



Australasian Universities Risk & Insurance Management Society

C/- La Trobe University
 Bundoora Vic 3083 Australia
 Phone: 61 3 9479 3626
 Fax: 61 3 9479 1562
 Email: b.blight@latrobe.edu.au

Minutes of the AURIMS meeting held on 24 August 2000 at Melbourne University

Present: Denis Crowley (Melbourne) Rudy Starosta (RMIT)
 Barry Blight (La Trobe) Guenther Klahn (Deakin)
 John Freeman (Monash) John Wester (Swinburne)

Action

1. Matters arising from the Minutes

Nil

2. Conference 2000 Summary

It was agreed by members that the conference held at La Trobe University on May 24 & 25, 2000 was a very good inaugural conference, with a wide range of speakers and topics. The questionnaire handed out at the close of the conference showed that University employees speaking on seven topics were all more highly rated than the five non-university speakers. It was considered not only were their presentations more interesting but they also had first-hand experience with the problems facing universities and were therefore able to hone in on issues of relevance to delegates.

Twenty two full time delegates registered, plus one who paid to attend two sessions. A net profit of \$757.84 resulted and it was agreed this would be held by the time being by La Trobe University until it was appropriate to forward it to the host university for the 2001 conference.

3 TAFEs

A lot of time was spent identifying various TAFE organisations in all states in order to circulate information concerning the May 2000 conference as widely as possible. Included in the conference brochure sent to TAFEs was information concerning membership of AURIMS, but only one TAFE delegate (from Victoria) attended the conference (and no new memberships resulted).

In view of the poor outcome it was agreed that no additional work be done regarding TAFEs, but if any TAFE organisation approach AURIMS regarding membership, they would be welcomed as members.

4. **AURIMS listserv**

BB

A listserv enabled any member to email all other members easily, and was an ideal method for a member to raise a matter with the broad membership. It could also be used to distribute the agendas and minutes for meetings.

As there was considerable interest in members having the opportunity of using a listserv, Barry Blight said La Trobe would set one up for AURIMS members at no cost to the members. He agreed to send full details to all members at a later date.

5 **Health insurance for students from overseas**

The restriction on registered health funds writing health insurance for students from overseas has been removed and members were asked if they had reviewed the cost and scope of cover available (perhaps for their International Office). Some health funds had signified they were keen to become the preferred provider for universities, and therefore write all (or most) of the university's policies for overseas students – however, no members had become involved.

6. **Conference 2001**

Discussions have been held with University of Sydney and University of New South Wales concerning the conference venue for 2001, but to date nothing has been finalised. The members present were keen to progress the Australasian aspect of the society by having next year's conference in another state.

7. **Building Valuations**

As members voiced their experiences of valuations at their own universities, extensive discussion revolved around the organisations which were considered to be capable of providing competitive insurance valuations of buildings, infrastructure and land. La Trobe University had been advised that the Victorian Valuer-General preferred input from quantity surveyors, but most quantity surveyors did not have the ability to (or interest in?) valuing land – so either a compromise or sub-contracting may be necessary.

It appeared not all universities co-ordinated the financial valuations (based upon written down replacement cost) required for the Annual Report with the need for reinstatement values necessary to ensure adequate insurance cover.

La Trobe University had obtained valuations from three different organisations since December 1995. Disturbingly, there were significant differences between the three

valuers figures for some buildings (more than 100% in one case, and many around the 50% mark) and it therefore became necessary to determine which of the three valuations had most credibility for insurance purposes.

8. **AURIMS constitution**

Two suggested amendments to the draft constitution previously forwarded to members have been received. It was agreed to circulate the amended constitution with the intention of voting on it at the next meeting and that proxy voting forms be sent to members.

9. **AURIMS Executive**

The draft constitution incorporated an executive committee of three, comprising a President, Secretary & Treasurer. After the constitution was passed, nomination forms for the Executive Committee would be forwarded to members. These would allow for members to nominate themselves or be nominated by another member. Each nomination would have to be seconded.

10. **Back up and safe storage of computer data**

The insurance section of one university found that when they needed their backup computer tape it was blank and contained no data. Years of statistics were lost and many days of work were necessary to reconstruct the data. This incident highlights the importance of having an effective monitoring program in place to adequately check that backup tapes actually contain readable data.

11. **Contents valuation**

Although they index the contents valuation figures each year, most university insurance personnel were unable to state the basis for the figures they advise to insurers.

A few universities had had their contents valued for insurance purposes by professional valuers on a “walk through” basis. Monash had the contents at the main campus valued in one year and the remaining campuses valued the following year, to spread the cost over two financial years. The University of Melbourne had spread their cost over 6-7 years by having a portion valued each year.

12. **Disaster recovery plan for libraries**

Guenther Klahn mentioned that, following the fire at their Rusden campus library, they replenished their books from stocks at other campuses fairly quickly, and students did not appear to be unduly disadvantaged.

13. **Baggage claims and GST**

Where there was a GST component included in any claim, one travel insurer had

wanted to pay the insured (ie the university) 10/11ths of the claim lodged by the insured person (eg employee) and leave it to the University to first pay 100% of the claim to the insured person and then recover 1/11th (ie the 10% GST component) from the Australian Taxation Office. However, as the insurer had subsequently agreed to pay the full 100% of the claim to the insured person, the matter was not discussed in any detail.

Next Meeting

At Ballarat University on Thursday 9 November 2000 at 10am.

Signed as a true and correct record:

..... Chairman

..... Date: