

ORSNZ Council Meeting – 19 October 2021

In attendance:

Michael O'Sullivan, Kevin Ross, Tom, Adams, Tony Downward, Grant Read, Paul Rouse, Andy Philpott, Andreas Kempa-Liehr.

Apologies:

Andreas Raith, Andrew Mason.

Meeting Begins – 2:05pm

Mike presents Oomph documents reviewing the mission of ORSNZ and a design for a new website.

As Mike went through the slides, there were various comments

- Grant: should we use the word, 'applied' rather than 'industrial'
- Paul: How are we defining the term analytics? Is this different from operations research?
- The phrase "An analytical approach to decision making" is proposed.
- We should think of ORSNZ as the brand, and OR is the confluence of various disciplines.
- Mike comments that rebranding entirely will require constitutional changes.
- Andreas states that AI and machine learning are taking over.
- Mike is reticent to merge with another society.
- Andreas says that ORSNZ must retain its mathematical core.
- We can leverage data science to inspire people to get involved / engage with ORSNZ, including both academics and practitioners.
- Kevin states that ideally, we should seek to foster a community of engaged practitioners and non-OR analysts.
- Grant suggests that we also explicitly include decision makers in this community.
- The website should be the go-to place for news about what's happening with OR in NZ.
- Paul asked about the need for explicit regions of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch. Mike said if we want to rebuild, we need to focus on events which will be hosted in particular cities.

The following comments are related to the purpose of ORSNZ.

- Attract international academics
- Get people involved: some of these people will be core members (presenting at seminars / conferences), and some may be associated with ORSNZ (attending conferences).
- Facilitate people to submit case studies based on published / completed work.
- Outreach: can ORSNZ provide case studies as a resource for teachers / schools?
- There was a discussion about ORSNZ conference papers being available for download. This caused some issues with publishing work for Paul, but Andy commented that the repository is useful.

The following comments are related to the website.

- Mike presented the website as requested feedback over email.
- The goal is to improve vibrancy of the ORSNZ brand.
- The backend of the website is discussed, and Tony stated that we must ensure that it can be easily maintained (including adding new resources, without reengaging with a web design company).

The following comments are related to whether to host a virtual conference at the end of the year, given the COVID lockdown.

- It was agreed that we shouldn't host a full ORSNZ conference virtually.
- Other options we discussed, including:
 - A half-day workshop on COVID modelling (e.g. hospital simulation) and / or Energy modelling.
 - How will be run an AGM?
 - Should we plan to run semi-regular online seminars in 2022? (Could even be pre-recorded with a live Q&A.)
 - Grant commented on the need to meet with the other judges regarding the Hans Dallenbach prize.

A general discussion followed:

- ORSNZ should better promote the contributions of OR to society, in particular the health system.
- Should we have a Twitter presence, with posts and/or videos contributed by members?
- The key to all this is that we need people to be keen to contribute.

Meeting ends at 3:41pm