

Minutes of the EADM General Assembly 2011 in Kingston

Tuesday August 23rd 2011

by Michel Handgraaf

Present: Ilana Ritov (chair), Nicolao Bonini (chair), Gaelle Villejoubert, Fergus Bolger, Cilia Witteman, Michael Schulte-Mecklenbeck, Barbara Summers, Michel Handgraaf and 35 members.

1. Opening

Ilana welcomes the members

2. Treasurer's reports :

The reports are presented, no comments from the audience.

Ilana urges members to increase the use of the option for workshop sponsorship by EADM.

Ilana urges people to be more conscientious with their membership payments.

3. The new board members

Ilana introduces the new board members:

- President : Ilana Ritov is succeeded by Nicolao Bonini
- President-Elect : Nicolao Bonini is succeeded by Cilia Witteman
- Member at large : Fergus Bolger is succeeded by Barbara Summers
- Newsletter editor: Villejoubert is succeeded by Michael Schulte-Mecklenbeck
- Secretary-Treasurer : Cilia Witteman is succeeded by Michel Handgraaf

Nicolao takes over as chair of the meeting

4. Committees:

The committees are proposed by the board:

2013 De Finetti committee:

- Pieter Koele (chair) (replaced by Mandeep Dhami, see below)
- Shoham Chosen-Hillel (this year's winner)
- Cilia Witteman
- Karl Teigen

2013 Beattie committee:

- Nicolao Bonini(chair)
- Danny Oppenheimer (this year's winner)
- Fergus Bolger
- Barbara Fassolo

The members agree.

During the conference Pieter Koele declines and Mandeep Dhami is asked to replace him as chair. She agrees.

5. Membership Payments

The question comes up whether any work has been made of the proposal to allow members to pay their membership fees as they register for the conference, in one payment, and for two years at once.

Gaelle has not implemented this because it would become too complex with two streams of money (SPUDM and EADM) getting mixed up.

It is decided to leave the two separate, but gear up checks on payment as many members have not paid this year yet, including even some who have registered for SPUDM as a member.

It is decided to create an option online to pay two years at once, to make it (even) easier for members.

There are some questions about follow up on the Beattie award for travel from US to SPUDM. Gaelle comments that some discussion via email has taken place, but no clear decisions have been made, except that there will be a 'reverse' Beattie travel award for travel from US to SPUDM. Right now we partly pay for the Beattie travel award to get someone from Europe to US. In the future we will have one the other way around as well. We decide that, rather than implementing the same format as SJDM, and merging the two awards, we will create our own, since then we can make our own rules, and we won't get into complex issues of bi-annual vs. annual conferences. It is proposed to call this travel award the Wagenaar Travel Award. It is decided that Gaelle and Michel will find the old emails about this topic and that we will communicate our plans to SJDM, and get their agreement to partly subsidize our Wagenaar award in writing. We will need a procedure and committee for this. Michel will coordinate with Nicolao.

6. Activities 2009-2011 (Newsletter, Workshops)

There have been two workshops in 2009 and two in 2010. No requests have been made this year. We need to remind the members of this option more often. Ilana will mention it at the general assembly, and Michael will repeat it in his news emails. Gaelle suggests financing plenary symposia at SPUDM, but it is decided that this is unnecessary, since these symposia are happening anyway, and don't need financial support. Michel suggests to prompt successful SPUDM symposium organizers to do a follow-up workshop with EADM support.

7. Financial reports 2009 and 2010

The financial reports are approved without change.

Fergus asks why the membership numbers are down, Michel thinks people have been forgetting/lazy. It does not seem that interest is actually declining. There will be more prompts via email (every few months) and a clear standard email for procedure with a direct link to PayPal payment for either one or two years at once. The PayPal system is working well and is easy to use. Michel will make a standard email with very clear instructions for payment, in collaboration with Michael. Once Gaelle has the final list of SPUDM participants, Michel will send out different types of emails to non-paying members, depending on whether they attended SPUDM or not.

Fergus asks if we break even for SPUDM this year, Gaelle answers yes, probably with a surplus of several thousands. Final budget will be known around October.

8. SPUDM 2013 (Barcelona) organizing committee

It is decided that aside from Elena Reutskaja, Barbara will be on it, Cilia will ask Valerie Reyna as the US member, and Ilana will ask Robin Hogarth. The final member will be the organizer of SPUDM 2015, (Richard Szanto, see point 6).

9. SPUDM 2015

Several options are discussed, among which Budapest, Haifa and the Netherlands (Wageningen or Nijmegen). Everyone likes Budapest, and Nicolao will get in touch with Richard Szanto (of Corvinus University, Budapest), to make arrangements, among which a letter of intent from the head of the department. Haifa and the Netherlands serve as backup options.

10. The 2013 De Finetti prize committee

Will consist of Cilia, Shoham (this year's winner), Cilia will ask Pieter and Karl Teigen. One more is needed.

11. The 2013 Jane Beattie Prize committee

Will consist of Nicolao, Danny Oppenheimer (this year's winner), Fergus, and Nicolao will ask Alan Sanfey or Barbara Fasolo.

12. New 'Wagenaar' award?

This will be a travel award, committee and procedure tbd.

13. New newsletter editor (Michael Schulte-Mecklenbeck)

Michael will be responsible for content, not web support (see point 11). It is discussed how to create more interaction via the website. It seems that the discussion features on the website are not being used. Barbara asks how people can know about interesting information on the website other than having to open the page. It is decided that more emails to the listserver will be sent with a summary of news and interesting links, including links to the JDM journal. Everyone agrees that it is no use to try to compete with the SJDM listserver, since everyone uses and likes it, but that we should increase use of our own website and listserver by emailing news more frequently. Michael will look after this.

14. Web-site support for newsletter editor

It is decided that the newsletter editor will receive help from a paid person who will look after the website and related matters, so the newsletter editor can focus on content. There is a short discussion about where such a person should be physically located, and it is decided that Michel will hire someone at Wageningen, since Michael is not entirely sure of where he will be in the near future, plus payment is much easier and cheaper within the Netherlands than Switzerland. This will take a while, since Michel will need some time to find an appropriate person. It is decided that we will reserve 1000 Euro per year for paying this person, plus extra if necessary. Michel will propose the exact setup in the near future.

15. Reviewing of submissions for future SPUDMs

Fergus raises the point of the effort involved in judging all abstracts, saying that it was very difficult to judge. Over 300 abstracts were submitted. The review process was anonymous which created some problems; rejections of 'big' names and acceptance of 'lower quality' talks. The scientific committee has had a lot of discussion about whether or not the process should be anonymous and should include comments to the abstracts or just grades. Gaelle mentions that although it is fair to do blind reviews, the names can be indicative of quality. Michel asks if this is a question for the EADM board or for the scientific committee. It is decided to propose to the scientific committee to involve more people in the reviewing process. All members of the committee could find several people who are willing to do a few reviews, using grades rather than comments, large numbers of reviewers will lead to good decisions, despite lack of comments. Ilana suggest that there should be close communication between the board and the SPUDM 2013 scientific committee.

16. Closing