

NZSA Executive Committee Meeting

1-2pm Friday 19 March 2010

Minutes

Present: Jennifer Brown (chair), Richard Penny (secretary), Vanessa Cave, James Curran, David Fletcher, John Haywood, Harold Henderson, Esther Meenken, Alasdair Noble, Nathaniel Pihama, Carl Scarrott, Peter Smith, Judi McWhirter, Ian Westbrooke

Apologies: Judith Archibald, David Harte, Steve Haslett

Started 13:08

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion: That the minutes be accepted – Jennifer Brown - PASSED

2. President's Report (Jennifer Brown)

To be covered as agenda items

3. Correspondence (Richard Penny)

See report in appendix

4. Financial Report (Judi McWhirter)

The report as a .pdf file is attached to these minutes.

- Payment to Waikato University to purchase software for Newsletter editor \$355.08
- Post box invoice \$150
- Still to provide \$500 to WSG as per motion in November meeting

5. Membership (Harold Henderson)

Motion: That the following be elected as members of the NZSA by the Executive

Ordinary members:

Joanne Bartlett, Peter Dawson, Jane (Yueguang) Wang, Michelle Feyen

Students:

Sathish Indika, Sweta Baldawa, Tiangang Cu

Moved: Harold Henderson/ Pete Smith - PASSED

Membership

Membership at 19 March 2010 is 421, with changes since 27 November 2009 in parentheses: 6 have resigned (or died) and 7 have joined. (Some may have also moved categories.)

	NZ	Overseas
Ordinary	285 (-1)	29
Student	64 (2)	4 (1)
Retired	12 (-1)	5
Honorary	9	

SSA member	4	8	
Corporate	1		
	375	46 (1)	421 (1)

43 are still to renew (or resign).

“Online only”

143 (35%) of the 409 NZSA only members have elected “online only” for the journal.

(We are well over the 20% online bar.)

Capitation fee for 2008 year, based on the December 2008 NZSA membership of 375 (389 – 14 joint members), is still under discussion

6. ANZJS

6.1. Management (Ian Westbrooke)

6.2. Editorial (Steve Haslett)

Minutes of Editors meeting February 2010 in Melbourne provided. Also report summarising these minutes to be placed in next NZSA Newsletter for NZSA members to see. It was noted that a significant, and increasing, surplus from ANZJS. Some discussion on what approach to take to this ensued with no decisions made.

7. RSNZ (Jennifer Brown)

Jennifer briefed committee on changes being made by RSNZ in terms of its interactions with its constituent societies.

Mathematics and Information Science committee disbanded with minimal consultation with appropriate constituent members of RSNZ. However the committee seems to have not been very active. Discussion of what NZSA contribution to RSNZ should be. Some need to raise profile of statistics in NZ overall, so need to work on what RSNZ can contribute to this.

James Curren to be co-opted onto RSNZ Awards committee

Letter from RSNZ about nominee for constituent member on RSNZ committee. Nominee to

8. 2010 Conference (Alasdair Noble)

See report in Appendix

Visiting lecturer seems to have been sorted. Website for conference live. Request for us to encourage people to register early. Conference to start at 9am.

9. 2011 Conference (Chris Triggs)

Working on list of invited speakers.

10. Newsletter (Esther Meenken)

New software purchased. Calling for submission to next Newsletter.

11. Awards (Roger Littlejohn)

Campbell Fund- \$1000 to John Harroway to assist in producing GENSTAT software for release to schools

12. Jones Medal

RSNZ award, so RSNZ will administer. Nominations by August 2010, to be awarded November 2010. Committee to make decision with Vaughn-Jones and a member from NZMS & NZSA. Each member to have 4-6 year term. Exec nominated NZSA president as our member.

13. Education (Alasdair Noble)

See report in appendix.

Discussion of archiving education committee material, particularly related to curriculum discussions. Older NZSA stuff in Alexander Turnbull library. Alasdair to comeback with proposal on what should be archived and what not.

General support in principle for sponsorship of NZAMT, but needs to have a specific statistics theme. Amount of money provided will depend on merits of any proposal submitted.

14. Science Fairs (Alasdair Noble)

See report in appendix

Exec confirmed \$60 sponsorship per fair, to be combined with Statistics New Zealand component.

