Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5pm, Tuesday, 25 November 2014
iCAM Project Room, 48A Linneaus Way, The Australian National University
Canberra, Australia

1 ATTENDANCE

David Post, Tony Jakeman, Sondoss El Sawah, Bob Anderssen, Roger Braddock, Barry Croke, John Gallant, Andre Zerger, Robert Argent, Wendy Merritt, Andrew Hicks, Susan Cuddy (noting this is not a quorum)

1.1 Apologies

Michael McAleer, Carmel Pollino, Jai Vaze, Francis Chiew, Malcolm McPhee, Tony Weber, Amir Farhan Rafique, Julia Piantadosi, Felix Chan, Bellie Sivakumar

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion:

> *'that the 2013 AGM minutes, held on 3 December 2013, and as tabled at the 2014 AGM, be accepted'*

> Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded: David Post. Motion carried

Status of action items from previous meeting

1. Establishment of User and Technical Committees - main focus being on the running of congress registration and review software (currently using OCS).
    a) The meeting noted that the post-conference survey elicited a list of requirements/specifications for OCS revision. Agreed that it would be useful to establish a User Group to assist Andrew with setting priority on implementation and then testing the usability of solutions, splitting the usability up in to components, e.g. registration, paper submission, review process, approval process, publishing process.
    b) ACTION: Establish terms of reference for the User Group (WHO & BY WHEN)
    c) ACTION: Secretary to then circulate ToR to members, seeking volunteers for the Group
    d) ACTION: Let the Technical Committee know what stats to collect (e.g. number of nations) so they can build into the system (WHO & BY WHEN)
2. Secretary, and MODSIM 2015 convenor, to include the suggestion for having a Top Ten Reviewer award in MODSIM 2015 congress planning.
    a) This is under active consideration with the Program Committee
    b) ACTION: Program Committee to develop evaluation criteria. This would go to the Awards Committee who would consider its place in the context of other awards. Responsible: Responsibility assigned to Bob Anderssen

3 PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S REPORTS

The President, David Post, reported that the new Rules were working well from a governance perspective, with the Executive meeting (relatively) regularly.

The Secretary, Tony Jakeman, reported on progress with MODSIM2015 and MODSIM2017 (see notes later in these minutes)

4 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Sondoss El Sawah, tabled the 2013/14 financial year statements.

1. The Society continues to be in a sound financial position, with a bank balance of $437,480 @ 30 June 2014, with 41% of that invested in the Society's Sinking Fund. Transfer of funds to the Sinking Fund term deposit will be made when the current term deposit matures (12/4/2016).
2. The 2013-14 financial year saw a profit of ~$176K, due to finalisation of MODSIM2013.

Motion:

> *'that the 2013/14 financial statements, as tabled at the 2014 AGM, be accepted'*
>
> Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded: John Gallant. Motion carried

5 TABLING OF 2013 STUDENT AWARDS

The 2013 student awards were announced at the last session of MODSIM 2013. They are tabled in the minutes of this meeting as a permanent record. The list is at Attachment 1.

6 STATUS OF FELLOWS AWARDS

The Chair of the Awards Committee, Tony Jakeman, gave a verbal report. The nomination period is a little later this year, closing on 30 November 2014. There are quite a few nominations, demonstrating the growing interest in nominating members for such awards. The meeting discussed the need for something like a Service Award to recognise those members (and there are many of them) who have made a significant contribution to the Society through running of streams/sessions at conferences.

ACTION: The Awards Committee to work up a proposal, including evaluation criteria, for an Award that recognises long-serving members, for recommendation to the Management Committee – assigned to Roger Braddock, due no later than end of June 2015

7 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Due to the proposed change that elections be held in conjunction with congresses (i.e. every 2 years) and Committees serve for 2 years, the following motions were put:

Motion:

> *'that the current members of the Committee serve until the 2015 AGM'*
>
> Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded: Tony Jakeman. Motion carried

The current Committee is:
- President – David Post
- Vice-President – Michael McAleer
- Association Secretary – Tony Jakeman
- Treasurer – Sondoss El Sawah
- (Normal) Committee members - Bob Anderssen, Carmel Pollino, Julia Piantadosi, Felix Chan, Robert Argent, Tony Weber, Malcolm McPhee, Amer Farhan Rafique, Bellie Sivakumar, Andre Zerger

Motion:

> *'that the current interim Awards Committee serve until the 2015 AGM'*
>
> Moved: Susan Cuddy; Seconded: David Post. Motion carried

Current members are Society Fellows - Tony Jakeman (Chair), Roger Braddock, Michael McAleer, Natasha Boland, Francis Chiew, Blair Nancarrow.

