



Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

5.00pm, Tuesday, 29 November 2016

iCAM, Fenner School, Australian National University

1 Attendance

Present: Tony Jakeman, David Post, Susan Cuddy, Wendy Merritt, Bob Anderssen, Julia Piantadosi, Francis Chiew, Tingbao Xu, Greg Summerell (by phone)

Apologies: Barry Croke, Aroon Parshotam, Felix Chan, Sondoss El Sawah, Leorey Marquez, Baihua Fu, Yun Chen, Willem Vervoort, Val Snow, Dushmanta Dutta

2 Minutes of previous meeting

Motion

“that the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting held on 1 December 2015 be accepted as a true and correct record.”

Moved: Wendy Merritt; Seconded: Tony Jakeman

3 President’s report

President David Post noted that organisation of MODSIM 2017 is well under way. Other items of interest to the MSSANZ community is that this year we have sponsored 2016 OzEwex student poster award, CTAC student awards, and the Women in Science Soapbox.

4 Treasurer’s report

The 2015/16 financial year statements were tabled by Wendy Merritt on behalf of the Treasurer, Sondoss El Sawah.

Motion

“that the 2015/16 financial year statement, as tabled at the 2016 AGM, be accepted.”

Moved: Tony Jakeman; Seconded: Sue Cuddy

Sondoss (via Wendy) reported the major activity of MSSANZ during the 2015-16 financial year was finalising the remaining expenses and revenues for MODSIM2015 congress held in the Gold Coast in December 2015. Expenditure for the MODSIM2017 congress to be held in Hobart in December 2016 has started. A modest loss was made in the 2015-16 financial year due to MODSIM 2015 expenses (of which the largest component is the hire cost of the conference venue). This is standard in a non-conference year where we receive no income (other than interest). The society still maintains its regular income sources, mainly the interest gained from our ‘sinking fund’ term deposit and business online saver account. The 2015-2016 budget has been fully audited by Les Ellis and Associates Pty. MSSANZ remains in a strong financial position in 2016.

Please contact Sondoss via email (s.elsawah@unsw.edu.au) or telephone (0430303946) to obtain these statements or to discuss any aspect of the financial management of MSSANZ.

5 Tabling of 2015 Student awards

Student awards from 2015 conference were tabled – the list of awardees is also available at <http://www.mssanz.org.au/awards/students.html>

- Di He, CSIRO
Modelling the impact of climate variability and irrigation on winter canola yield and yield gap in Southwest China
- Yanlin Shi, The Australian National University
A Discussion on the Innovation Distribution of Markov Regime-Switching GARCH Model
- Rachel Quill, University of New South Wales, Canberra
Effects of post-fire vegetation regrowth on wind fields over complex terrain
- Gaohan Yin, King Abdullah University, Saudi Arabia
A Multiple-point Geostatistics Method for filling gaps in Landsat ETM+ SLC-off images
- Enayat Moallemi, University of Melbourne
Dynamic modelling of energy transitions using a coupled modelling-narrative approach
- Chaitanya Kapiolani Oehmigara, The Australian National University
Reduced Basis Model Reduction for Statistical Inverse Problems with applications in Tsunami Modelling
- Ali Abroudi, Lincoln university, New Zealand
System modelling of mammalian cell cycle regulation using multi-level hybrid petri nets
- Jens Froese, The University of Queensland
Moving window analysis links landscape-scale resource utilization to habitat suitability models of feral pigs in northern Australia

6 Election of Office bearers

MSSANZ members were emailed prior to the AGM notifying them about the motions for committees to serve until the 2017 AGM.

Motion:

“that the current members of the Committee serve until the 2017 AGM”

Moved: Bob Anderssen; Seconded: Francis Chiew

The current Committee is:

- President – David Post
- Vice-President – Julia Piantidosa
- Association Secretary – Tony Jakeman
- Treasurer – Sondoss El Sawah
- Committee Secretary – Susan Cuddy
- (Normal) Committee members - Aroon Parshotam, Chia-Lin Chang, Felix Chan, Greg Summerell, Leorey O Marquez, Tony Weber, Val Snow, Willem Vervoort, Yun Chen, Dushmanta Dutta

Motion:

“that the current Awards Committee serve until the 2017 AGM”

Moved: David Post; Seconded: Tingbao Xu

Current members are Society Fellows – Bob Anderssen, Michael McAleer, Francis Chiew, Susan Cuddy.

