar. His flights were paid for by the society. Vicky Maben was promoted to Professor. Student interest in OR seminars is lacking; the mailing lists should be updated to increase attendance.

Auckland Branch Report

2011-2012 Part 4 OR student numbers have been high. Tony Downward has joined the department as lecturer. Golbon had one PhD student graduate in May 2011, with several others approaching completion.

There were a number of seminars hosted in Engineering Science that were announced to the ORSNZ mailing list.

An OR quiz night was suggested.

Canterbury Report

Grant Read noted the following in his report.

The Canterbury University senate on Wednesday (30th May, 2012) will be considering redundancies within the OR department. Operations Management will be the only courses taught. There will be no honours program. Retaining OR has the support from members and business.

Canterbury OR staff have issued a counter-proposal to reduce the staff by 1.

There is 1 PhD nearing completion, and 1 new PhD student. There has been a recent seminar.

There was a discussion around positioning Canterbury OR within engineering or maths or repositioning the department as Business Analytics (as has been done in Sydney). While those present supported such a move it was stated that others were against it.

Andrew suggested that the Analytics brand be embraced by the society and we should acquire relevant domain names.

Regarding the future of the Canterbury branch, Grant Read says a review will be needed shortly (once the university makes its decision).

Election of Officers

Branch chairs are unchanged. Only change is to newsletter editor. Andrew proposed the new Council members (with this change in newsletter editor) be accepted; seconded by Matthias, passed unanimously.

Paul Rouse will continue as honorary auditor.

Other Business

Membership Rates

Andrew proposed to maintain the current subscription rates until November. Grant suggested that no one would disagree with free membership, so we should pass it at this meeting.

Andrew pointed out there are options to consider; for example there could be a life membership option. Or members could be distinguished through a donation, e.g. a donation is required for voting rights. If membership were completely free, then any group could join and possibly outvote existing members.

A discussion followed regarding how membership fees will be handled this year prior to the conference. Grant, Vicky, Fritz and Matthias all suggested delaying the fees in some way so that the details of future fees can be decided at the November AGM which will be attended in person by members (rather than via electronic means).

Andrew moved that there should be a \$0 membership fee this year, and an entrance fee set to the usual standard member rate. Council reserves the right to cancel this entrance fee. Fritz seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Archiving of ORSNZ / NZOR publications

Grant and Fritz suggested that money be spent to scan old conference proceedings, and NZOR publications, and allow for online access.

It was suggested that we first check that the national library isn't doing this.

There was a discussion about whether this should be carried out in Christchurch or Auckland. Auckland has more students who we can employ to do this, but the publications are in Christchurch (we also should check the library).

The website needs to be updated to host such publications; the proceedings perhaps should be split into individual papers.

A budget of \$4,000 was proposed, and while there was some discussion as to whether this was too high, Grant seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Wellington Conference

The 2012 ORSNZ conference website is up and running.

A discussion of whether student conference fees should be set to \$0 was had. Andrea believed a \$10-\$20 was a good idea. Some believed a \$0 fee would devalue attendance at the conference.

Vicky asked if the society would still cover travel for students, to which the answer was yes.

Andrew proposed a \$25 student fee; Vicky seconded this, all but Fritz support, and the motion was passed.

YPP sponsorship was suggested to be \$1,000 for students, \$1,000 for society.

Grant suggested that sponsorship be centrally managed by Council. Andrew says that at the very least we should share contacts, and a central management would mean that someone of Council would need to be in charge of sponsorship.

The fact that many sponsors are national companies makes it easier to do this centrally.

The meeting closed.