

# OPERATIONS RESEARCH SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT DIKHOLOLO ON 16 SEPTEMBER 1999

### Present:

H C de Kock	K Duffy	D Evans	LP Fatti	P du T Fourie
G Geldenhuys	W R Gevers	J Greben	J W Hearne	M F P Harmse
H W Ittmann	K J Koch	M F Kruger	J le Roux	A McTaggart
I Olivier	P Potgieter	J C Schuurin	TJ Stewart	J Swart
M Turpin	FE van Dyk	J van Vuuren	JS Wolvaardt	

### Apologies:

JM Hattingh            L Scott            H Tarr

### 1. WELCOME:

J Hearne welcomed everyone present

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 26 NOVEMBER 1998

The minutes were approved.

Proposer: P du T Fourie            Seconder: K J Koch

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

11.3 Zimbabwe members – Theo didn't have time to look into the matter

### 4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

John Hearne reported as follows:

- The Web meetings this year were much more successful. Due to the Web meetings no money was spent on meetings (travel and/or video conferencing).
- A new easier Web address was created for ORSSA: <http://www.orssa.org.za/>
- Suggestions are invited for a venue for next year's conference – the Business School of the University of Stellenbosch has been suggested; possible date – early June 2000.
- The Newsletter is on track with the next issue due in November. Thanks to Kathryn Koch and Heather Tarr.
- IFORS asked job advertisements to be posted to our Website.
- EURO is interested in an Africa outreach which includes a conference in South Africa in 2001. ICORD (International Conference for OR in Developing Countries) is interested in having their next conference in South Africa in 2000. The Exec is looking into the matter. It would be preferable to combine the two conferences; possible date – early 2001.

### 5. FINANCIAL REPORT

- 5.1 There was a slight operating surplus due to last year's conference. The financial statements have not been audited. A summary was available from Petrus.
- 5.2 There is one central database kept with the Treasurer. Non-paying members will be weeded out to cut costs.

## **6. EDITORS' REPORT**

### **6.1 Newsletter**

- 6.1.1 Already covered in the President's report

### **6.2 ORiON**

- 6.2.1 The special edition on Decision Support Systems (1998 issue) will soon be published.
- 6.2.2 The 1999 issue will be published at the end of the year or very early in next year
- 6.2.3 There has been a reasonable flow of acceptable papers. Hopefully there will be two issues per year again in 2000.
- 6.2.4 Hans Ittmann reports that Graham Rand, VP of IFORS suggested incorporating OriON into ITOR (4 issues per year). Theo Stewart warns that there are many pros and cons. ORSSA has considered combining the OR journal with various others in the past, e.g. Systems Thinking, Industrial Engineering, Computer Science, etc. but the other sides never felt they needed us. Paul Fatti says that although we don't want to be swallowed up, it might be worthwhile considering. It is decided that the Exec will look into the matter.

## **7. CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **7.1 JOHANNESBURG**

The chapter has been dormant for 18 months. It is financially sound.

### **7.2 NATAL**

The chapter has been dormant for 12 months.

### **7.3 PRETORIA**

The chapter has organised this year's conference. A morning seminar is planned for 3 November.

### **7.4 VAAL TRIANGLE**

The chapter has been dormant for 12 months. Anne-Marie Pothas has been elected as the new chairperson.

### **7.5 WESTERN CAPE**

Jan van Vuuren organised a seminar series consisting of 11 seminars, one of which is held approximately every 3 weeks.

## **8. SACNASP**

Kobus Wolvaardt reported as follows:

- The South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) is the statutory body responsible for the registration of persons in the natural scientific professions and for guaranteeing the quality of their work.
- JCSS is the umbrella organisation for natural scientific societies which promotes their mutual interest. The JCSS has been dormant and currently only exists in name.

- The new SACNASP president is Prof. Robin Crewe from the University of Pretoria.
- The SACNASP membership has remained at 3000, but the employers have changed from mainly government, universities and science councils to mainly private sector. Smaller firms and individual consultants are quite prominent.
- The ORSSA president is requested to attend the annual meeting of the presidents of the natural scientific societies.

## 9. EURO REPORT

Theo Stewart attended the council meeting held in Beijing during IFORS 99. Very few members were present. The 2001 EURO scheduled for the Netherlands will be in Rotterdam and not Amsterdam as previously announced. The new vice-president is Zilla Sinuany-Stern from Israel. A new president-elect was also elected – name not remembered.

## 10. IFORS REPORT

John Hearne attended the Exec meeting held in Beijing during IFORS 99. He raised the issue of the high registration fees for IFORS conferences, which was supported by a delegate from the USA. The meeting acknowledged the problem and said they would do what they can to keep fees as low as possible but did not envisage any way to reduce fees.

## 11. ICORD / EURO CONFERENCE

Hans Ittmann attended the meeting on OR for Development, held in Beijing during IFORS 99. He reported as follows:

- The third newsletter for OR in Developing Countries contains an article by the ORSSA vice-president, Philip Fourie.
- ICORD's next conference was to be held in Mexico in Sept 2000, but Mexico considers itself to be developed and is not interested in hosting the conference. Hans suggested that the conference could be held in South Africa but that the Exec will have to discuss it first. This was generally accepted.
- IFORS is trying to make contact with ex-OR students in Africa. They have lost contact with the only other OR society in Africa, namely Egypt. Perhaps OR practitioners in the rest of Africa could become members of ORSSA.
- Training: a book with case studies is being compiled by Jonathan Rosenhead

Theo Stewart reported as follows on the EURO outreach into Africa:

- EURO is interested in holding a conference in South Africa in 2001, since ORSSA is the only functional OR society in Africa.
- EURO has money to sponsor some delegates to attend the conference. However, the budget is approved 12 months in advance. A proposal is therefore needed in December for the next budget approval in January 2000.
- The French OR Society will probably sponsor some delegates from francophone countries in addition to the EURO sponsorship.

It is suggested that a combined ICORD/EURO conference be held. Hans and Theo should draft a proposal including a budget in the next two weeks. The Exec needs to discuss the matter, including suitable dates for the combined international conference as well as the ORSSA conference.

## 12. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 1999/2000

- The vice-president, P du T Fourie, automatically becomes the new president for the next 2 years and the current president, JW Hearne, becomes past-president for the next year.
- In addition, the following members were elected:

Secretary:	FE van Dyk
Treasurer:	PH Potgieter
Newsletter editor:	K Koch assisted by H Tarr
ORiON editor:	P Fatti
Additional members:	J van Vuuren
	M Harmse
	HW Ittmann

### **13. GENERAL**

- 13.1 Dave Evans proposes a vote of thanks to the outgoing president and wishes the new president the best of luck.