Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

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2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

(in conjunction with MODSIM2015)
6.00pm, Tuesday, 1 December 2015

Room 5, Gold Coast Convention Centre
Broadbeach, Queensland, Australia

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1   Attendance

Present: Muhammad S Alam, Russell Richards, Oz Sahin, Tony Weber, Darla Hatton MacDonald, Richard Davis, Robert Argent, Abbas Mohammadi, Becky Schmidt, Al Bartolucci, Sejong Bae, Jinhai Cai, Andrew Charles, Aroon Parshotam, Muhammad Azeem Sadiq, Michael Hartcher, David Benn, Dominic Hogan, Markus Heyland, D Ame, Freeman Cook, Louise Bruce, James Bennett, Sondoss El Sawah, Fred Bowden, Anahita Mizani, Barry Croke, Shawn Laffan, Greg Summerell, Md Jahangir Alam, Baihua Fu, Errol McLean, Jon Hinwood, Hamid Laga, Jamie Vleeshower, Jorge Pena, Ramneek Singh, Andrew Western, Willem Verrvoort, Stefan Berres, Sandhya Samarsinghe, David Mayer, Linda Merrin, Justin Costelloe, Tom Pagano, Roger Braddock, David Robertson, Malcom McPhee, Tony Jakeman, David Post, Susan Cuddy, Jai Vaze, Wendy Merritt, Yun Chen, Kaifang Shi, Chang Huang, Haichang Yang, Justin Hughes, Steve Marvanek, Yasuhiro Tawara, Adam Smith, Bob Anderssen, Felix Chan, Michael McAleer, Chia-Lin Chang, Enli Wang, Dave Penton, Jorge Rosas, Dushmanta Dutta, Shaun Kim, Brett Anderson, Marit Kragt, Leorey Marquez, Anthony Dekker, David Marlow, Stefan Reis, Pascal Perez, Jason Evans, Rohan Wickramsuriya, Mohammad Namazi-Rad

Apologies: Carmel Pollino

2   Minutes of previous meeting

Motion

"that the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2014 be accepted as a true and correct record."

Moved: Tony Jakeman; Seconded: Rob Argent

3   President's report

President David Post gave a warm thank you to all the session organisers who contributed to a highly successful MODSIM 2015, noting that they are the engine of the society and essential for a well-run conference.

A survey will be sent out post congress to capture feedback on MODSIM2015 as the survey post MODSIM2013 had been very useful in identifying improvements. Any issues raised under General Business will be included in the survey.

MSSANZ members were encouraged to attend iEMSS in Toulouse in 2016.

4   Treasurer's report

The 2014/15 financial year statements were tabled by the Treasurer, Sondoss El Sawah.

Motion

"that the 2014/15 financial year statement, as tabled at the 2015 AGM, be accepted."

Moved: Bob Anderssen; Seconded: Tony Dekker

Sondoss gave an overview of Income and expenditure, the current financial status of MSSANZ and the preliminary MODSIM15 budget.

The main expenditure was on software development - only a small component of conference expenditure occurred in 2014-15. The 2014-15 financial year saw a $17,000 loss which is normal in an off-conference financial year as the bulk of registration fees come in the next financial year.

MODSIM2015 outcome - ~$21K income was from sponsors (below normal) plus 621 registrations. Expenditure was dominated by venue hire, then website and paper preparation (by Karen Mobbs), and OCS upgrade (as agreed at 2013 AGM). Profit looks to be ~$26,000 which is roughly of the same order as recent conferences except for MODSIM2013 in Adelaide. The profit at MODSIM2013 has been attributed to several factors including the 1st DORS/ASOR/MSSANZ, Adelaide Defence and perhaps the concurrent Ashes test match.

5 Tabling of 2015 Biennial Medallists and Early Career Research Excellence Recipients

A round of applause was given for awardees, listed below:

2015 Biennial Medallists

- Prof Chia-Lin Chang, National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan
- Prof Kerrie Mengersen, Queensland University of Technology
- Andrew Western, University of Melbourne2015 Early Career Research Excellence (ECRE)

2015 Early Career Research Excellence Awards

- Dr Sondoss El Sawah, UNSW
- Dr Lei Gao, CSIRO Land and Water
- Dr Tim Peterson, University of Melbourne
- Dr Majeed Safa, Lincoln University, New Zealand

Medallists and Early Career Research Excellence recipients were nominated by members, assessed by the Awards Committee with recommendation to the Executive for approval.

6 Tabling of 2014 Fellows Awards

Fellows were approved in early 2015 and tabled at this meeting for recording purposes only. A round of applause was given for the awardees listed below:

- Dr Wendy Merritt, Australian National University
- Dr Julia Piantadosi, University of South Australia
- Prof John Boland, University of South Australia
- Prof Don Kulasiri, Lincoln University, New Zealand
- Prof David Allen, University of South Australia
- Prof Kazumitsu Nawata, University of Tokyo, Japan

7 Election of Committee members

Nominations were received before the AGM and ratified at the meeting.

EXECUTIVE	Nominee
President	David Post (Fellow), CSIRO
Vice-President	Julia Piantadosi (Fellow), Uni SA
Treasurer	Sondoss El Sawah, UNSW
Secretary	Tony Jakeman (Fellow), ANU
Committee Secretary	Susan Cuddy (Fellow), CSIRO

ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBER NOMINATIONS	
Aroon Parshotam	1
Chia-Lin Chang	2
Felix Chan	3
Greg Summerell	4
Leorey O Marquez	5
Tony Weber	6
Val Snow	7
Willem Vervoort	8
Yun Chen	9
Dushmanta Dutta	10

The AGM acknowledged the contributions of the previous Executive and Management committee members and especially Michael McAleer who was standing down as Vice-President after many years.

