

INFORMS 2017

MCDM Section Business Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2017, 6:15 pm

A business meeting of the INFORMS Section on MCDM took place in Houston during the INFORMS 2017 Annual Conference. The meeting was conducted by President Margaret Wiecek.

The meeting started with a brief introduction of the MCDM Section. Section membership counts since 2013 were presented. President Wiecek drew attention to a 23% decline in membership numbers. The audience was advised to invite individuals to become members. It was noted that becoming a section member is possible without INFORMS membership. Kalyan Deb asked about the process of becoming a Section member without being an INFORMS member. It was noted that the procedure should be clarified and announced to make it easier for potential newcomers. It was also suggested that the student membership could be free.

Despite the drop in the membership, the visibility of the Section, which is reflected in the number of sessions in the MCDM cluster, has been very strong in the recent INFORMS meetings.

The finances of the Section were presented and the net positive position of the Section was noted. President Wiecek clarified the meaning and origin of a positive amount in a “registration” line she had not been able to explain during the business meeting in 2016. This amount had come as revenue from the MCDM Section’s participation in a workshop at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Nashville.

President Wiecek introduced the MCDM award. The background of the initiation process of the award was summarized. The decision to apply for an INFORMS level award was made at the 2015 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia and the decision to start the application process and write a proposal for the award was made at the 2016 Annual Meeting in Nashville. The proposal was sent to the INFORMS Professional Recognition Committee who did not approve the proposal for an award at the INFORMS level indicating that an award at the subdivision level was suitable. The proposal for an award at the subdivision level was approved by the INFORMS VP for Sections/Societies. The name of the award is “MCDM Junior Researcher Best Paper Award.” The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding papers in the field of MCDM written by a junior researcher or a team of junior researchers. The papers competing for the award will be evaluated based on the following three criteria: (i) novelty in theoretical, methodological, or applied research in the area of MCDM; (ii) relevance to real-life applications; (iii) potential impact of the obtained results on society. The award will be presented for the first time at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Phoenix.

A short discussion about the award followed. Members of the audience asked questions on the definition of a junior researcher, and whether a publication or a PhD degree are required to be nominated for the award.

President Wiecek introduced the three newly elected officers whose term will start in 2018. She then gave a schedule of events for 2018. These included a call for nominations for the MCDM Award by February 1, 2018, the MCDM cluster organization for Phoenix, election of

two board members, and increasing the membership. The audience was invited to suggest additional action items.

Murat Köksalan suggested to apply for a 2018 INFORMS level tutorial session in MCDM. He also pointed out that, on top of many other benefits, tutorials might be beneficial for increasing the membership.

In the last part of the meeting the issues on collaborative environment of interest to INFORMS were discussed. All patterns of collaboration proposed by INFORMS were found meaningful and beneficial. The discussion moved towards the potential role of INFORMS as a society to facilitate such collaborations. The President stated that she finds collaboration most promising when the people from different disciplines, who can communicate with each other and like working with each other, meet and work together. She suggested that we should make efforts to have joint sessions in the annual meetings to induce such collaboration. Gilberto Montibeller emphasized that it is strategic to create joint sessions as they increase the visibility of the MCDM Section.

The meeting was adjourned with wishes for a productive conference in Phoenix in 2018.