

# *MSOM Business Meeting Minutes, INFORMS Fall Conference*

*November 8, 1999 (Philadelphia)*

The meeting was called to order at 6:25PM by President Nicholas Hall. Nicholas began by reviewing a list of the current *MSOM* officers, and pointing out that Mike Magazine is currently serving as the society's *INFORMS* Liaison. The minutes of the Cincinnati meeting were next approved. Nicholas then introduced Thomas Gulledge, *INFORMS* VP of Meetings, who reviewed the schedule of *INFORMS* meetings for the next two years.

## **New *INFORMS* Meeting Schedule, Beginning Fall 2000**

It is important to note that beginning in the Fall of 2000, *INFORMS* will switch to a new meeting schedule, hosting one regular meeting in the Fall and a focused Practice meeting in the Spring. The Spring 2001 meeting will take place in San Diego and its theme will be "Optimizing the Extended Enterprise". The conference will likely have one track of presenters in the morning followed by three or four parallel tracks in the afternoon. Roughly 65-70% of the presenters are expected to be from industry. Thomas noted that this design may be problematic for individuals whose institutions require that they present a paper in order to go to a conference. If this is a problem for *MSOM* members, Thomas pointed out that it could be addressed by having the annual *MSOM* conference in the same location, consecutively, as the Practice meeting.

## **Announcements**

Nicholas next went through a series of announcements, beginning with an overview of sessions for upcoming conferences. He called on Russell Meller ([rmeller@vt.edu](mailto:rmeller@vt.edu)) who is organizing sessions for the Spring 2000 meeting in Salt Lake City, and Izak Duenyas ([duenyas@umich.edu](mailto:duenyas@umich.edu)), who is one of the organizers for the *MSOM* 2000 conference in Ann Arbor, who both gave brief updates. Nicholas noted that Steve Gilbert ([steve.gilbert@bus.utexas.edu](mailto:steve.gilbert@bus.utexas.edu)) is organizing sessions for the Fall 2000 conference in San Antonio. Anyone interested in organizing a session for this conference should contact Steve immediately. Those interested in giving a tutorial should contact Georgia-Ann Klutke ([klutke@acs.tamu.edu](mailto:klutke@acs.tamu.edu)). Nicholas also reminded members about the call for nominations for *MSOM* Fellows. In accordance with the rules of the Fellow Program, all nominations must be submitted by at least two current *MSOM* members, one of whom may be the nominee. The nomination should include a cv of the nominee and must be received by a Fellows Committee member by December 31, 1999. The 1999-2000 *MSOM* Fellows Committee includes Brenda Dietrich ([dietric@us.ibm.com](mailto:dietric@us.ibm.com)), Nicholas Hall ([halln@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:halln@seas.upenn.edu)), John McClain ([jom1@cornell.edu](mailto:jom1@cornell.edu)), Larry Seiford ([lseiford@nsf.gov](mailto:lseiford@nsf.gov)), and Mark Spearman ([mspearman@cba.ua.edu](mailto:mspearman@cba.ua.edu)).

The floor was next turned over to Andy Boyd who discussed plans to form a new *INFORMS* section focused on Revenue Management. The statement of purpose of the section reads as follows: "First developed in the airline industry under the name of *Yield Management*, the practice of *Revenue Management* has changed not only its name but its sphere of application. Exceptional success in the airline industry has led to the development of commercial revenue management systems for such diverse application domains as cargo transportation, hotel rentals, auto rentals, broadcast advertising, cruise lines, energy, and golf. Active research is ongoing in telecommunications, ticket sales, equipment leasing, internet sales, restaurants, and many other areas. While the applications are diverse, many of the underlying models and algorithms are similar. Yet, there is sufficient variety so that researchers in one area can learn from those in another. The purpose of the *INFORMS* Revenue Management Section is to bring together practitioners and academic researchers from diverse disciplines so as to foster the development of this growing discipline." For more information, contact Andy Boyd ([aboyd@prosweb.com](mailto:aboyd@prosweb.com)). John McClain then reported that members are needed to serve on various committees for 2000-2001, including the Nominating Committee for *MSOM* Fellows and the Nominating Committee for officers. If you are interested in serving, please have a colleague nominate you.

## Treasurer's Report

Karen Donohue summarized the treasurer's report that Valerie Tardif (the secretary/treasurer) had emailed to all members a few days prior to the meeting. In a few words, we ended the year 1998 with a balance of \$28,157. We estimate ending the year 1999 with a balance of approximately \$23,000. For a number of years, we have been carrying a balance over \$30,000. The executive committee feels that maintaining a reasonable balance (say, \$10,000 - \$15,000) is enough to deal with future uncertainties. Therefore, the reduction in our ending balance should not be considered a problem. However, we have enacted measures to ensure that annual revenues and costs keep our finances within this range. For example, the newsletter has become completely electronic. In addition, a motion to allow electronic voting in the future would help greatly reduce our postage and mailing expenses. Finally, three items are of note. (1) \$1000 was given to Frank Ciarallo to support the development of the Millennium page. (2) \$5000 is in the process of being transferred to the *MSOM* journal, as was decided by a vote in Cincinnati. (3) \$2570 was spent for receptions in Cincinnati. Similar expenses are expected for the receptions during this conference.

