

Sensometrics Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the 10th Sensometrics Meeting, July 25-28, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The official agenda is reproduced with the minutes from the meeting added in italics.

Day and time: 26. July 2010, 5:45pm

Place: Meeting Venue

Attendance:

Per Brockhoff, Chairman

Hal Macfie, Joachim Kunert, Mostafa Qannari, Rachid Boumaza, Michael Meyners, Anne Hasted, Pieter Punter, Sebastien Le, Thierry Worch, Willem Heiser, Eduard Derks, Wim Vaessen, Guillaume Blancher, Barbara Pfeffer, Christian Dehlholm, Guillaume Le Ray, Garnt Dijksterhuis, Elisabeth Kousissi, Chris Crocker, Van-Anh Phan, Thorsten Dresler, Ehrhard Koehn, John Castura, Chris Findlay, Pascal Schlich (Apologies for absence: Guillermo Hough, Tom Carr)

- 1) **The minutes of the previous meeting** held at the 8th Pangborn Sensory Science Symposium, Florence- Italy on July 28 can be read on our web page. A vote of approval of these minutes shall be called for.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without further correction

- 2) **Treasurer's report** (Tom Carr)

In the absence of Tom Carr Anne Hasted gave the Treasurers report. It was approved with the request that, in future, it should be presented entirely in Euros.

- 3) **Membership issues:**

- a) Did the discount for members to the Sensometrics Meeting inscription fees have an effect on membership?
- b) Proposals on attracting more members
- c) Possibility of creating different member categories

Michael Meyners (MM) introduced the proposal for a class of membership priced at 40 Euros per year that did not include a subscription to FQAP. This was approved subject to a check with Elsevier that this did not clash with the journal being the SENSOMETRICS Society journal. Hal Macfie (HM) to check with Elsevier. This prompted a further debate about the benefits of belonging to the Sensometrics Society to the new members that had joined as part of the conference registration process. Not many tangible suggestions were made. HM would write to Elsevier to see if a tangible discount on Elsevier books could be offered. (Springer offers a 20% reduction to the Psychometric Society).

- 4) **Web page and e-group issues:**
- a) Since our last meeting Sebastian Le has been in charge of organizing our website in collaboration with the webmaster. Sebastian and other committee members are invited to comment on how this procedure is working.
 - b) Increase of what is offered on the web page: codes for statistical analysis in R or other programs, tutorials, mini-review of papers, chairman's blog. This increase of what is offered on the web page has been discussed at other meetings and so far there have been few advances. A call for contributions is needed.
 - c) There is little awareness and use of the sensometrics e-group. As Kernon Gibes pointed out to Tom Carr: it is the primary e-communication route.

Sebastien Le (SL) and Ian Wakeling are now working on the web page. There was a need for a total revamp and to increase the content and dynamism of the product. It was claimed that the home page does not come up on Google (which could not be confirmed on August 2, though). SL felt a list of members and addresses was the most useful content. Pascal Schlich (PS) and others wondered how this would be kept up to date and suggested it should be outsourced. Anne Hasted (AH) suggested there was enough money in the accounts to pay for much of this. MM was reluctant and hoped someone might come forward to help. Garnt Dijksterhuis noted that ESN outsourced their web page management.

- 5) **Present 10th Sensometrics Meeting.** Pieter Punter will inform the meeting on its organization:
- a) Number of participants
 - b) Abstracts and presentations
 - c) Financial issues
 - d) Pre-meeting tutorials: a discussion on the outcome will be held as a help in organizing future tutorials. It is suggested that Hal MacFie lead this discussion due to his high level of involvement in the tutorial organization.
 - e) How did the Student Awards work out? Were there sufficient applicants?

PP noted that the lateness of registration had nearly caused cancellation. From the floor it was suggested that the cut off date for cheap registration had been far too early. 123 delegates was felt to be too low a number and PS suggested the conference scope should be broadened to attract a wider attendance. This idea was both supported and opposed with a possible majority in favour of keeping the maths/stats content pretty high. The closeness to the Eurosense conference was noted. Chris Findlay noted that the previous conference had used some electronic communication to enable a wider global audience to hear the talks.

For the future PS suggested that we also need to focus on how you acquire the data as well as the analysis phase. Others proposed more emphasis on non-food applications. Mostafa Qannari (MQ) objected to the parallel sessions and this was supported. PP felt it was now an inevitable aspect of the conference.

