

INFORMS 2019 – MCDM Business Meeting

Sunday 20th October 2019, 6.30pm-7.15pm

Seattle, WA

The Multiple Criteria Decision-Making (MCDM) Section of INFORMS held a business meeting on October, 20th during the INFORMS 2019 Conference in Seattle. The meeting was scheduled for the first day of the INFORMS Conference. It was Chaired by President Prof Serpil Sayin (Koç University).

President Sayin gave a detailed update of the MCDM Section's activities. Following a brief introduction, Prof Sayin discussed the membership of the Section. There has been a slight decline trend on the overall number of registered members, which is difficult to explain. On a positive note, the number of new members has been growing steadily over the last few years. It is not necessary to be a member of INFORMS in order to join the MCDM Section. The MDM membership fee is 10USD for non-INFORMS members and 7 USD for INFORMS members. The majority of MCDM members come from the US followed by other countries such as Turkey, Brazil and the UK.

The programme of the MCDM Section ran for two complete days (Sunday/Monday, Day 1 and Day 2 of the INORMS Conference) with partial sessions after that. The programme included 10 sessions of 40 presentations (including two joint sessions).

President Sayin discussed the finances of the Section. She noted a new expense item i.e. awards (including postage and supplies) as well as some administrative expenses (e.g. communications) that are charged by INFORMS.

President Sayin presented the current officers of the Section and noted that her term was coming to an end. There would be change of office with Prof Roman Slowinski taking over as President (2020-2021). The MCDM Section elections took place in August 2019. Prof Adiel de Almeida Filho, Prof Banu Lokman and Prof Theo Stewart, acted as members of the Nominating Committee and nominated candidates for different positions. President Sayin was pleased to announce the new Vice-President Salvatore Greco (2020-2021) University of Catania/ University of Portsmouth, the new Secretary/Treasurer Nadia Papamichail (2020-2021) The University of Manchester, and the new Board members Cristiano Cavalcante (2020-2022) Universidade Federal de Pernambuco and Firdevs Ulus (2020-2022) Bilkent University, who were all newly elected officers. One of the tasks of the MCDM Section would be to organise elections for the appointment of two new Board Members for 2021.

The next item of the agenda was to present the winner and the finalists of the MCDM Junior Researcher best Paper Award, an initiative that started in 2018 to recognise outstanding MCDM papers written by junior researchers. President Sayin discussed the eligibility criteria for the candidates and listed the Judges of the committee (Adiel Teixeira de Almeida, Esma Gel, Gulsah Karakaya, Banu Lokman, Theo Stewart, and Evangelos Triantaphyllou). The three finalists Brian Dandurand (Argonne National Laboratory), Milosz Kadzinski (Poznan University of Technology) and Taewoo Lee (University of Houston) had presented their papers earlier that day. President Sayin presented the winner Milosz Kadzinski with the 2019 MCDM Junior Researcher Best Paper Award.

Following INFORMS 2019, several Conferences and events would take place such as MOPGP 2019 in Marrakesh, 28-31 October 2019, the EURO Summer School on MCDA/MCDM in Ankara, 6-17 July

2020, IFORS 2020 in Seoul, June 21-25, 2020 and the INFORMS Annual Conference, National Harbor, Maryland, 8-11 November, 2020.

Action items for 2020 were then announced. The new cycle for the MCDM Junior Researcher Best Paper Award would start in 2020. The new President would announce the MCDM Cluster for INFORMS 2020 in National Harbor. The new Vice-President would contact the MCDM Section for the election of two Board members.

At the end of the meeting, the MCDM Section discussed how to increase the visibility of the Section. The members discussed key performance indicators to assess performance about visibility. Delivering tutorials was suggested as a good measure. Two types of tutorials were discussed: INFORMS tutorials and MCDM Section tutorials (the MCDM Section would have the responsibility of running this). There is an action to all MCDM Section members to propose tutorials for next year.

Another idea was to organise sponsored sessions with other Sections such as Decision Analysis and Optimization. President Sayin suggested that it would be useful to establish which other Sections MCDM members had joined. Contributing to INFORMS journals could also be beneficial. President Sayin commented that it would be great if we had our own areas in INFORMS journals. Setting up our own journal however, may not be financially feasible.

Overall, the finances of the MCDM Section were stable. Membership should be growing though. One suggestion was to invite those attending the EURO summer school to join the MCDM Section. Organising tutorials and awards was suggested as a good way of promoting the MCDM Section.

The meeting came to an end with the MCDM Section congratulating Roman Slowinski on the award of his prestigious INFORMS Fellowship.

Minutes compiled by Nadia Papamichail