15. Local Groups

15.1. Wellington Group (David Harte)

See report in appendix

15.2. "Canterbury Tails" (Carl Scarrott)

See report in appendix

16. Young Statisticians (Nathaniel Pihama)

Verbal report back from Maths & Stats post-graduate students conference. Some good outcomes, some that need improvement.

17. SAPQC (James Reilly)

No report

18. Website

Standard updating of links and pages

19. Other business

No other business

Meeting closed at 13:58

Appendix

Reports

Item 3. Correspondence (Richard Penny)

Received

Feb RSS Newsletter,

NZMS Dec 2009 Newsletter

Jan/Feb Meeting Newz

RSNZ "Profiling Excellence"

Call for nominations for FRSNZ

Call for nominations for RSNZ councillors

Papers ORSNZ 2009 conference

ANZJS

Emails on RSNZ elections, RSNZ fees, RSNZ fellowship nominations

Item 6. ANZJS

Steve circulated his report to the committee on the 10th March

Item 8. 2010 Conference. (Alasdair Noble)

The web site is now live and you should have just got notice by ANZSTAT, ALLSTAT and the membership list.

Item 13. Education. (Alasdair Noble)

A wide ranging meeting was held on Feb 16th - main points

1. John Harraway is looking at Genstat for use in schools. Genstat are offering the software free.

Chris Wild is looking at writing some applications in R

Doug Stirling is looking at a version of CAST.

We felt that all of these initiatives should be supported by the association but that we did not want too many which might confuse teachers.

2. We felt the association should have some policy on the use of technology in teaching. Ideas on graphics calculators vs computer software etc. Maxine will put together a first draft, when we have something in a reasonable shape we will send it to Exec.

3. NCEA Standards / MoE / NZQA etc. many things are still happening here and we are trying to keep a position on these things.

4. NZAMT 2011 in Dunedin. We would like to once again offer some sponsorship for a chosen speaker. We have given \$1250 for a number of years could this be increased? We might be able to have more than one speaker.

5. Archiving of records. Lesley Hooper has a lot of paper records from 2000 - 2005, Mike Camden has electronic stuff from 2005 to present. What should we do with all of this material?

6. National Australia Conference on teaching and modelling in Statistics - nice talk from our president.

Item 14. Science Fairs (Alasdair Noble)

I have sent a brief report to the newsletter editor for the next newsletter. I will contact SNZ concerning sponsorship. Last year we gave \$60 per fair and SNZ gave 2 \$30 book vouchers. I suggest we continue with that.

Item 15.1 WSG (David Harte)

John Maindonald gave a talk to the NZSA Wellington Stats Group in February, and I am following up somebody else for a possible talk in April or May.

Item 15.2 Canterbury Tails

The following is the important bits of an update from Paul who is creating the Canterbury Tails website for us. A template is available online. I have seen some of the back-end stuff Paul has put together (i.e. the core processes which have taken the most development time) for uploading seminars, etc, and they work well and mainly need final stages of tying up with dept database and server system, etc.

The website is being finalised by modules. He is completing the user management first, followed by seminar upload, then public display of seminars and then tweaking.

I had a chat with Paul this morning and the completion date he gives is erring on the hopeful side, but he wanted to reassure us that a concerted effort is being made.

User Management

The user management side is fairly complete (assigning permissions to members [high priority] and user preferences [low priority] still to complete).

Users can currently register, login, save logins, retrieve lost passwords, update details. Administrators can create/update groups, view users

Seminar Uploads

Seminar upload form is basically complete, but I haven't got this linked with the database or setup approvals process.

Public Display

Template is based on NZSA07 conference website, just need to replace conference logo with generic one and remove dependence on live dept layout scripts.

Tweaking

Tidying up all the niceties like user preferences etc, left to end

Todo list, in order of priority:

- Allow administrators to edit user permissions
- Create/edit/display seminars {I have most of the code prepared for this, just need to link to database}
- Approve seminars process
- Clean up images and template
- Remove old dependency on UC math styles
- Improve robustness of layout
- Go live
- Implement user preferences {emails on/off etc}
- Beef-up security of auto-login {enforce password when changing account details to reduce chance of stolen cookie troubles}
- Search seminars
- Fine tune, fine tune, fine tune...

You can play around with the development application at:

<http://res.dnsalias.org/projects/NZSAseminars/public/>

I'm happy for anyone to have a go with it.

At my current disciplined pace, each of the ToDo steps will take an evening to complete with the create/edit seminars taking a weekend. That puts a likely go live date around 8 days away.