## Update Reports

Anand Iyer reported on the winners of the *MSOM* student paper competition. First prize was awarded to L. Beril Toktay of MIT for her paper titled "Analysis of a Production Inventory System with Stationary Demand and Forecast Updates". Beril's work was performed under the supervision of Prof. Lawrence Wein. The second prize was jointly awarded to Prashant Fuloria of Stanford University and Itir Karaesmen of Columbia University for their papers titled "Incentive Efficiency in a Healthcare Delivery System" and "Overbooking with Substitutable Inventories" respectively. Prashant's advisor at Stanford is Prof. Stefanos Zenios while Itir's advisor is Prof. Garrett Van Ryzin. The referees also recommended that the following papers be awarded an honorable mention: "The Logistics Impact of a Mixture of Order Streams in a Manufacturer-Retailer System" by Apurva Jain of Purdue University (Advisor Prof. Ananth V. Iyer) and "Adaptive Inventory Control for Non-Stationary Demand and Partial Information" by James Treharne of Auburn University (Advisor Prof. Charles Sox). Anand and the rest of the *MSOM* membership congratulated the winners and thanked the panel of judges consisting of Prof. Ron Askin (U. of Arizona), Prof. Frank Ciarallo (U. of Arizona), Dr. Vibhu Kalyan (i2 Technologies), Prof. Janny Leung (City University of Hong Kong), Prof. Sarah Patterson (Duke University) and Prof. Sridhar Tayur (Carnegie Mellon University).

Editor Lee Schwartz reported on the status on the M&SOM journal. Submissions have increased substantially since the first issue appeared in April. The journal currently has 15 accepted papers in backlog for next year and 43 papers in review. The turnaround time on reviews continues to be low, with an average of 69 days. Lee encouraged members to continue submitting their best work to the journal and subscribe to the journal when they turn in their INFORMS membership renewal in the next few weeks. To paraphrase Lee, the journal is flying now but needs your help to soar.

Frank Ciarallo reported on the Millennium project, which is an internet time capsule of the history of *MSOM* and predictions of its future. Frank encouraged members to make a contribution by sending him anecdotes, essays (e.g., thought pieces on important milestones or challenges for the future), pictures, etc. Contributions should be sent to Frank ([frank@sie.arizona.edu](mailto:frank@sie.arizona.edu)) in pdf, html, or MSWord format or visit the page at <http://www.sie.arizona.edu/MSOM/Millennium> to make a suggestion, submit your contribution, or see what others are thinking. This is your opportunity to place your personal stamp on what future scholars and practitioners will think of when they look back at the year 2000. Nicholas Hall further encouraged members to contribute opinion pieces.

## Change of Bylaws

A motion was raised by Nicholas to change the *MSOM* bylaws to permit electronic voting. The initial motion was to replace the paragraph:

"Voting: Officers shall be elected by mail ballot, using approval voting. Each year, the ballot shall be distributed no later than February 28, collected by April 15, and tabulated by a disinterested person by April 30." (1)

with the following text:

"Voting: voting at *MSOM* officer elections, and on motions put before the membership, shall be by electronic ballot. Members who cannot, *or prefer not to*, vote electronically and who notify the current *MSOM Secretary* accordingly, shall receive a written ballot form. For the election of *MSOM* officers each year, the ballot shall be sent electronically no later than February 28, closed by March 29, and tabulated by a disinterested person by April 30. Approval voting shall be used in every case." (2)

A lengthy and lively discussion followed. The conclusion was a second motion to

- a. Delete the word "mail" from the first sentence of paragraph (1) and keep the rest of the wording the same for now.
- b. Table possible changes to the second sentence of paragraph (1) until the next meeting.

After another brief discussion, the motion was seconded and approved by a majority vote.

### **Future Meetings**

Mike Magazine and John McClain reviewed the results of an email survey on members' scheduling preferences for future *MSOM* conferences. Members showed a slight preference for locating the conference at alternating U.S. campuses during the summer. In response, a motion was raised to schedule a June 2001 *MSOM* Conference at Santa Clara University. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. John emphasized that a process needs to be put in place to advertise these meetings and to relay meeting dates to the INFORMS office. Mike next opened a discussion on the current paper requirement for *MSOM* conferences. After some discussions of the pros and cons, it was decided to keep this requirement for the time being. Mike also reported that Kal Singhal had contacted us about having a joint meeting with POMS. More details need to be worked out before moving forward with this idea. The discussion ended with a motion that the *MSOM* conference will be targeted for late June on an ongoing basis. This motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

In the last item of business, Ron Askin discussed how the society might build closer ties to industry through the Practice Section. A brief survey of the audience revealed that 50% of the attendees currently engage in industry related activities while 25% showed an interest in the activities of the Practice Section. We can expect more on this topic in future meetings.

After thanking all for attending, Nicholas Hall adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Donohue and Valerie Tardif.