

Minutes of the 6th ANZAMP AGM, Auckland

Meeting commenced 5:10pm on Tuesday, January 30, 2018.

1. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2017 AGM were approved by Jonathan Kress.
2. **Apologies:** Peter Bouwknecht, Omar Foda, Bernd Krauskopf, Sergei Kuzenko, Matt Majic, Jørgen Rasmussen, Katherine Seaton.
3. **Report of the Chair:** Tim Garoni briefly mentioned our membership figures, noting that we are still increasing and now have at least 20 confirmed New Zealand members. He noted the APCTP ballot to become financial members, noting that an overwhelming majority voted yes, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (April 7) and the nomination of Omar as our representative (July 19). He also noted that Jan de Gier was nominated to the C18 commission of IUPAP, that we gave the inaugural WIMSIG conference \$1,000 (though there were very few math physics attendees), and that we finally have a logo (permission granted by Sam Derbyshire). The audience questioned the choice of font, etc...

On the ERA front, Tim reported that the current AustMS president is strongly supportive of our misgivings with recent evaluations. The letter drafted by Tim looks set to be sent to the ARC in some form. There was an indication that the statistics community also supports our misgivings. Rod Gover asked about ERA (being from NZ) and Tim summarised the dreary and objectionable process.

Tim reported that AustMS is going to revamp its website very soon and that we would be able to piggy-back on their hard work, getting our own website essentially for free. Jan asked for a timeline. Tim said he didn't have one, but that AustMS has approached people to start construction.

Finally, Tim noted that AustMS is looking to invest some of its substantial reserves and asked whether we should think about doing the same, perhaps in the same fund. Paul Norbury didn't think this was a good idea, but Rod disagreed. Vladimir Bazhanov asked how much; Tim replied around 50%. Paul N suggested investing in physics-related startups or something of benefit to our community. Vladimir B questioned why we should invest instead of just spending it. Tony Guttmann countered by noting that investment was just prudent financial management and that we should lobby AustMS to choose ethical investments. It was agreed that our strong preference for ethical investments should be put to AustMS at the next council meeting.

4. **Report of the Treasurer:** Jon Links displayed the 2016 and 2017 finances of ANZAMP, noting that they are basically the same modulo \$1,020 in interest. Vladimir B asked about a long-term strategy, to which Jon replied that our reserves are essentially our safety net. He noted that our income each year is around \$6,000 which goes towards subsidizing the annual meeting (eg, free student registrations).
5. **New Executive:** Phil Isaac, as returning officer, announced the new ANZAMP Officers, noting the election for the position of Secretary. The results were: Jonathan Kress (Chair), Pedram Hekmati (Deputy Chair), Jon Links (Treasurer), David Ridout (Secretary). Tim thanked Phil for his work.
6. **Future meetings:** It was noted that we should try to decide meeting organisers, if not precise locations, two years in advance from now on. It was announced that the ANU (Vladimir Mangazeev, Murray Batchelor, Vladimir Bazhanov) would organise the 2019 meeting and that UQ (Phil Isaac, Jon Links) would organise the 2020 meeting. Iwan Jensen (Flinders) tentatively proposed hosting the 2021 meeting.
7. **APCTP:** Paul Pearce thanked everyone for supporting Australia becoming a financial member of APCTP. He noted that there were meetings in March and November, 2017, and that they had a new president. Paul was also re-elected to the board. MATRIX has paid three years of membership fees which were returned, while ANZAMP has so far paid one year of fees and they have likewise been returned. However, Paul pointed out that the application timelines for funding have changed so that we will have to apply around 17 months in advance from now on. This time, Paul has negotiated an extension for the 2019 meeting (ANU) until the end of May.

He then proposed that ANZAMP agree to become Australia's Member Entity, this being the institute that represents the entire country and nominates a representative on the council. NZ is also invited to supply one

member institute at \$2,500 USD per year for 3 years, in which case they will incorporate Australia and NZ into a Member Region with a single shared representative on council.

Paul then raised the issue of Omar's lack of attendance at the November APCTP meeting and his plans not to attend next March's meeting. The APCTP guidelines state that council members shall be warned one year in advance of the approximate time of the meeting and one month in advance of the exact date. Omar has apparently written to them to say that they must give him four months notice of the exact date. Paul therefore raised the possibility of replacing Omar.

Tim asked for clarification on the duties of being a Member Entity. Paul said we just send APCTP a letter confirming that we agree to undertake this role. Vladimir M asked if this would affect our financial arrangement with APCTP. Paul replied no. The membership voted yes, almost unanimously, to ANZAMP becoming a Member Entity of APCTP.

Tim noted that Omar was not present, but that he had sent Tim emails of which some excerpts were displayed. They indicated that he had arranged to attend the March meeting by skype and that he intends to eventually attend in person. Paul replied that members were not allowed to attend using skype and that the next meeting was March 8, so we need to decide what to do immediately.

Paul N suggested sending a proxy for Omar. Paul P replied that he acted as proxy last time and was not happy about it. Vladimir B opined that he was uncomfortable expelling Omar when he wasn't present to defend himself. Tim pointed out that Omar's email clearly suggests that he believes skype attendance is acceptable.

Paul P then noted that Omar was informed of the rule changes regarding funding application deadlines in the middle of last year, but did not pass these changes on to the Exec and, therefore, was not performing his duties satisfactorily. Tim put replacing Omar to a vote. It was not carried by a large margin.

Murray volunteered to act as proxy for the upcoming March 8 meeting as he will be in China then and has served as representative in the past. Jonathan K asked whether there were specific terms for APCTP representatives. Paul said no. Tony proposed accepting Murray's offer and asking Omar for an official statement of his intentions. Tim replied that Omar's latest email indicated that he wanted to continue in the role. We agreed to revisit the matter with Omar after he has had time to digest the feedback from this AGM.

8. **Other business:** Jon L noted that we need to do another audit of our finances, asking Jan if ACEMS would agree to perform the audit as in the past. Jan assented.

Vladimir B asked the membership for their thoughts on two proposals for the 2019 ANZAMP meeting location. One was Lake Crackenback near Jindabyne, the other was Coolongatta. The first is beautiful, but limited to a single hotel (Novotel) and no other nearby eating options. The second has a nearby airport, but is on UQ's list of potential locations for 2020. Jan suggested the ANU campus itself. This was not received with enthusiasm.

There was no other business.

Meeting closed at 5:55pm.

Members In Attendance

Remy Adderton, Murray Batchelor, Vladimir Bazhanov, Nicholas Beaton, Joshua Capel, Nathan Clisby, Jan De Gier, Holger Dullin, Jörg Frauendiener, Tim Garoni, Rod Gover, Jens Grimm, Tony Guttmann, Pedram Hekmati, Robert Henry, Phillip Isaac, Iwan Jensen, Kazuya Kawasetsu, Jonathan Kress, Zimin Li, Jon Links, Vladimir Mangazeev, Ian Marquette, Paul Norbury, Paul Pearce, Thomas Quella, Christopher Raymond, David Ridout, Yibing Shen, Steve Siu, William Stewart.