- 6) **Future venues for Sensometrics Meeting:**
- a) In light of the relatively low turnout for the present Rotterdam Meeting, there was a mention on the wisdom of continuing with the current 2-year frequency and type of meeting. This issue will be discussed.
 - b) 11th Sensometrics Meeting in 2012: Rennes, France. Sebastian Le and/or Jerome Pages will inform on any details concerning the organization.
 - c) 12th Sensometrics Meeting in 2014: it was confirmed that it will be held in Chicago.
 - d) 13th Sensometrics Meeting in 2016: Guillermo Hough contacts in Spain did not accept the possibility of holding it there. A venue shall be discussed.

The next meetings were confirmed to take place in Rennes, France, 2012 (SL) and in the US 2014 (probably Chicago, Tom Carr). Prior investigations with possible organizers from Spain did not work out, so society members were asked to propose possible future venues. MM suggested thinking about England.

- 7) **In the previous AGM in Florence,** Guillermo Hough informed that in August 2010 a regional Sensory Science Symposium would be held in Brazil with participants from Central and South America (SENSIBER). He suggested that the Society could help finance a Sensometric Workshop or Tutorial at this Symposium and there was general agreement that this would be possible. This proposal has prospered and our current Chairman Per Brockhoff will be travelling to Brazil on behalf of our Society; he will inform on his planned activities at SENSIBER and what our Society has contributed towards his trip.

The outgoing chairman (PB) reported that he had been invited to a workshop in Brazil and had accepted. This would require some expenditure from Society funds.

- 8) **Change of Rules:** Michael Meyners has been looking into the rules and has suggested some changes which have been circulated and discussed among Committee members. Pages 4-11 contain details of the proposed changes. Following is a summary:
- a) Art 2- Membership: re-wording to make meaning clearer.
 - b) Art 3- Officers and Committee: a list of officer's main duties has been included in the Appendix. These were written out based on what Officers do at present. A general statement regarding ordinary members duties has also been included.
 - c) Art 5- Officers and Committee, Election and Retirement: at present all Officers would have to be renewed every four years. The proposal is to have half the Officers renewed every two years to thus gain continuity. This entails a transition which has been contemplated in the new rules.
 - d) Art 6- Committee Business. It is been proposed that in case of parity of votes on an issue to be decided on by the Committee, the vote of the chairperson shall count twice.
 - e) Art 15- Now states that the membership list should not be used for commercial purposes.

This proposal to change the rules shall be discussed and a vote of approval called for.

MM proposed a number of rule changes as detailed in the appendix to the agenda – not included in full length here. These were all approved.

9) **Election of new officers:**

The proposal was for the following Committee members to be elected with their corresponding period of office: Chair (2 years), Vice-Chair (4 years), Treasurer (4 years), Secretary (2 years), 2 Ordinary Members (4 years)

The following were elected:

Chair (until 2012): Michael Meyners

Vice-Chair (until 2014): John Castura

Treasurer (until 2014): Anne Hasted

Secretary (until 2012): Per Brockhoff

Ordinary Members (until 2014): Jean-Francois Meullenet, Thierry Worch

Staying on the committee as ordinary members (until 2012): Sebastien L , Isabelle Lesschaeve

The incoming Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to retiring Chairman (PB), Secretary (Guillermo Hough), Treasurer (Tom Carr) and ordinary members Pascal Schlich and Pieter Punter. This was approved with sustained applause from the floor.

10) **Other projects.**

Workshops

The attendee evaluation forms for the recent workshops would be evaluated and circulated to the committee. This was felt to have been a useful exercise and many thanks to Anne Hasted for her work in organising and sorting out the facilities at short notice, and to the workshop lecturers for their hard work in preparing the notes and lectures. The possibility to hold some of these before the Pangborn meeting was mooted and SL does have the name of a person that might help with the local organisation of the workshop organiser for the next meeting in Bangkok.

The incoming Chairman requested that all members make a determined effort to join the Sensometric Yahoo groups list as this was the only accepted means of communication between the Committee and membership.

The chairman thanked the attendees for their suggestions and encouragement and then closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

Hal Macfie, Per Bruun Brockhoff, Michael Meyners