



Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5.00p, Thursday, 22 November 2012

iCAM project meeting room, Building 48A, Linneaus Way,
The Australian National University, Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, Australia

1 Attendance

- Present - Tony Jakeman, Tony Weber, Clare Southerton, Barry Croke, Peter Manger, Wendy Merritt, Carmel Pollino
- Apologies – Michael McAleer, Julia Piantadosi, John Boland, Felix Chan, Freeman Cook, Jai Vaze, Bob Anderssen, David Post, Rob Argent, Andre Zerger

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting held on 13 December 2011 were tabled. Dealing with outstanding action items has been moved to a Strategic Planning meeting, tentatively scheduled for late February 2013

Motion: that the minutes be accepted (with minor typo corrections)
Moved – Wendy Merritt; Seconded – Peter Manger. Accepted

3 President's Report

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

- The number of sessions, already 83, proposed for MODSIM 2013, appears to signal that the congress is growing in its role as a key event for the Australian modelling and simulation community. Good news indeed.
- Following on from lively discussion at last AGM, the consideration of changes to Awards, particularly the (new) Clive Granger Award, has been held over until the strategic planning meeting. Minor changes in the wording for current awards, as available on the website, are tabled later in these minutes.
- We have established a technical sub-committee to build capacity in the conference management system (OCS) that we use for congresses managing OCS; and to document the processes and workflows. The committee has recommended having the MSSANZ (and MODSIM) website independent of ANU and is currently assessing alternate host locations. The Committee is Susan Cuddy (chair), Peter Manger, Felix Chan and Tony Weber, with ex-officio Karen Mobbs who manages the MSSANZ and MODSIM websites; and two of our iEMSs colleagues, Andrea Rizzoli and Ioannis Athanasiadis.

The meeting recorded its thanks to the committee.

- Environmental Modelling and Software journal – both MSSANZ and iEMSs are connected to the journal, especially in terms of reviewing and paper submission. There is an opportunity to publish position papers in the journal, with number 6 coming up. The modelling aspects are being pushed along nicely, but decision support is lagging. Experience is that these papers get a lot of citations, e.g. performance measures. While these position papers have tended to come out of workshops (as run at iEMSs), MSSANZ members are encouraged to get such position papers happening.
- 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 2011/12 financial year statements.

- The Society continues to be in a sound financial position, with \$26K profit in the 2011-2012 financial year which is comparable to previous financial years. This profit arose from MODSIM2011 registrations and a good return from term deposits (incl. the sinking fund) at the Commonwealth Bank. Merchant fees (for taking registration payments) is just over 2%.
- The Society will be looking for a new Treasurer next year, and would want a transition period from June 2013. The Treasurer needs to be located near the President for ease of authorisation, etc. Members are encouraged to consider nominating for the position.
- The Executive, under direction of and during the meeting, authorised Peter Manger to administer funds and arrange refunds as part of the merchant system for conferences, under supervision of the Treasurer.

Motion: that the financial statements be accepted

Moved – Barry; seconded – Tony Weber. Accepted

5 Tabling of 2011 student awards and 2012 Fellows

2011 student awards (session in brackets)

- Mika Peace, University of Adelaide (A2)
- Jessica Dunn, RMIT (A3)
- Jelle Van Loon, University Leuven, Belgium (B3)
- Palmar Thorsteinsson, University of Iceland (D1)
- David Savage, UWA (E16)
- Tahna Mahjabeen, Curtin University (H2)
- Nicholas Car, University of Melbourne (I1)
- Rachel Blakers, ANU (I9)

The President took the opportunity to thank the members of the Student Awards Committee (David Post, Carmel Pollino, Rebecca Lester) who assisted in the final evaluation.

2012 Fellows

- Prof Chia-Lin Chang, Prof of Economics and Finance at National Chung Hsing University, Taichung, Taiwan
- Felix Chan, Assoc Prof and Head of Department, Curtin Business School, Curtin University, Perth
- Tony Weber, national practice leader – water quality, BMT WBM, Brisbane
- Tony Dekker, senior analyst, DSTO, Canberra

Fellows were nominated by members, and their nominations approved by the Awards Committee.

6 Election of Office Bearers

The following nominations were received in writing prior to the Meeting.

