

Section on OR/MS Applied to Public Sector Operations Research

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – Name

1. This organization shall be named the Section on OR/MS Applied to Public Sector Operations Research (PSOR).
2. This organization is a community-type subdivision of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS).

ARTICLE 2 – Objectives

1. The primary goal shall be to further the objectives of INFORMS by fostering, promoting, and disseminating research and application among professionals interested in theory, methodologies, and applications of Operations Research and Management Science that pertain to:
 - public-sector policies, programs, processes, and resource management;
 - private-sector public service, where “public service” is understood to imply an emphasis on traditionally under-served populations; and
 - public needs, particularly under crisis or disaster-recovery conditions when normal means to serve such needs are overtaxed and inadequate (and where emergency interventions are typically called “humanitarian”).
2. Activities in pursuit of these objectives shall include:
 - encouraging the development and application of Operations Research and Management Science in the areas of application listed above;
 - providing forums for the free exchange of ideas and information on such applications, including sessions, seminars, workshops, and tutorials at INFORMS meetings;
 - promoting dissemination of the results of such applications, including publication of member research in INFORMS journals and presentation at INFORMS and other professional meetings;
 - outreach to and joint professional work with non-members sharing common interests, including kindred communities of INFORMS and kindred organizations outside INFORMS.

ARTICLE 3 – Membership and Dues

1. Any person interested may become a member of this Section by applying to the INFORMS Business Office and paying the required member dues.
2. Lower dues can be set for student or retired members of INFORMS.

3. All members shall have equal rights and privileges except that only INFORMS members can hold office.

ARTICLE 4 – Officers and Board

1. The Board shall consist of the following officers: President, President-Elect, Senior Vice President of Programs, Junior Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Communications, Secretary/ Treasurer, and Past President.
2. All officers shall serve one-year terms. The term of office shall begin on January 1.
3. The President shall (a) be the chief administrative officer; (b) call, organize and preside at Board and membership meetings; (c) appoint ad hoc committees as required; (d) appoint chairs and members of committees; and (e) manage affairs between meetings. The President shall succeed to the office of Past President upon completion of his or her term of office as President.
4. The President-Elect shall assist the President and substitute for the President as needed, including presiding at meetings. The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of President upon completion of the latter's term of office or if a vacancy occurs in the latter office.
5. The Senior Vice President of Programs shall (a) be responsible for coordinating sessions at INFORMS meetings, (b) be responsible for establishing procedures to accept papers for sessions, and (c) serve as planner and coordinator for program activities, including those not scheduled at INFORMS meetings.
6. The Junior Vice President of Programs shall assist the Senior Vice President of Programs. The Junior Vice President of Programs shall succeed to the office of Senior Vice President of Programs upon completion of the latter's term of office or if a vacancy occurs in the latter office.
7. The Vice President of Communications shall be responsible for maintaining the web site, the newsletter, and any other external or internal communications outlets.
8. The Secretary-Treasurer shall (a) support the President in the preparation of meeting agendas and subdivision budgets, (b) take minutes, (c) keep financial and other records, (d) receive membership applications, (e) maintain contact with the INFORMS, and (g) perform other duties usual to the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, including disbursing, receiving, managing and overseeing funds, in accordance with the rules and procedures of INFORMS.
9. The Past President shall be the member who served as President immediately preceding the current incumbent.

ARTICLE 5 – Elections

1. The President-Elect, Junior Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Communications, and Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected each year by the membership through a procedure, involving paper and/or electronic ballot, determined by the President and structured to provide for democratic selection in accordance with the INFORMS election process.
2. The Nominating Committee will be comprised of the officers. The President will chair the committee.
3. An announcement will be placed by the Secretary/Treasurer to all members of the Section calling for office nominations.
4. Nominations for any office can be made by petition signed by at least three Section members or by the Nominating Committee. Such petitions must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the start of the election. At least one candidate shall be nominated for each of the offices.
5. Officers shall be elected by ballot, using approval voting. Each year, the ballot shall be distributed, collected, and tabulated by a disinterested person before the INFORMS Annual Meeting.
6. The election results will be announced at the annual Business Meeting. A plurality will suffice to elect a candidate, and ties will be broken by a random process. The new officers will take office on the first day of January after the conclusion of the annual Business Meeting.
7. No member may be elected to any single office for more than two consecutive terms or hold any single office for more than three consecutive terms, including time spent filling vacated terms. No member may be elected to the Board for more than four consecutive terms or serve on the Board for more than five consecutive terms.
8. Vacancies in the offices of Junior Vice President for Programs, Vice President for Communications, or Secretary/Treasurer will be filled by appointment by the officers.

ARTICLE 6 - Committees

1. Standing committees shall be those defined in these bylaws. Chairs and members of standing committees shall be appointed and shall serve terms as prescribed in these bylaws.
2. The President may establish ad hoc committees and appoint chairs and members of these committees. The terms of chairs and members of ad hoc committees shall cease upon completion of the term of the President who appointed them.

ARTICLE 7 - Responsibility to INFORMS

1. The Constitution, Bylaws, and Board actions of INFORMS shall govern and be binding on this subdivision.
2. Each year, after the INFORMS annual meeting, an activity report will be prepared by the Secretary/Treasurer and submitted to INFORMS.
3. Additional reports shall be submitted to INFORMS upon request.
4. In the event of dissolution of this subdivision, its assets shall become the property of INFORMS.
5. This subdivision shall officially exist on the later of the following two dates: January 1, 2009, or the date that these bylaws and the changes they represent have been approved by the membership of the Section for Public Programs and Processes, in accordance with their bylaw provisions for approval of amendments, and approved by the INFORMS Board and its officers and committees with responsibility for subdivisions.

ARTICLE 8 - Amendments to and Interpretation of the Bylaws

1. A proposed amendment to these bylaws may be initiated by either (a) action of the Board or (b) a petition to the President signed by 5% of the membership or 15 members, whichever is smaller.
2. The Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute copies of the proposed change to all members by electronic mail or written form prior to the annual Business Meeting. An open discussion of the proposed amendment to the bylaws shall be carried out at the next membership meeting.
3. After the discussion of the proposed amendment, the Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute to all members copies of the proposed amendment along with any necessary forms for voting by electronic mail, web-based procedure, or written form.
4. The vote shall be collected by the end of the year.

The Amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the voting members.

5. The result of the balloting shall be announced to the membership by the Secretary/Treasurer, who will also transmit the results to INFORMS for their approval. Following approval by the Section, the Amendment must be sent to the INFORMS Vice President of Sections and Societies who will present the Amendment to the Subdivisions Council. The Amendment becomes effective when approved by the Subdivisions Council.
8. The Secretary/Treasurer will serve as parliamentarian at all meetings and be responsible for resolving all questions of interpretation of the bylaws. At the option of the Board, Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all Board and membership meetings except in those cases where they are inconsistent with this Constitution.

ARTICLE 9 - Meetings

1. The annual Business Meeting of the membership shall be held when practical at the time and place of the annual meeting of INFORMS, with the schedule and site to be arranged by the Secretary/Treasurer. The place and time of this meeting shall be announced at the beginning of the INFORMS meeting, or earlier if possible. The quorum for action shall be 5% of the membership or 15 members, whichever is smaller.
2. The Board shall meet at least once a year and shall normally meet in conjunction with the annual Business Meeting of the membership. The President will call Board meetings. The quorum for action shall be three Board members.