

Response to review of CMSS by Peter Bardsley and Mark Gahegan

The CMSS are very grateful to the reviewers for their report and the work put in to produce it.

After substantial discussions, we have decided on the following way forward.

- Remain as a departmental centre in the Department of Mathematics for 2014. We judged it prudent to try to scale up our activities before applying for a change of status, especially because the Faculty of Science Dean and Associate Dean (Research) positions are currently unfilled.
- Implement the review recommendations on: composition of Advisory Board, strategic plan, security of basic funding.
- In 2014, systematically develop external relationships within New Zealand (government, industry, other universities). We gratefully accept the offers by the reviewers to assist in this.
- In 2014, systematically pursue external grant funding in NZ and overseas.
- In early 2015, evaluate progress. The desired outcome is that we grow the centre, but all options are still under consideration.

A more detailed plan for 2014:

- Run a workshop at UoA on methodology of social network analysis, aimed at increasing our connections within the university and improving our chances of research collaboration in funding-rich areas such as population health. This will be organized by Patrick Girard and Mark Wilson and take place 17 February 2014. Confirmed participants come from some departments new to CMSS, including Physics, Psychology and Population Health.
- Run our annual Summer Workshop during the week 8-12 December 2014, on the theme of Social Networks. The keynote speaker is Prof Matthew Jackson (Economics, Stanford) who is funded by a Seelye grant obtained by Mark Wilson. Jackson is the leading international expert on social and economic networks and author of the standard reference book. He will give at least one public talk.
- We also plan to develop a regular winter workshop aimed more at national and nonacademic participants (the summer workshop is mostly aimed at international researchers). Whether starting this is feasible in 2014 is unclear, but we will make preparations.
- Continue our term-time weekly/biweekly research seminar (organized by Arkadii Slinko)
- Develop our strategic plan for 2014-16 by 30 April 2014.
- Appoint a new Advisory Board by 30 April 2014. We aim to replace the current board by a smaller one based in NZ and Australia, to allow the board to meet regularly and actually give advice.
- Concentrate on developing relations with: Electoral Commission, potential collaborators in health funding grants, Google, NZ organizations who may require complex voting methods (have already been approached by NZ Wine).
- Concentrate on developing a substantial grant application to a non-NZ funder.

For CMSS
Mark C. Wilson
Director