- President – Tony Jakeman
- Vice-President –Michael McAleer
- Treasurer –Wendy Merritt
- Secretary –Susan Cuddy
- Committee – Felix Chan, Rob Argent, Andre Zerger, Bob Anderssen, Julia Piantadosi, John Boland, Jai Vaze, David Post, Tony Weber

The meeting confirmed these nominations.

7 Position of Public Officer

Under the revised Victorian Incorporations Act (under which the Society is constituted), the role of Public Officer changes and can be rolled in with the Secretary; and the condition that the person performing the Public Officer duties has to reside in Victoria has been removed (though has to be resident in Australia). This has been discussed with the present Public Officer, Tim Peterson, who is happy to stand down from his duties of lodging the Annual Return.

- Motion on notice:
“That the position of Public Officer be removed, and duties merged with that of Secretary to occur at a time after the lodgement of this year’s Annual Return, and before lodgement of next year’s Annual Return”

Moved – Susan Cuddy; Seconded – Tony Jakeman. Accepted

The meeting moved a vote of appreciation to Tim Peterson for his work as Public Officer during the period 2007-2012.

8 MODSIM 2013

The convenors, John Boland and Julia Piantadosi, provided a written report which was tabled at the meeting.

The President noted that we have two excellent convenors, who are linking up well with the Adelaide Convention Centre, and working closely with our congress partners, ASOR (the Australian Society for Operations Research) and DORS (the DSTO led Defence Operations Research Symposium). We are anticipating about 1000 participants. Conference organisation is gearing up with call for sessions in full swing and first full Program Committee meeting (with stream leaders) scheduled for 27 November.

U-sessions (united sessions) are being trialled, these being cross-stream sessions/papers that bring together multiple disciplinary threads. There won’t be a lot of these, and it will be interesting to see if they attract people interested in Mode-2 type research.

9 MSSANZ membership - updating of member’s postal address

On 29 October 2012, we requested members (via the mssanz@iemss.org mailing list) to update their postal address for the purpose of posting out Newsletter and MODSIM 2013 brochure in the New Year. Since then we have had 112 responses, which is a good response, but only represents 10% of our mailing list.

To reduce the number of returned mail items, the meeting agreed that the New year posting only go to those that we know are correct. The posting can be accompanied by an email requesting anyone who doesn’t receive printed material, and wants it, to request it directly from the office. The President also reminded us that we have a database of government agencies that can be included in the mail-out.

The meeting recorded its appreciation to Clare Southerton, iCAM office, for the thorough job she has been doing on cleaning up the membership database (and tidying up the congress convenors manual).

10 Awards Committee report

In 2006, the Society removed the 3 categories (natural, socioeconomic and general systems). The wording of the Awards criteria was modified by the Secretary to reflect this as part of the updating of the Society’s website in early 2012. More recently, Vice-President Michael McAleer has fine-tuned the wording, and this was tabled at the AGM for ratification.

ACTION: The Secretary was instructed to update the website with the revised wording (<http://www.mssanz.org.au/awards/criteria.html>)/

11 Strategic planning meeting

The MSSANZ/MODSIM community is maturing, with many people with a long-term commitment to the Society. This has prompted us to think seriously about where we want to be, and what we want to be doing, into the future. To progress this, a strategic planning meeting was planned for 31 October 2012 by the Secretary to put together a 5-to-10-year plan, addressing our governance model (such as the Society having a permanent ‘office’), financial management, embracing new technology, conference format, opportunities, etc. This meeting was deferred in response to changes to the Victorian Incorporations Act which have significant implications for the Society. The meeting is rescheduled for the New Year.

12 General business

- Professor Kimio Morimune, Fellow of MSSANZ, former Dean of the Faculty of Economics at Kyoto University, and former President of the Japan Economic Association, received the prestigious Purple

Confirmed 3/12/2013

Ribbon from the Emperor of Japan. This would be equivalent to an Order of Australia. (reported by Michael McAleer, 11/5/2012).

Meeting closed 5.50p.

Authorised by
Susan Cuddy
MSSANZ Secretary
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Documents tabled at the meeting which can be made available on request:

- Financial statements for 2011/12 financial year
- Awards criteria description (for web site)
- MODSIM 2013 report
- 2011 AGM minutes
- Completed nomination forms for office bearers