

## **INFORMS 2016**

### **MCDM Section Business Meeting Minutes**

**November 13, 2016 6:15 pm**

A business meeting of the INFORMS Section on MCDM took place in Nashville during the INFORMS 2016 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 20% decline in membership numbers. A member in the audience noted that the number of student members is on the rise, which is a healthy sign. It was agreed that all MCDM section members should actively invite interested researchers to join the Section. It was noted that INFORMS membership is not a prerequisite for Section membership.

The visibility of the MCDM Section at the INFORMS annual meetings since 2011 was discussed next. In particular, the 2016 Annual Meeting in Nashville had 16 sessions with 58 presenters, thus emerging as the second most successful meeting after the one in Phoenix in 2012 (18 sessions with 63 talks). President Wiecek also announced the date and time of an invited tutorial session on robust multiobjective optimization, to be delivered by herself. The audience was reminded that soon it will be time to plan for the 2017 INFORMS meeting in Houston and all Section members should help to organize sessions to maintain the high numbers of talks and sessions.

The finances of the Section were presented and the net positive position of the Section was noted. In the 2016 financial statement, a positive amount in a “registration” line was observed for the first time. President Wiecek mentioned that she received the financial statement a short time before the meeting and it was not clear to her what this line corresponded to. There were a few attempts at guessing where the funds might have come from; however, there was no conclusion.

President Wiecek presented a list of the current Section officers, introduced the two newly elected executive board members, Esma Gel and Adiel Teixeira de Almeida, and noted that a new election will be held in 2017 to replace the board members whose terms are expiring.

President Wiecek summarized prior discussions on an INFORMS level MCDM best paper award for a young researcher, which took place during the business meeting at the 2015 INFORMS Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. She described the application process and specified what the contents of the proposal should be. She called for volunteers to work on the proposal and asked to be contacted by email in order to proceed with this initiative. She mentioned that data on MCDM papers, applications and their impact are needed for a successful proposal. There was some discussion regarding the nature of an INFORMS level award and a Section level award. It was agreed that it should be understood how other Societies and Sections have organized their awards, and if possible, they should be contacted regarding their experiences during the proposal application stage.

President Wiecek announced the conferences forthcoming in 2017-2019 that are related to MCDM.

She summarized the action items to be taken by the Section in 2017 including the organization of the MCDM cluster for Houston, elections, proposal preparation, and work towards increasing the membership. The audience was invited to suggest additional action items. The need to improve communications with other INFORMS sections such as the Decision Analysis Society, the Optimization Society, and the Health Applications Society was put forward and approved by the audience.

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