Noting the issue to do with difficulty in getting a quorum in off-congress years, the notion of active (vs observer) membership was raised.

ACTION: Committee Secretary to investigate the possibility of members identifying themselves as active, ie participating in Society affairs, or non-active, ie not wishing to participate in Society affairs. To be presented as a recommendation to the Management Committee, no later than end of June 2015

8   UPDATE ON CONSTITUTION (RULES OF THE SOCIETY)

The Committee Secretary, Sue Cuddy, reported that the Victorian Consumer Affairs, under whom MSSANZ is registered, have rules that elections be held each year, in contradiction of our Rule 53. Sue has written to the VCA seeking clarification, but has received no answer to date.

9   MODSIM 2015 REPORT

The Secretary, Tony Jakeman, reported that MODSIM 2015 is shaping up. The call for sessions is open and they are coming in (83 or so to date). While Tony Weber has been on leave over the past few weeks, Malcolm McPhee has been handling the receipt and assignment of sessions. Sponsorship is going well with CSIRO signing up as platinum, ADFA Canberra as gold and several other government agencies and companies being actively pursued. The Program Committee is up and running, with a meeting scheduled for next week.

10 MODSIM 2017 REPORT

The Secretary, Tony Jakeman, reported that several locations are being discussed. A decision is anticipated in time for announcement at MODSIM 2015.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Indexing of MODSIM proceedings

Google Scholar

Company Secretary recently checked Google scholar and its Top 20 publications in different categories. EMS has an h5 index of 51 and an h5-median of 69. This makes it first in the top 20 for modelling and second for software. A very good outcome as the journal is competing with a wide range of non-environmental domains. Links:

http://scholar.google.com.au/citations?hl=en&view_op=search_venues&vq=modelling
http://scholar.google.com.au/citations?hl=en&view_op=search_venues&vq=software

Thomson-Reuters Web of Science

Committee Secretary lodged the paperwork with Thomson-Reuters in June 2014. A response has not yet been received (noting that they get thousands of requests and it takes quite a while for the request to be approved, and then actioned. The lag for us for 2011 proceedings was 8 months).

Elsevier's Scopus

One of our members, Sergei Schreider, has reported that MODSIM2013 is not indexed in Scopus, though other conference proceedings were visible through this indexing service almost immediately.

ACTION: Tony Jakeman will follow up on the Scopus process with his Elsevier editor. Once this is known, a task may be assigned to a member of the Management Committee

11.2 Privacy laws

Treasurer, Sondoss El Sawah, has reviewed the new privacy laws and reported that our new Rules appear to meet the requirements, i.e. there is no further action required.

11.3 Policy on establishment of new Awards

Following on from the discussion above about the need for an Award that recognises long-term service to the Society (but is not a Fellows award), the meeting discussed the category of Life membership.

ACTION: President, David Post, to work up a proposal, with Awards Committee members, Bob Anderssen and Roger Braddock, for the bestowing of Life membership. To be presented to the Awards Committee, for recommendation to the Management Committee no later than end of June 2015
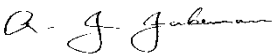
The meeting closed at 6pm.
Authorised by
Prof Tony Jakeman
(Company) Secretary
Tony.jakeman@anu.edu.au

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Secretary

Documents tabled at the meeting which can be made available on request:
- Financial statements for 2013/14 financial year

ATTACHMENT 1 – LIST OF 2013 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

- Lisa Schultz, University of South Australia
  Modelling motor vehicle emissions and population exposure in South Australia
- Alexandra Hogan, The Australian National University
  Modelling the seasonality of respiratory syncytial virus in young children
- Josh Chopin, University of South Australia
  Selection of parameters in active contours for the phenotypic analysis of plants
- Mitchell Welch, University of New England
  A high performance, agent-based simulation of old world screwworm fly lifecycle and dispersal using a Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) platform
- Alexandra Klados, Curtin University
  Do more signals mean higher profits?
- Ranjodh Singh, Curtin University
  Testing intra-daily seasonality using Maximum Entropy Density
- Cameron MacRae, RMIT University / CSIRO
  Controlling micro-CHP generators as a virtual power plant
- Evertje Lawley, The University of Adelaide
  Using spatio-temporal vegetation imagery for arid lands monitoring
- Joseph Guillaume, The Australian National University
  An interactive modelling tool to support knowledge elicitation using extreme case models
- Mun-Ju Shin, The Australian National University
  Understanding the relationship between model parameters, objective functions and predictions for data-based modelling with conceptual rainfall-runoff models
- Camila Alvarez-Garreton, University of Melbourne
  Impact of observation error structure on satellite soil moisture assimilation into a rainfall-runoff model