

NZIP AGM
24 October 2013

Chair: Peter Derrick
In attendance: David Housden, Bill Williams, Mike Reid, Geoff Barnes, Geoff Wilmott,
Marcus Wilson, Richard Easter, Cather Simpson, Igor Filippov, Ben Ruck,
Kerry Parker (late)
Apologies: Stuart Bradley, David Wiltshire, Terry Scott
Minutes: Cather Simpson

The meeting was opened at about 4.10 pm

1. Peter Derrick opened the meeting, and started the discussion of the agenda
2. Marcus – the financial report. The conference was under-attended, expecting a loss of \$4000 – 5000 or so. He is happy to continue as Treasurer.
- 3 & 4. David Housden – Education sector report; there are two documents. This fiscal year was pretty much a break-even. The bank account summary = very healthy; just under \$115,000

Peter: Did the education part contribute to the conference? David: no, but we said we might do that informally, and cover sponsorship of Sokoloff. This was agreed, and Marcus will recover the costs (approximately \$4000).

Ongoing development of website – year of consolidation and redoing of all resources. Spent a lot of \$\$ to re-do all of their resources to ensure they are aligned with the new standards (since April 2013).

Ben Ruck: Moves to accept the financial report from Marcus. Bill Williams second.

Marcus: Moves to accept the financial report from David. Geoff Wilmott seconds.

5. Peter: Need to come up with a better way to deal with transitions from one governance group to the next, and one university to the next. It was agreed to break the traditional cycle of university hosting the society, and the conference. It was also agreed that the officers could be at different institutions (not all at the same one).

Marcus is content to be Treasurer again. Perhaps Denis Burchill (Auckland) could be the secretary. Peter is prepared to continue as President for two more years, however the constitution does not allow that. Options were discussed thoroughly.

(Igor leaves)

Marcus: nominates Cather Simpson as the next President; Peter: seconds the nomination.

Kerry: nominates Peter Derrick as Vice-President; Marcus: seconds the nomination.

Vote on both together: none against

Cather's first job is to obtain an official version of the constitution, and revise it. The suggested changes will then be sent it around to the council for consultation and input.

Geoff W: nominates Marcus Wilson to be next Treasurer; Cather seconds the nomination
Vote: none against

Ben: nominates Bill Williams to be next Secretary; Marcus seconds the nomination
Vote: none against

Cather will contact Denis Burchill to see if he is interested in becoming Secretary in future. Ben will find the helpful "NZIP manual" he wrote to make transitions easier. He will send it to Cather and Peter.

7. Conference re-visit: The goal was to get more interaction between those teaching at schools and those teaching at universities. Did this at the 2013 conference by having themes with critical masses of topics, and avoiding competition between streams. The space on the Saturday for networking was very positively received. The attempt to have a conference for the institute as a whole seems to have been successful, anecdotally. There was not so much separation between the two (teaching, research) sectors.

It seemed to go very well, but we should get the survey results.

It's hard to get enough people there, especially constraints around the dates. There were not so many Ph.D. students there. It was too expensive for them. It was suggested that the NZIP could spend money on encouraging students to attend the meeting and network with peers by reducing the fees and not having the conference in such expensive places. The NZIP could afford to lose ~\$10K per conference, with support from the education group and revenues from other sources.

Where should the next conference be? Hamilton and Rotarua – no cheap flights. Other suggestions were made in and around Auckland, but no decision was taken.

8. Website management and content. The current website is clunky and designed for members of the NZIP to find information, rather than for students and the public. In contrast, the IOP website has much more outwardly facing material. It would be very expensive and time consuming to redo the NZIP website in that way, however.

Suggestions included:

- Put links to the IOP website on our website;
- Link with outreach and promotion of science people at the universities outreach;
- Spend \$20K or so promoting science, physics etc. by developing a new website;

Geoff W.: Make the NZIP website the front piece, to link together stuff that universities do in outreach. Like the NZ-inc thing – more of a coordination of existing content. This was considered very sensible.

9. International Year of Light – 2015:

This should be a central consideration for the conference in 2015, including inviting a high profile speaker to NZ. We should get on that now, as the top speakers in this space will be in high demand.

Given the role of the NZIP and RSNZ in establishing the International Year of Light, we should ensure that this is known and that we have lots of activities.

The meeting was called to a close at about 5:15 pm