

MINUTES of 2001 BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of the Optimization Section (OS) Business Meeting during the INFORMS Conference in Miami, Florida, November 6, 2001.

1. The meeting was called to order by Bob Vanderbei, OS Chair at 5:55 pm.
Present at the meeting were Bob Vanderbei, Rob Freund, Kees Roos, David M. Gay, Matt Saltzman, Stephen Billups, Karen Lewis, Gyana R. Rapija, Siegfried Schaible, David Morton, Anton Kleywegt, Shabbir Ahmed, Kamal Jain, Jon Lee, Sanjay Mehrotra, Bill Cook, Mohit Tawarmalani, Cole Smith, Dushyant Sharma, John Birge, Tamas Terlaky, Francois Gliueur, and Sharon Filipowski.
2. OS Chair-elect Rob Freund awarded Kamal Jain with the 2001 Optimization Prize for Young Researchers for his paper, "A Factor 2 Approximation Algorithm for the Generalized Steiner Tree Problem." Kamal was given a plaque along with \$1000. Rob chaired the prize committee while Jonathan Eckstein, Mike Todd, David Williamson, and Steve Wright were members.
3. OS officer report (Bob Vanderbei):
 - A. Bob thanked the following OS officers whose terms expire after the elections have been completed on November 16: Jon Lee (Vice-chair for Integer Programming), Stephen Billups (Vice-chair for Linear Programming and Complementarity), Richard Barr (Vice-chair for Network Flow Programming), and Sharon Filipowski (Secretary/Treasurer).
 - B. Effective after the meeting, Rob Freund will serve as OS Chair during the next year. Furthermore, the following Vice-chairs will serve the final year of their two-year term: Hanif Sherali (Vice-chair for Global Optimization), Renato Monteiro (Vice-chair for Nonlinear Programming), and David Morton (Vice-Chair for Stochastic Optimization).
 - C. The following people have been placed on the ballot to fill the vacant OS officer positions: Renato Monteiro (Vice-chair), Eva Lee (Vice-chair for Integer Programming), Tamas Terlaky (Vice-chair for Linear Programming and Complementarity), Jim Orlin (Vice-chair for Network Flow Programming), and Stephen Billups (Secretary/Treasurer). Ballots have been distributed and are due November 16, 2001.
4. Secretary / Treasurer report (Sharon Filipowski):
 - . Sharon noted that the report is given for the year 2000 because many of the OS membership dues are not received until the end of the year so that an accurate state of the year 2001 budget cannot be given until the end of the year. However, Sharon noted that the membership and expenses have been similar over the past few years so that roughly the same report is expected for 2001.
 - A. The OS received \$3,108.00 in revenue from membership dues and \$335.91 from interest.
 - B. Expenses in 2000 totaled \$2,439.64 from \$1000 for the Optimization Prize for Young Researchers, \$99.30 for the Optimization Prize plaque, \$215.25 for advertising the Optimization Prize in SIAM News, and \$150.03 for refreshments at the spring meeting and \$975.06 for refreshments at the fall meeting.
 - C. Overall, the OS bank balance has increased by \$1,004.27 in 2000 to \$7,454.19.
5. Rob Freund proposed using the excess \$1000 revenue each year to support the following conferences: IPCO (\$500 for each conference held twice every three years), MPS (\$1000 for each conference held once every three years), and SIAM Optimization (\$1000 for each conference held once every three years). Following are the main comments that resulted from the discussion:

Concerning supporting conferences:

1. David Morton noted that there is a stochastic programming meeting once every three years.
2. Bob Vanderbei asked if the purpose was just charity. Rob replied that the goal is to have the INFORMS name visible at other meetings as a way to advertise the INFORMS commitment to optimization.
3. Jon Lee mentioned that he would prefer methods that were more directly aimed at getting people to attend the INFORMS conference.
4. A number of ideas were given as to how the money could be used if it were given to support a conference including having the INFORMS name printed on a conference bag and sponsoring a social event. It was determined that the \$1000 would not be enough money to sponsor a social event. John Birge mentioned that if it was decided that OS funds should be used to support a conference, he thought something different should be done such as supporting a High School Math Olympiad as was done during the MPS meeting held in Ann Arbor.
5. John Birge noted that he believed both IPCO and the Stochastic Programming meeting were endorsed by the MPS so that MPS funds could be used to support the meetings if needed.
 - A. Concerning using the money in a different way:
 1. Bob Vanderbei mentioned that we might want to do something else with the additional OS funds such as organize our own conference. David Gay and Matt Saltzman said that they thought there already were a sufficient number of conferences. Also, Matt noted that when the OS was started, the intention was not to organize a new conference.
 2. Stephen Billups mentioned that perhaps the money could be used to help people travel to the conference. Cole Smith added that he thought the focus should be on students.
 - B. Actions
 1. Rob Freund and Bob Vanderbei noted that there seemed to be enough issues that a vote should not be taken in the meeting.
 2. A committee will be formed to determine how to spend the excess revenue each year. Rob Freund will chair the committee.
 3. A "straw vote" was taken with most if not all people present thinking that both sponsoring conferences and helping with student travel were good ideas.
6. Report on the new term length for the OS Chair (Bob Vanderbei)
 - . Extending the term length of the Chair from one year to two years was voted on by the OS membership with an e-mail ballot and was approved on October 3. The new term length will be effective when the new Chair begins his or her term next year.
7. There was a discussion concerning the Optimization Prize for Young Researchers. Following are the main comments concerning this discussion:
 - . Rob Freund suggested that the prize winner be asked to give a fifteen minute presentation about his or her work at the OS Business Meeting.
 - A. Jon Lee suggested that the three finalists be invited to give presentations of their work in one of the sessions in the meeting. Rob replied that this idea might not make sense given that some of the papers of the finalists might have been published while some might not yet have been submitted for publication. This possible difference is a

result of the fact that the prize can be given to anyone who has been awarded his or her terminal degree within five years of the closing date of the nomination. Also, Matt Saltzman noted that such a session is likely to conflict with other sessions.

- B. Bob proposed that the prize winner be invited to give a fifteen minute presentation about his or her work during the OS Business Meeting. John Birge seconded the motion. The motion was approved, and the 2002 prize winner will be invited to give a presentation on his or her work during the OS Business Meeting.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Submitted by Sharon Filipowski, OS Secretary / Treasurer.