
MEETING MINUTES

Pacific Rim Real Estate Society (PRRES) Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 22 January 2014
Time: 11:10 a.m.
Held at: Lincoln University
Lincoln, New Zealand

Present: Hera Antoniades (President and Outgoing Treasurer), David Parker (Executive Director), Valerie Kupke (immediate past President), Peddy Pi-Ying Lai (President elect) , Michael Rehm (Secretary), Deborah Levy, Clive Warren, Connie Susilawati, Chyi Lin Lee, Sharon Yam, Chris Heywood and Yasmin Mohd Adnan.

Apologies: Ting Kien Hwa, Iona McCarthy, Bill Dimovski (Incoming Treasurer), Judith Callanan, Neville Hurst and Garrick Small.

The meeting was chaired by PRRES President Hera Antoniades.

Item 1 – Apologies

Apologies were received from Ting Kien Hwa, Iona McCarthy, Bill Dimovski, Judith Callanan, Neville Hurst and Garrick Small.

Item 2 – Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Sunday, 19 January 2014 meeting were deemed to be an accurate record of that meeting.

Moved: David Parker
Seconded: Clive Warren
Carried.

Item 8 – Future Conferences

8 (3) Future years (continued from previous BoD meeting)

Hera opened a discussion on future PRRES conferences by thanking new members to the board. Regarding the planned 25th year conference in Melbourne in 2019, Hera spoke to Bill Dimovski about hosting the conference who felt that his institution (Deakin) and Chris Heywood from University of Melbourne may be able to jointly host the special 25th anniversary conference. Chris confirmed to the board that he and Bill will work together on jointly hosting that conference.

Item 9 – General Business

9 (1) Initiatives for spending surplus and Strategic Plan – Treasurer (continued from previous BoD meeting)

The board first discussed the spending initiative of reducing the PRRES membership fee which currently sits at \$110. This amount has been fixed for roughly 10 years. In general the board felt that it would be appropriate to reduce the membership by half (\$55). Some members considered this reduction to be in line with the reduction of the journal printing costs when T & F take over as publisher. This fee reduction is also a way to essentially reduce the conference fee, which was another of the three initiatives for spending the society's accumulated surplus. It was felt by most members of the board that since most PRRES members pay for their membership as part of the overall conference fee reducing the membership fee will be akin to killing two birds with one stone. David pointed out that such a reduction in membership fee amounted to roughly \$5,000 per year.

The majority of the board members supported a halving of the membership fee. However, the decision was postponed pending the outcome of the T & F agreement advising PRRES on minimum memberships numbers and other conditions.

In terms of the initiative to organise competitive research grants, several board members shared feedback they received from non-board members as well as their own views. In summary there is a feeling that the grants should be organised into different tranches with one of these being funds available to early career researchers in an effort to support the society's younger members. Other suggestions included grants for seed funding and team applications rather than individuals applying for the competitive grants. Some board members were of the opinion that regardless of how well and egalitarian the grants were structured they would prove divisive with some PRRES members possibly undermining the process in order to try and secure funds for themselves.

In light of these issues a vote was taken to determine how many board members supported the initiative of competitive research grants. All members voted in favour with one member abstaining. Given this the board formed a subcommittee to consider workable solutions to allocating funds to research grants. The subcommittee is comprised of Valerie, Deborah and Chris.

After some further discussion Hera noted that this debate has been useful and will guide the board's decision on this matter of surplus spending. To facilitate the sharing of ideas and third-party feedback received by non-board members, Hera will try to launch an online discussion board via UTS's website.

Action: Hera to launch an online discussion board to facilitate discussions among board members regarding surplus spending initiatives.

9 (3) Taylor & Francis – Executive Director (continued from previous BoD meeting) and Editor's Report

David briefed the board on the discussions held at the PRPRJ Editorial Board meeting. It was suggested at that meeting that it would be prudent to form a subcommittee to consider strategies to improve the ranking of the journal from C to B. Several board members felt that the decision to form such a subcommittee should lie with the PRPRJ Editor. Some members voiced their view that if a committee is formed it should comprise members from the floor while other board members were of the opinion that a subcommittee should be limited to board of director members.

The board resolved the following:

- a) David as Editor should obtain the views of T&F.
- b) Form a subcommittee by obtaining expressions of interest from the current panel of referees.
- c) The subcommittee formed to be chaired by a member of the PRRES Board.
- d) The subcommittee will then provide a written report with recommendations to the PRRES Board.

Another issue arising at the PRPRJ Editorial Board meeting is the potential for changing the journal name. Again it was agreed that the first step be for David to seek the advice of T&F on this matter before seeking members' thoughts on potential alternative names.

9 (4) Conference restructure – Executive Director

David provided a brief explanation on the proposed conference changes he proposed during the preceding year. In short, David presented ExCo with a written outline of changes to the conference structure intended to improve its quality. These proposals were discussed in a number of ExCo teleconference meetings and there were a divergence of views held by the executive committee members.

During the discussions several additional improvements were suggested. Among these are the incorporation of 'discussants', which are an increasingly popular feature of academic conferences, and perhaps a revision of the guidelines for refereed papers to adopt best practices found in quality academic conferences.

The board resolved to create a subcommittee comprised of Deborah, David, Chris and Chyi Lin to revisit and expand upon the conference restructuring proposal put forward by David. This subcommittee will also research how other quality academic conferences are structured and apply this knowledge to their suggested changes to the PRRES conference.

9 (5) Strategic Plan initiatives - President

Hera informed the board that she has received some positive feedback from members during the conference regarding initiative 2(c) regarding the use of some surplus funds for sponsoring competitive research grants open to PRRES members.

Although not currently included in the Strategic Plan, Hera informed the board that it is her intention to initiate a women's mentoring programme followed soon after with a mentoring programme for male PRRES members. Hera will be providing board members with further information on this initiative.

Action: Hera to provide more detailed information on proposed mentoring programmes.

Item 10 – Any Other Business

ISI Indexing

Yasmin Mohd Adnan raised the point that the PRRES Conference's lack of ISI Indexing has influenced some Malaysian-based academics attendance. Yasmin suggested that PRRES consider strategies to gain ISI Indexing (or similar (e.g. Scopus)). Clive advised the board that he has had discussions with Thompsons on an annual conference service that they offer at a rate of \$35 per delegate. For an investment of approximately \$3,500 per year, this may be a potential way to spend some of the surplus funds.

Action: Clive Warren to solicit Thompsons for information on their services and pass on to the board for consideration.

Forecasted Budget

In light of the reduced journal printing costs by moving to T&F and the uncertainty of future sponsorship money, Hera informed the board that she will be producing a forecasted 2-year budget. Such a budget should assist the board on making its decisions regarding the reduction of membership fees.

Action: Hera to produce a 2-year forecasted budget and distribute to board members.

Christchurch Conference

Delegates complained to board members on the following matters:

1. The refereeing results were not made available to the authors, until AFTER the early bird date had expired.
2. The Wednesday program finished half a day earlier; with many booking a flight for the next day, and incurring a night of unnecessary accommodation expense.

The meeting closed at 12:10 p.m.