

**INFORMS 2018**  
**MCDM Section Business Meeting Minutes November 4, 2018, 6:15 pm**

A business meeting of the INFORMS Section on MCDM took place in Phoenix during the INFORMS 2018 Annual Conference. The meeting was scheduled on the evening of the first day of the conference and was conducted by President Serpil Sayin.

The meeting started with a brief introduction of the MCDM Section. The first item in the agenda was the newly established 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. President Sayin provided an overview of the process that led to the conception of the Award. The nomination process and requirements were summarized. The Judging Committee, which consists of the Section executive board members, were introduced. President Sayin then invited Margaret Wiecek, who chaired the Judging Committee, to introduce the finalists and announce the winner. Margaret Wiecek introduced the finalists, Valentina Ferretti, Milosz Kadzinski and Gokhan Kirlik and presented them with their certificates. She then explained that the papers competing for the award were 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. She noted that all papers were very strong and the Judging Committee deliberated for an hour after the Awards session to reach a conclusion. She announced that the paper by Gokhan Kirlik was selected as the winner of the Inaugural 2018 MCDM Junior Researcher Best Paper Award. She explained that the paper was selected based on its very strong theoretical and methodological contribution to the field of MCDM and a promise of potential impact on society.

President Sayin continued with a presentation of Section membership counts since 2013. She expressed her concerns regarding the decreasing membership counts. She stated that she remains hopeful for the year ahead with the lower membership fees activated for students. The audience was advised to invite individuals to become Section members. She noted that becoming a section member is possible without INFORMS membership. She also hypothesized that issues in the database and communication settings are possible and invited the audience members to contact her in case they encounter any problems in receiving messages via the Section's discussion forum.

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. Phoenix meeting was no exception with the highest number of talks (65) scheduled in 16 sessions and a tutorial by Section member Gilberto Montibeller.

President Sayin next presented the finances of the Section and noted the net positive position of the Section. She emphasized an increase in the administrative fees charged by INFORMS and stated that she had requested a clarification on the reason for this change but has not received a response yet.

President Sayin next reported the results of the election that ran in August 2018. The Section elected two new board members to start in 2019. President Sayin introduced the nominating committee and announced the two newly elected officers, Evangelos Triantaphyllou and Gulsah Karakaya, who were both in the audience.

President Sayin also gave a schedule of relevant conferences to take place in 2019. Among those were two INFORMS events, the ALIO joint conference and the Healthcare conference, for which volunteers to serve as cluster chairs were invited. She highlighted MCDM 2019, the 25th International Conference of the MCDM Society to take place in June in İstanbul and invited everyone to attend. The President's presentation ended with a list of action items for the Section to undertake in 2019.

Murat Koksalan suggested to apply for a 2019 INFORMS level tutorial in MCDM. He pointed out that, on top of many other benefits, tutorials might be beneficial for increasing the membership. Whether section-level tutorials should be organized under the MCDM cluster was discussed and found to be an alternative worthy of exploration.

The meeting was adjourned with wishes for a productive conference.