

ORSNZ Council Meeting Minutes

Council meeting starts at 4:06pm, 22 February 2018

Attendees

Mike O'Sullivan, Cameron Walker, Geoff Pritchard, Grant Read, Tony Downward, Andy Philpott, Andrea Raith, Andrew Mason, Sarah Marshall, Kevin Ross, Kim Frew, Rachael Tappenden,

Apologies

Golbon Zakeri, Andreas Kemper-Liehr, Danny Tsai, John Créquer, Paul Rouse,

Minutes from previous meeting are discussed – we will talk later about invited speakers for this year's conference, and **we will ask Webmaster to get quotes for the website upgrade**; Mike puts motion that the minutes be declared valid, Tony seconded, passed unanimously.

Conferences 2018-2020

The results of the survey show that there's slightly more interest in attending the Palmerston North conference this year than the Dunedin next year.

A brief discussion of alternative conference partners for 2018 is had with ANZAM in Albany, and the Australasian Applied Statistics Conference in Rotorua being options. Andy says that the decision is obvious, given the marginal cost of partnering with a new society compared to continuing the relationship with NZSA.

Andrew Mason will continue his discussions with ASOR for a potential conference partnership in 2020.

Conference 2018

There is general agreement that the conference should be 2-2.5 days.

Mike moves that we propose to run our conference in conjunction with NZSA in Palmerston North, starting with the NZSA at midday on Tuesday 27 November 2018, closing on Thursday 29 November, Tony seconded, and it is passed unanimously.

Mike will follow up with the NZSA to start to figure out the logistics.

Kevin Ross will follow up about the possibility of a half-day Analytics Forum (likely on agriculture).

Andrea suggests that Stefan Nickel from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology may be a good plenary speaker (on health), and he will be in New Zealand at that time.

Andy suggests that we should invite someone to come to New Zealand as a plenary speaker on agriculture. After a brief discussion it is generally agreed that between \$2,000 and \$3,000 could be used to pay a second plenary speaker's travel expenses. **Mike requests that the Council send suggestions to him by March 9, 2018, which he will circulate to Council.**

Special Interest Groups

Tony says that websites have been established for the regional SIGs and also for the ENR SIG. We read through the circulated proposal, and discuss the process for posting news for the groups. **SIGs will be launched through an announcement of ENR, and the upcoming event in Wellington (with Michael Ferris and Steve Batstone). In this announcement members will be invited to update their subscription details.**

Sarah will oversee communications (weekly mailer) from ORSNZ / SIGs; she says that if there are many SIGs that are established, we should look to further automate the communications process.

It is determined that SIGs should be able to apply for event funding for up to \$1000 annually: to President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary (requiring two to approve). Any other funding requests or requests which exceed the \$1000 limit should be referred to Council for a vote. Furthermore, the SIG funding should be audited annually and recorded in the Performance Report for the Charities Commission. Mike thanks Tony for his organisation of this.

Tony says that we plan to invite SIG leaders to organise sessions at the conference. This will help to keep talks grouped together, and get additional attendance (and perhaps some presentations) from industry. We need to rethink the scheduling of YPP talks to have them in relevant sessions. Grant supports the SIG sessions, and thinks that the YPP schedule currently with 15 minute talks, one after the other should be improved.

Mentoring / advice

Following up the survey on mentoring that came about after a suggestion from Rosie Read, the **president and secretary will consider establishing an email address for queries about OR careers**, and think about how this can connect young OR practitioners to people with experience. We want to avoid any overhead for the ORSNZ.

Other matters

Mike will take a look at the Council numbers and engagement to ensure we're complying with our constitution.

Rachael says that unfortunately there's no one in Christchurch currently available to present at the upcoming AMP21 event, however, she's still looking. Mike says that the event can go ahead without a university speaker, and perhaps just finish earlier.

Grant will follow up with the treasurer about the process for John Andrew George (JAG) donations.

Council meeting adjourns at 5:18pm.