Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6p, Tuesday, 3 December 2013
Riverbank Room 1, Adelaide Convention Centre
Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

1   Attendance

Susan Cuddy, Jenifer Ticehurst, Julia Piantadosi, Adnan Abu-Ajamieh, Ala' Aburumman, Bob Anderssen, Anthony Jakeman, Carmel Pollino, Sondoss El Sawah, Jerzy Filar, Jai Vaze, Sergei Schreider, Felix Chan, Oz Sahin, Mun-Ju Shin, Anthony Dekker, Roger Cropp, Russell Richards, Bellie Sivakumar, Chang Chia-lin, John Gallant, Baihua Fu, Trevor Dowling, Andrew Davidson, Jenet Austin, Roger Braddock, Rachel Blakers, Shawn Laffan, Tony Weber, Andrew Frost, Malcolm McPhee, David Post, Fei Ji, Jin Teng, Dushmanta Dutta, Michael McAleer, Neil Viney, David Marlow, Justin Hughes, Shaun Kim, Hedwig van Delden, Mick Hartcher, John Boland, Robert Argent, Keith Matthews, Celia Ghedini Ralha, Linda Merrin, Marie Ekstrom, Ashish Sharma, Pascal Perez, Barry Croke, Robert Pipunic, Margarita Saft, Francis Chiew, Santosh Aryal, Tim Smith, Amer Farhan Rafique, Bharat Bhosale, Paul Whitehead, Phillip Paevere, Andrew Aqium???, Di Prestwidge, Luis Laredo, Javier Navarro, Tim Baynes, Stephen McFallan, Mingwei Zhou, Jung-ho Lee, L.P. Hughes, G. Gambolati, Yun Chen, Tim Oxley, Stefan Reis, Freeman Cook, Wendy Merritt, Joseph Guillaume, Danial Stratford, Barbara Robson, Fanny Boulaire, Grace Tjandraatmadja, Jean-Michel Perraud (81 members)

Apologies
Alex Zelinsky, Les Oxley, Andre Zerger, Frank de Hoog, Natashia Boland, David Mayer

2   Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting held on 22 November 2012 were tabled.

> Motion: that the 2012 AGM minutes be accepted
> Moved – Wendy Merritt; Seconded – Tony Jakeman. Accepted

3   President's Report

The President, Tony Jakeman, gave a verbal report, with the following main points:

- The Society's (informal) journal, Environmental Modelling and Software, no longer uses Special Issues for publishing selected conference papers. Members were invited to consider putting in proposals on Thematic Issues and/or position papers. Tony thanked members for their generosity in reviewing and supporting the journal
- The expansion of the conference to include DORS (Operations Research) and DSTO (defence) has increased numbers and deepened the science and technical coverage – a successful joint venture!
- MODSIM 2015 – we have been talking to the Darwin Convention Centre. Some cons are that we won't easily get government support (as we don't have a strong presence in the NT), and the DCC can only run 8 parallel sessions, limiting number of delegates to ~750.
  Tony Weber suggested Brisbane and will follow up. Sue suggested Alice Springs and will follow it up, as well as other ideas for the NT.

4   Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Wendy Merritt, tabled the 2012/13 financial year statements.
- The Society continues to be in a sound financial position, with a bank balance of $260,993.88 @ 30 June 2013, with just over 60% of that invested in the Society's Sinking Fund.
- The 2012-13 financial year saw an operating loss of $34,778.51, due to MODSIM2013 upfront expenses. This will be more than offset by MODSIM2013 registrations which will be reflected in the 2013-14 financial year, with MODSIM2013 set to make a good return.

> Motion: that the financial statements be accepted
> Moved – Barry Croke; seconded – Tony Weber. Accepted

The Treasurer gave a verbal report
- Running the MSSANZ 'office' cost ~$25K (mainly related to resources spent in moving the Society's website and OCS to a new host, and in programming OCS), which has been absorbed by the iCAM office. Properly accounting for these expenses is essential and needs to be part of budgeting for the office.
- Tony Dekker suggested putting together an OCS User Committee, which would complement the current Technical Committee.

- ACTION: Secretary to ensure that User and Technical Committees are set up with their main focus being on the running of the congress registration and review software (currently using OCS).

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5 Tabling of 2013 Biennial Medallists, and Early Career Researchers
- 2013 Biennial Medallists
    - Prof Natashia Boland, University of Newcastle
    - Prof Graeme Dandy, University of Adelaide
    - Prof Shiqing Ling, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- 2013 Early Career Research Excellence (ECRE)
    - Dr Marit Kragt, University of Western Australia
    - Dr Dongryeol Ryu, University of Melbourne
    - Dr Matthew Hipsey, University of Western Australia

Medallists and Early Career Researchers were nominated by members, and their nominations approved by the Awards Committee.

6 Adoption of new rules
The Secretary spoke to the (proposed) new Constitution (Rules) which were made available to members with notice of AGM. The Constitution has been rewritten to be compliant with the (Victorian) Associations Reform Act 2012, and to incorporate the role of the MSSANZ 'Office'. Due to the number of changes, the new rules were put to the AGM as one motion.

> Motion
> "that the MSSANZ Constitution (Rules) as tabled (and amended) at this 2013 Annual General Meeting be adopted".
>> Moved: Robert Argent; Seconded: Tony Weber. ACCEPTED

The following motion was put to members to provide guidance to the Committee in its operation during the transition period (while operating under 'old' Rules while new Rules were being processed, prior to ratification, by Victorian Consumer Affairs).

