

Report of the Long-Term Planning Sub-Committee

The members of the Long-Term Planning Sub-Committee (Russell Smith, Paul Mazerolle, and Allan van Zyl) participated in an email exchange in February 2006, the week before the conference in Hobart. I circulated a set of questions concerning

- the future of the society's membership,
- the place of the society in public life and policy,
- the future of the journal,
- the future of the Society's administrative apparatus,
- the future intellectual vitality of the Society (e.g., to consider new awards),
- where conferences might be held in 2008 and 2009,
- and other areas.

Each member responded to the questions; there was general agreement in how we might proceed. I suggested the need for an analysis of the membership shifts and the financial statements over time. I noted the variable nature of conference revenue. I proposed that we think about ways of increasing revenue through membership, journal royalties, and the conference.

We continued our discussion in Hobart on 7 February 2006, where we met face-to-face. These areas were discussed:

- the role of the Secretary and the need to review the Office of Secretary (in terms of tasks and support);
- the need for a membership campaign to increase numbers, along with a consideration of different types of members (institutional or corporate) and models of institutional membership; and
- a consideration of methods of identifying corporate sponsors to underwrite, for example, a conference plenary speaker.

After discussing these ideas further with Sub-Committee members, I circulated a detailed memo to all the members of the Management Committee, in advance of a teleconference on 14 August. It drew on the conversations and comments among the Sub-Committee members in outlining a 3- to 5-year plan for increasing the size, revenues, stature and impact, and professionalisation of the Society. Several proposals in the memo were discussed during the teleconference; some were approved, and others required more information and deliberation.

The major items put forward included a change in the Society's rules to streamline membership and increase representation on the Committee of Management, a proposal for an administrative officer (one day per week) and a Society speaker, and a proposal to sponsor a workshop for students and early career researchers at the conference.

A major task for the future is to canvass options for increasing the size of the membership, and for increasing revenues from membership fees. Other sources of income generation, journal royalties and conference revenues, also require review and action.

Kathleen Daly (Chair)
Long-Term Planning Committee
21 August 2006