

**MINUTES of the New Zealand Institute of Physics
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Thursday 26th July 2018**

- Chair:** David Wiltshire
- Present:** Jenni Adams, Denis Burchill, Chris Gordon, David Housden, Sue Napier, Roger Reeves, Daniel Schumayer, Marcus Wilson
- Apologies:** Richard Easter, Nathan Mehrtens
- Minutes:** Chris Gordon

The meeting opened at 4:00 pm

President's Report:

- A summary of the report was given by David Wiltshire.
- See the *General Business* section for discussion of the report.

Moved from the Treasurer, report accepted

CARRIED

Financial Report:

- Professional component of the society is in loss while the education component is in profit.
- Currently expenses are split 50/50 between the educational and professional components.
- It may be better to restructure the costs so both components are in profit.
- Should aim to run conference at \$5000 to \$10000 profit.
- Last year the conference lost about \$5000.
- Many teachers do not realize that the fact that their school is a NZIPES member does not mean that they are automatically a NZIP professional member.
- A welcome one-off receipt in 2018 came from the receipt of copyright fees generated from NZIPES activities associated with published NCEA materials.
- Current cost of *Conferences & Events Ltd* was discussed with some expressing surprise at the amount charged.
- David Housden's grant may eventually feed some funds into NZIPES but is specifically targeted to delivering its contractual obligations in professional development for teachers, and is not a source of general revenue.
- The possibility of the GST for David Housden's grant being recoverable was discussed.

Moved by the President, report accepted

CARRIED

Election of Officers:

- Marcus Wilson nominated by David Wiltshire and seconded by Roger Reeves.
- There were no other nominations and other current council members were duly re-elected. Officers are currently: David Wiltshire – President; Natalie Plank – Vice-President; David Hutchinson – Immediate Past President; Chris Gordon – Secretary; Roger Reeves – Treasurer; David Housden – NZIPES Chair; Denis Burchill – Auckland representative; Marcus Wilson – Waikato representative.

2019 conference Update:

- David Wiltshire will try to get free facilities at the University of Canterbury.
- Gary Williams will seek IoP (Bristol) funding to help with his expenses.
- There may be an outreach orientated speaker from *Perimeter* which could come with their own expenses although we may need to pay for their accommodation.
- David Wiltshire is still waiting for a formal acceptance by Gabriela Gonzalez.
- A budget of about \$8500 to \$9000 will be budgeted for invited speakers.
- David Housden may be able to use some of his own funding for invited speakers.
- Website for the conference should be up in about a month's time.
- We will need two theatres that can hold about 125 people each and 2 or 3 class rooms that can hold about 40 people each.
- *Conferences & Events Ltd* will be asked to help get information about the conference to teachers.
- Possible discounts for members were discussed. It was pointed out that professional members at schools already can get \$50 off their \$60 membership fee by applying for physics prizes for their students.
- *Fulbright New Zealand* may be able to assist with costs of any USA invited speakers. Fulbright NZ will not fund someone's visit solely for the NZIP conference. However, if for example Dr Gonzalez could come for 2-3 weeks (around the conference schedule) so that she can give other talks, perhaps also at other universities, then Fulbright NZ funding is possible. They basically cover airfare + honorarium (basically daily allowance for the visitor). The accommodation could be covered locally as they need to see that bringing the scholar in is a mutual effort.
- At the last conference there were between 10 and 15 industry sponsors.
- *Mentis* are enthusiastic about being sponsors this year.
- David Housden's grant may be able to pay for some costs associated with the Professional Development Workshop at the end of the conference.
- Chris Gordon and David Wiltshire will work on a timeline for the conference.
- We will aim to get professional and teaching members attending each other's sessions.

General Business:

- *The Association of Asia–Pacific Physical Societies (AAPPS)* has hiked their subscription from US\$200 to US\$500 this year. On discussion, it was thought it is still worthwhile to maintain our membership.
- *The Association of Asia–Pacific Physical Societies* would like an article for their newsletter related to New Zealand Physics. Roger Reeves suggested one about the new Science building at the University of Canterbury, which David Wiltshire agreed to write.
- Problems with the overhead on postdocs in the funding model used in Marsden grants were raised by David Wiltshire. Charging overheads as a multiplier of salary (rather than some other formula) adversely affects the amount of funding for postdocs relative to other countries. The appointment of a new Chief Science Advisor under a new Government offers the prospect that it may be timely to ask that this is reconsidered. The question of a different model for postdoc overheads in theory and experiment was discussed. It was noted that it is the university managements are the ones who need to be convinced, effectively by a decision at a higher level. David Wiltshire will draft a letter for discussion by the Council.
- David Wiltshire will investigate whether NZIP members can get a discount on the Australian physics society conference and vice versa.
- Roger Reeves and Julie Collins will file the 2017 financial report.

Meeting closed 5:20 pm.