

## **MINUTES OF THE 61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 23 March 2009**

**Darlington Centre, The University of Sydney**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, members were addressed by the President of the Statistical Society of Australia Inc, William Dunsmir on the financial situation of the Society. A summary of this address is provided as an appendix to the Minutes.

**Meeting Opened:** 6.50pm

**1. Present:**

B. Choy, S. Sisson, S. Penev, S. Galbraith, D. Tran, D. Street, S. Bush, K. Wang, K. Hyun, A. Gillett, N. Wickitaksorn, K. Beath, R. Gerlach, G. Gordon, H. Jones, C. Badcock, W. Reece, A. Bilgin, A. Eyland, E. Sowey, N. Fisher, J. Simpson, M. Hudson, A. Hung, J. Chan, M. O'Sullivan, P. Geelan-Small, D. Warton, E. Beh, P. Kelly, M. Adena, G. Doukas, L. Ryan

**Apologies:**

K. Russell, T. Prvan, J. Robinson, N. Weber, D. Pihlens.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM**

The true records of the 2008 AGM have gone missing after extensive searching. If anyone can recollect any information relating to this AGM, could they please notify Eric Beh or Boris Choy.

The minutes presented were considered as draft minutes.

**3. Presentation of the 2008 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts**

Eric Beh presented the Annual Report to attendees. In particular, Eric observed that branch membership was down on previous years. Meeting attendance averaged at 15-20, with higher attendance at named lectures. Eric commented that the meeting topics were diverse, and attempts were made to hold events at different venues.

Further details can be found in the annual report.

*Motion: That the Annual report be accepted*

Moved: Nick Fisher

Seconded: Kevin Wang

Jennifer Chan presented the Statement of Accounts. This presentation included a discussion on following up high profile and recently lapsed members. It was also noted that 2-year memberships need to be taken into account in future years.

*Motion: That the Statement of Accounts be accepted*

Moved: Judy Simpson

Seconded: Ayse Bilgin

#### **4. Council for 2009**

Eric thanked Caro Badcock for all of her hard work, in particular in her capacity as President in 2006-7.

Eric also thanked Than Pe who has retired from his position at UWS, as well as his council role.

Executive for 2009:

President: Eric Beh

Vice President: Richard Gerlach (incoming)

Secretary: Boris Choy

Treasurer: Jennifer Chan

Assistant Secretary: David Pihlens

Councillors:

Ayse Bilgin

Stephen Bush (Young Statisticians Representative)

Arthur Hung

Tania Prvan

Scott Sisson

Maree O'Sullivan

Kevin Wang

#### **5. Election of Auditors**

*Motion: That Brian Coote and Roger Robertson be appointed as auditors.*

Moved: Eric Sowe

Seconded: Anne Eyland

#### **6. Announcements and any other business**

Nil

#### **7. The H.O. Lancaster lecture was delivered by Dr Louise Ryan, Chief of CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences upon conclusion of the AGM.**

**Meeting Closed: 7.15pm**

Stephen Bush

On behalf of the Secretary of the Statistical Society of Australia (NSW Branch), Boris Choy

## **Summary of address given by William Dunsmir, SSAI President**

The purpose of the address from the President was to communicate the current situation with regard to the societies finances, both in regards to the Australian Statistical Conference 2008, and in general.

### **ASC 2008**

To date, Fox events has refused to pay monies owed to creditors arising from ASC2008 expenditure. One of these creditors is Sofitel, who are owed \$120,000. The SSAI have also heard from two other creditors who have not been paid.

Attempts have been made to serve a writ on Fox Events, however these attempts have failed so far. The SSAI Central Council will be asked to sanction fraud enquiries against Fox Events, in addition to the continuation of attempts to recover funds owing. To date, \$10,000 has been spent in legal fees.

The SSAI is in discussion with Sofitel with regards to repayment of monies owed. Sofitel are asking to have all monies repaid by Dec 31 2009.

### **Fundraising**

The SSAI have commenced discussions with “friendly organisations”, such as the Australian Mathematical Society to consider a loan arrangement. Such an arrangement may involve a loan of \$120,000 to be repaid over 8 years at an interest rate of 10% p.a. It is considered unlikely that any of the banks would consider such a loan.

Authorisations are being sought to send messages to ask members for donations to the society, and to present a variety of options moving forward. The SSAI have already received a donation of \$3,000 from the Australian Pharmaceutical Biostatistics Group.

Some other sources of funding include a workshop to be held in Melbourne, with proceeds going to SSAI. NSW Branch is also considering the provision of funds. Short courses have also been suggested.

### **General issues**

Even after taking into account the situation with regards to ASC2008, the SSAI is still struggling financially. The attrition rate is estimated to be 22 members per year, which leaves resources depleted for operations.

### **ASC2010**

The Australian Statistical Conference to be held in Fremantle next year will still be running. William assured those present that measures are being taken to avoid a recurrence of the issues arising from ASC2008.

Nick Fisher suggested that SSAI contact Tour Host to ask for advice in running future conferences.