AWARDS COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS (must be active Fellows)	
Bob Anderssen	1
Michael McAleer	2
Francis Chiew	3
Susan Cuddy	4

8 MODSIM 2015 – report

Presentation by co-convenors, Tony Weber and Malcolm McPhee

Tony thanked Malcolm McPhee for his critical role in MODSIM 215 success and gave thanks to Andrew Hicks, Karen Mobbs and Wendy Merritt for their behind-the-scenes critical support in OCS, registration and paper submissions and preparation. 621 delegates attended MODSIM15 this year. An issue raised and discussed in greater detail in the General Business was the decreased proportion of full papers. In Adelaide full papers constituted 70% of papers and this dropped to 55% this year.

9 MODSIM 2017 - planning

It was announced that the venue for MODSIM 2017 will be Hobart. Dr Darla Hatton MacDonald (University of Tasmania) and Dr Geoff Syme (Adjunct Professor, Edith Cowan University) will be co-convenors.

The conference is planned for early December (as usual), to be confirmed after checking for potential clashes with AGU, Institute of Engineers and Ecological Society conferences.

ACTION: President Post to chase up with each of these other societies for their planned dates

10 General business

10.1 Papers

A brief discussion was held around the types of papers and presentations (plenaries, key notes, invited papers). With respect to keynotes, some members noted that these papers should come from full papers only, and should NOT be identified external to the conference submission process.

10.2 Extended abstracts vs. full length papers

The President raised the issue of the trend away from full length papers (papers peaked in 2009 & have been dropping since the 2013 introduction of extended abstracts) which has implications for Thomson-Reuters and Scopus. Members will be polled about this in the survey but a discussion was held at the AGM. Discussion points below

- Who is driving the shift?

ACTION: Wendy Merritt to calculate ratio of numbers by stream

- Quality of presentations
  - o The value of papers and posters is in the review process … currently no review for presentation content
  - o can we look at ways to review presentations (e.g. upload annotated presentation prior to)
  - o Perhaps some correlation of quality of papers vs. presentations (more effort in presentations when a paper has been written)?

- o Andrew Wilson– making presentations available [opt-in] as a record to look at (question for survey)
- o Should we look to reduce the number of presentations and/or papers
- Ways to encourage papers
  - o Freeman Cook: we need to think about how to reward full papers (e.g. invited by journal, give full paper more time or poster only for extended abstract)
  - o Possible to re-establish linkages between papers and journals and invite the 'best' papers' to make full journal submission
  - o Guidelines already exist for extending MODSIM papers into journal articles
  - o 5/10 minute speed talk (poster) vs 20 minute (full paper)
  - o Roger Braddock – perhaps give priority to papers by putting earlier in the session (David Post supported this and suggested replacing invited papers)
  - o Bob Anderssen: pay extra for non-paper presentations
  - o Richard from DORS – he encourages full papers through prioritising travel arrangements and funding for authors over those who submit abstracts
- Value of extended abstract
  - o Might be perception that extended abstract has some value and need to ensure flexibility to upgrade to paper status if have time?
  - o Question for survey … does anyone use abstracts?
  - o Marit Kragt – abstracts have no value at UWA (several others concurred for their institution)
  - o Tony Weber – extended abstracts are useless in current form (revise or remove)
  - o Freeman Cook – don't keep extended abstracts
  - o Pascal Perez – extended abstracts are for the 'wealthy and the lazy'
  - o One person noted that the full length paper is most important and that he is very disappointed if he cannot access additional information following a presentation of interest.
- Other comments
  - o Need to look at innovative options (e.g. digital poster)

10.3   Eligibility for student awards

One member raised the issue that his students were not eligible for the student award as they all submitted extended abstracts. Currently, students must submit a full paper and be currently enrolled full-time in an Honours, Masters, or PhD program (or recently finished and presenting on their work) **and** enrolled in the Congress as a student. A short discussion was held on whether these eligibility criteria should be altered to allow students who present extended abstracts to be eligible? This will be asked in the MODSIM2015 survey. Comments from the AGM are below:

- We want to encourage full papers from students which will help to keep papers numbers elevated
- Joseph Guillaume– students should submit full paper
- Getting people to review papers as well as presentations is difficult … could we incorporate the student paper reviews into the awards process?

10.4   Poster sessions

The option of a MODSIM poster session was again raised. General discussion was positive

- Restrictions on numbers of papers
- Full paper gets presentation and EOI gets poste
- Maximum 1 paper per first author
- Pascal Perez: the poster session needs to be given support (not just hidden during beer time). If this was done he would support students to submit posters

10.5   Potential to set up Australian TIAS link with MSSANZ

Tony Jakeman gave a brief overview of TIAS which is looking to rejuvenate itself. The opportunity exists to set up an Australian branch which could have a relationship with MSSANZ. The brief discussion indicated this may be acceptable to members although Freeman Cook requested that further information be sent to members.

Meeting closed 7:12pm. These minutes authorised by:

David Post

President

Susan Cuddy

MSSANZ Committee Secretary