Discussion around awards committee and Fellows

- 2016 Fellows have not been decided. The awards committee has been working hard but there are larger numbers of people who are eligible (21) so the committee needs to think carefully about the rules as there is a required balance between ‘maintaining prestige’ and ‘rewarding dedication’

- Greg: is there any governance from other societies that can guide us?
- Tony: AGU award about 0.1% (60 of 60,000)
- Options for MSSANZ
 - Bob: suggest for committee to recommend ~ 0.5% per annum (1% over 2 years)
 - Francis: could define based on desired # of active fellows
 - Sue: awards committee need power to give exceptional (e.g if and large contributor is not nominated by others)
 - Francis: for people who hold value in being Fellow, 1% sounds good (total now is ~4-5% of active members)
- Greg: can we track their activity status?
 - Francis: do we need to distinguish between Fellows and Active Fellows (e.g. 1 in 3 conference cycles)?
 - Sue: need to reflect active status as Active Fellows are needed should we ever propose to access sinking fund; although it doesn't need to be reflected in constitution we should incorporate it into policy
 - Bob: words around the # of active Fellows around access to sinking funds need tightening; AMSI – if people reach a certain level they get made a fellow and they are not concerned about the %; the argument is this increases society image
 - David: need to define active members as well
- Francis: Suggest awards committee to provide guidance around %, and exceptional awards
- David expressed thanks to the awards committee for their continued efforts

7 MODSIM 2017

7.1 President's proposal

- President's revised proposal that "we allow one oral presentation per registrant and allow that to be accompanied ***either*** by a full paper or Extended Abstract. If someone wants to give two oral presentations, ***both*** must be accompanied by a full paper. We also allow two posters per registrant and they can be accompanied by ***either*** a full paper or Extended Abstract."
 - Francis: is there a risk we would lose one full paper by this? I can't think of many people so desperate to write full paper just in order to talk.
 - Francis: is the upper limit for posters an issue?
- Discussion around proposal
 - Original proposal everyone had to write a full paper to give an oral presentation
 - Two (somewhat conflicting aims) – to increase papers and to reduce the number of parallel streams
 - Sue: Some is venue dependant (# of rooms); electronic posters are problematic
 - David: 12 streams is too many
 - Tony: 1 slide summary of poster spruiking (e.g. after plenary)
 - Francis: 2-3 minutes; program committee to decide on MODSIM2017 approach; our aim is to increase presentations
 - Bob: need to think of other ways to reduce session numbers; hard-line approach not allowing multiple papers
 - Greg: if you want to do 1+ papers, needs to be in other sessions
 - Francis: you come and present your best abstract (TICK); Other incentive is to give awards for best paper (session/stream organisers rank the top 10% papers in each session/stream and eminent people are the judges) (General support for Francis' suggestion)
 - Tingbao – still not sure about the criteria for people to give an oral; we need to be very clear
 - Francis – criteria is everyone is limited to 1 oral presentation
 - David – and two posters
 - Francis – use the award as well as special issues to encourage full papers

ACTION: President Post to revise proposal and send notification to MSSANZ members

7.2 Session update

- Session update (available as a separate report), noting that latest figure is 38 sessions proposed.
 - Need to analyse potential overlap (may need to retro-fit key word finder as this is not set up yet)

- For sessions with multiple organisers, we need to identify the key contact
- Does water resources stream need splitting
 - Francis: 23 last time (4 had sub-sessions – the largest ran for 2 full days); we merge those with limited numbers that are the same

ACTION: President Post to email proposal titles to MSSANZ members and request further proposals

ACTION: President Post to send stream leaders the full compiled list

ACTION: Stream leaders send targeted emails to persons they wish to propose sessions

7.3 SIGs update

- SIGs update (available as a separate report), noting that latest figure is 18 sessions proposed.
 - Julia – we're at the stage where we need to ask for more detail
 - Wendy – those a bit narrow could be encouraged to propose streams
 - David – need to clearly differentiate between SIGs and Sessions

8 Other business

8.1 Sponsorship

- David and Wendy have prepared sponsorship letter and conference brochure which can be provided
- A list of consultancy firms to potentially target for sponsorship has been prepared although this needs to be workshopped and further acted upon

Meeting closed 6:15pm. These minutes authorised by:

President

MSSANZ Committee Secretary