

*MSOM Business Meeting Minutes, INFORMS Fall Conference
May 5, 1997 (San Diego)*

The meeting was called to order by Joe Mazzola (President), who welcomed the large crowd in attendance. Karen Donohue (Secretary/Treasurer) gave a brief Treasurer's Report, highlighting summary numbers for 1996. Expenses for 1996, including the cost of mailings, newsletter publication, receptions, and awards, were \$4249 while revenues from dues and interest were \$7,342. These numbers were in line with previous years and resulted in an ending balance for 1996 of \$29,411. Membership between 1995 and 1996 grew from 595 to 632, with additional growth expected in 1997. It was also announced that the *MSOM* Conference held in 1996 yielded a surplus revenue of \$3500. These funds were added to the general treasury and will be reflected in the 1997 report.

Joe Mazzola thanked the organizers of the *MSOM* sessions at the current conference for putting together a stimulating program. Organizers included Reza Ahmiadi, Teck Ho, Uday Karmarkar, Rakesh Sarin, and Chris Tang. Joe next called on individual organizers to update the group on the status of upcoming meetings.

1. Multi-Echelon Conference, June 12th (NYU): Sridhar Seshadri stated that the conference is free and an exciting set of presentations have been planned. Those planning to attend should contact NYU to reserve a seat. Note: although this conference is not a formal part of *MSOM*, the conference topic is of interest to many members.
2. [INFORMS Fall 1997 \(Dallas\)](#): Valerie Tardif announced that a set of interesting sessions have already been organized for the Fall conference. [A listing of these sessions](#) is available on the [MSOM web page](#). Contributors are encouraged to check their session listing and report any typos to Valerie. Email: vtardif@mail.utexas.edu
3. *INFORMS* Spring 1998 (Montreal): Joe Mazzola reported that John Buzacott is putting together sessions for the Spring conference. Any interested parties should contact John directly. Email: j.buzacott@auckland.ac.nz (through June) or jbuzacot@bus.yorku.ca (after June).
4. *MSOM* Bi-Annual Conference Summer 1998 (Seattle): Ted Klastorin (tedk@u.washington.edu) announced that the date of the *MSOM* Conference coincides with the *INFORMS* International Conference in Israel. He proposed four possible options to address this conflict: (1) keep the *MSOM* Conference date as scheduled, (2) organize the conference as a meeting within a meeting at the Fall *INFORMS* conference, (3) move the conference to an East Coast location on a different date, or (4) postpone the conference until 1999. An informal poll was taken on each option which suggested a tie between options 1 and 2. A member of the audience pointed out that option 2 may conflict with the Doctoral Colloquium which normally takes place the weekend before the *INFORMS* Fall meeting. Ted thanked the group for their feedback and stated that a final decision would be made in the next few weeks. UPDATE: After much consultation, the program committee decided to proceed with option 1, keeping the conference date and location as originally scheduled.
5. *INFORMS* Fall 1998 (Seattle): Yehuda Bassok stated that he will be organizing sessions for the Fall 1998 Conference. Those interested in chairing a session should contact him directly.
6. *INFORMS* Spring 1999 (Cincinnati): Joe Mazzola stated that the section is still looking for a session coordinator for the Spring 99 conference.
 - o UPDATE (7/16/97): Tim Smunt of Wake Forest University has graciously agreed to serve as the session coordinator for the Cincinnati conference. Email: tim_smunt@mail.mba.wfu.edu

Joe Mazzola turned the discussion next to Communications Issues. Joe praised Frank Ciarallo's work as editor of the newsletter, stating that Frank is doing a great job despite constrained resources. Joe then introduced Raj Veeramani who updated the group on the [MSOM Research Database](#). Raj outlined how to enter a paper into the database by providing links rather than a physical copy of the paper. Instructions on how to use the database are included under the heading *MSOM Research Database* found on the [MSOM section website](#). The floor was then turned over to Dilip Chhajed, chairman of the Electronic Communications Initiative Committee, who summarized the committees status. The committees initial focus has been to improve the content of information available on the [MSOM section website](#). The committee is working to enhance information in the following areas: About *MSOM* (including a purpose statement as well as officer information), Member Information (providing newsgroup information and brief bios with links to email and homepages), Meeting Information (in addition to general information, session outlines, submission deadlines, and contacts, the committee hopes to eventually provide an environment where submissions can be inputted online), Publications, Research and Newsletter (further enhancing the working paper database with links to other publication sites), Pedagogy (including a database of teaching materials), and Announcements (including job postings, new software releases, etc.). Dilip thanked the other members of the committee for their work so far, including Tava Lennon Olsen, Tim Lowe, Mark Spearman, and David Woodruff. He also encouraged anyone with website suggestions to contact him (chhajed@staff.uiuc.edu) or other members of the committee.

Turning to other matters, Joe Mazzola introduced Larry Robinson, chair of the [MSOM Student Paper Competition](#) . Larry urged members to have their students submit their best papers to the competition. The deadline for submission is August 15.

Michael Magazine, speaking on behalf of Leroy Schwarz (editor of the M&SOM Journal) next gave a brief report on the status of the new journal. The journal has received 45 submissions to date with an impressive average turnaround time of 26 days. No papers have completed the final review process as yet, although several papers are at the revision stage. The editorial staff is interested in increasing the submission rate and encourages everyone to support the journal by submitting their best papers. Submission information can be found on the [journal's website](#).

Joe Mazzola returned to the floor to introduce Mark Spearman, the chairman of the *MSOM* Distinguished Service Award Committee. Mark presented the 1997 award to Candace Yano for her dedicated service in the sections formative years, including her work in organizing the first *MSOM* Conference. Candi graciously thanked the audience and others who helped during those early years, especially Uday Karmarkar. She stated that it has been a joy to contribute to the section.

Moving to final business, Joe Mazzola announced the new officers who will be taking over leadership, effective immediately. Officers include Mark Spearman (President), John McClain (Executive VP and President Elect), Harry Groenevelt (Secretary/Treasurer), and Karla Bourland (VP for Meetings and Communications). Acting as the new President, Mark Spearman stated that he will work to move the organization from section to society status. A brief discussion ensued concerning the perceived benefits of this change. Mark then closed the meeting by thanking Joe Mazzola for his dedicated work as President over the past year. The meeting ended with a round of applause for Joe.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Donohue
MSOM Secretary/Treasurer