> Motion:
> "that the members instruct the Committee to operate under the intent of the new Rules (as adopted at 2013 AGM) from this day until those new Rules come into operation."
>> Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded: Tony Weber. ACCEPTED

7 Election of Office Bearers
The following nominations were received in writing prior to the Meeting.
- President – David Post, CSIRO, Canberra
- Vice-President –Michael McAleer, Adjunct Uni of Canterbury, NZ
- Secretary – Tony Jakeman, ANU, Canberra
- Treasurer –Sondoss el Sawah, ANU, Canberra
- Committee Secretary –Susan Cuddy, CSIRO, Canberra
- Committee Member (1) Bellie Sivakumar, Uni NSW, Sydney
- Committee Member (2) Felix Chan, Curtin Uni, Perth

- Committee Member (3) Julia Piantadosi, Uni SA, Adelaide
- Committee Member (4) Amer Farhan Rafique, Mohammad Ali Jinnah University, Islamabad
- Committee Member (5) Carmel Pollino, CSIRO, Canberra
- Committee Member (6) Andrew Zerger, BoM, Canberra
- Committee Member (7) Robert Argent, BoM, Melbourne
- Committee Member (8) Tony Weber, BMT WBM, Brisbane
- Committee Member (9) Malcolm McPhee, DPI NSW
- Committee Member (10) Bob Anderssen, CSIRO, Canberra

Motion:
"that the meeting confirm the Committee nominations"

Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded: Wendy Merritt. ACCEPTED

[Note: There are no significant changes in the positions or roles of Committee members under the proposed new Constitution, except for the role of Secretary, which is effectively now equivalent in duties and responsibilities to those of a Public Officer. This change was reported at the 2012 AGM.]

The meeting confirmed these nominations.

8 MODSIM 2013 report

Convenor, Julia Piantadosi, provided a verbal report. Some statistics of interest:

- # papers – 514
- # extended abstracts – 290
- # delegates – 809
- # countries - 32
- # Sessions – 82

The relationship with the Adelaide Convention Centre has worked well, as have those with our congress partners, ASOR (the Australian Society for Operations Research) and DORS (the DSTO led Defence Operations Research Symposium).

The trial of U-sessions (united sessions) was partially successful (U-sessions being cross-stream sessions/papers that bring together multiple disciplinary threads).

Motion:
"that members extend their vote of thanks to Carmel Pollino for taking on the mantle of Chair of the Student Awards Committee from David Post, who has performed this role for many years."

Moved: Robert Argent; Seconded: Tony Dekker. ACCEPTED

Member, Barbara Robson, suggested that the Committee consider the establishment of an award to recognise the role of reviewers – perhaps the Top Ten.

ACTION: Secretary, and MODSIM 2015 convenor, to include the suggestion for having a Top Ten Reviewer award in MODSIM 2015 congress planning.

9 MODSIM2015 planning

Recently appointed MODSIM2015 convenor, Tony Weber, gave a verbal presentation on the location and venue, being the Gold Coast Convention Centre, from 29 November to 4 December 2015

10 General business

10.1 Society policies

Part of transiting the Society to a modern governance structure is the capturing of many of its (unwritten) operating principles in Policies, which are equivalent to By-Laws in their management (ref Clause 72 in the proposed new Rules).

10.1.1   GUIDELINES FOR CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SOCIETY AWARDS

Roger Braddock, Fellow and 2007 Biennial Medallist, spoke to draft guidelines for the creation and management of Society Awards, and the constitution of the Awards Committee, the role of that Committee being to advise the Executive as to types of awards, and recommend on award recipients. The discussion that followed centred on how that Committee should be constituted, as it has previously been selected by the President, and chaired by the President. The meeting felt that it was appropriate that the Committee not be chaired by the President, but made recommendations to the President (and the Executive). It was further proposed that the process for determining membership of that Committee be contained within the Constitution to ensure the transparency of the process, and the following amendment included as part of the earlier motion to accept the revised Constitution (as amended).

The two motions that had been put on notice were put to the members:

(Amended) Motion

"that the Constitution be amended to include elections for the membership of the Awards Committee"
Moved: Roger Braddock; Seconded: Susan Cuddy. ACCEPTED

Motion

"that the following Fellows act as an interim Awards Committee until such time as the Constitution is amended and ratified: - Tony Jakeman, Roger Braddock, Michael McAleer, Natashia Boland, Francis Chiew, Blair Nancarrow"
Moved Susan Cuddy; Seconded Tony Weber. ACCEPTED

10.2 Votes of thanks

Motion:

"That the meeting move a vote of thanks to outgoing President, Tony Jakeman, who has served in that role from 1997 till this meeting."
Moved: Michael McAleer; Seconded: David Post. ACCEPTED

Motion:

"That the meeting move a vote of thanks to MODSIM2013 convenors, John Boland and Julia Piantadosi, for an outstanding job in organising and running the conference."
Moved: Tony Jakeman; Seconded: Bob Anderssen. ACCEPTED

Motion:

"That the meeting move a vote of thanks to Susan Cuddy for her efforts in rewriting the Constitution and overseeing the governance of the Society."
Moved: Tony Jakeman; Seconded: Carmel Pollino. ACCEPTED
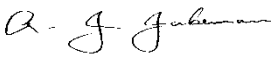
Meeting closed 7.10p.

Authorised by
Susan Cuddy
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President   *David Post*

Committee Secretary   *Susan Cuddy*

Secretary   *A. J. Jakeman*

Treasurer   *Sondoss El Sawah*

Outgoing treasurer *W. Merritt*

Documents tabled at the meeting which can be made available on request:
- Financial statements for 2012/13 financial year
- Completed nomination forms for office bearers

Minutes confirmed at 2014 AGM, held 25 November 2014.

As approved 2014 AGM, 25 Nov 2014