

Corporate membership

Corporate membership is defined in the constitution of the NZSA and has been there for at least 40 years. Within the constitution the corporate membership can elect one member of the NZSA executive. Presently we have three corporate members. I am the current corporate rep on NZSA exec and am submitting this discussion document tabled at an exec meeting on options for the future of corporate membership.

For the past few decades the number of corporate members has fluctuated between 2 and 4. As far as I can see, other than the ability to elect a member to the NZSA executive, corporate members receive no benefits from being a corporate, except perhaps a warm feeling at supporting the work of the NZSA. I also note that to the best of my knowledge the NZSA has never actively sought corporate members for some decades.

For the consideration of the NZSA executive I outline three possible options as to the future of corporate membership

1. Retain as present

This is the simplest solution. However it does mean that 3 members elect one executive member, whereas the 400 or so regular members elect proportionally much less. As the NZSA does not actively seek corporate members it seems weird to me to continue with this.

I do not recommend this option.

2. Get rid of corporate membership

The next simplest solution. All that would be required is a constitutional change. At present having the corporate membership is almost unknown and seems to be a continuation of long-standing structure rather than anything practical or useful. The effects of this change on the NZSA are likely to be minimal as corporate members have no interaction with NZSA over and above what they would have if they were not corporate members. There seems to be no relationship between corporate membership and obtaining sponsorship.

I think this is the most realistic option given the current status of the NZSA. However in my view it would not be good for the long-term goal of making the NZSA the primary professional organisation for all practicing statisticians in New Zealand.

3. Retain corporate membership but expand it

This would be the hardest option but it is the one that is more likely to align with NZSA's goal of "*... the encouragement of theoretical and **applied** statistics in New Zealand*" (emphasis mine). This would require a major review of what benefits we could provide to corporate members and what benefits the NZSA should seek from corporate members. This would require liaising with potential corporate members and then the NZSA working to meet some of those expectations. The *Statistics in Industry* award also provides some impetus as being a corporate member would encourage people within those organisations to apply.

In my view the analytics organisations are currently much better at interacting with corporates and getting corporate support. The question is, do we want this to remain this way? Personally I would not, but feel that it would be difficult to get a group of people to work on fixing this.