

INFORMS Section on Quality, Statistics and Reliability

BYLAWS

(Developed on March 25, 1998, revised on October 27,2003)

ARTICLE I: Name: This organization shall be named the INFORMS Section on Quality, Statistics and Reliability. Hereinafter it may be referred to as the Section. It is understood that INFORMS is an abbreviation for The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences which may be referred to hereinafter as the Institute.

ARTICLE II: Objectives: The primary objectives of the Section shall be to further the objectives of the Institute, to promote a dialogue between theoretical researchers and applied scientists to help the former be aware of the relevancy of their work and the latter be aware of new advances and methodology, and to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among people working in different areas of Quality, Statistics and Reliability. In pursuit of these objectives, the Section will organize regular sessions at the INFORMS meetings. The Section shall also conduct special seminars, workshops, or tutorial sessions during INFORMS meetings to promote the aforementioned objectives. In addition, the Section shall arrange joint activities with other Sections/Subdivisions of the Institute as well as other institutes related with quality, statistics, reliability and other common interests of the Section members. Also, the Section shall encourage its members to write articles and books of topical interest. When a publication effort is undertaken by the Section, the INFORMS Vice-President for Publication shall be notified in advance.

ARTICLE III: Membership and Dues: Members of INFORMS may join the Section by notifying the Business office of the Institute and paying any dues required. Dues will be halved for students and retired members. Adjunct membership of the Section shall be extended also to others who believe in the Section's objectives and wish to participate in its activities, provided they hold membership in any other germane professional society or association, and upon payment of adjunct membership dues.

ARTICLE IV: Officers, Council and Advisory Board: Activities of the Section shall be carried out by a governing body of three officers, namely, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson (Chairperson-Elect), and Secretary-Treasurer.

The Chairperson shall be the chief administrative officer of the Section, performing duties appropriate to the office, including presiding over each of the meetings. The Vice Chairperson shall be the Chairperson-Elect and shall assist the Chairperson, acting as Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson, in charge of coordinating the track at the national conference, maintaining membership and normally acting as program planner and coordinator for the Section's Activities.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct correspondence with members and others, take the minutes, and keep the records of the Section (including financial), receive applications,

encourage inquiries concerning membership, maintain contact with the Institute, and perform other duties usual to the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. This officer shall also cooperate with the Institute's Business offices on any financial operation affecting their authority, shall receive all funds made available to the Section, shall deposit same in a banking institution approved by the Section's officers, and shall disburse funds whenever and wherever appropriate. The Secretary-Treasurer shall also promote the financial condition of the Section and submit reports at business meetings, and shall prepare an annual budget for the Section.

The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary-Treasurer shall constitute the officers of the Section and shall: (a) call and organize meetings; (b) through their designated representatives call for and decide upon the acceptability of papers, reports, and discussions to be presented at the Section-sponsored sessions of the Institute's meetings, and publications sponsored by the Section; (c) establish and appoint such committees as may be required; and (d) manage the affairs of the Section in the intervals between meetings.

The Council of the Section shall consist of the officers, the two past Chairpersons most recently retired from office and four Council members, each serving for a two-year period with two elected every year. Nominations for the Council will normally reflect the spectrum of disciplines and/or roles represented by Section members. The Council will constitute the governing body of the Section and will guide the officers in the administration of Section business.

In addition to the elected officers and Council, the Chairperson shall (upon conferral with the Council) appoint a Webmaster and a Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter of the Section is published twice yearly, and the Fall Edition should be received by the Members of the Section at least two weeks before the annual meeting of the Institute.

The Advisory Board of the Section shall consist of between nine (9) and twelve (12) senior leaders in the field of Quality, Statistics and Reliability to provide advice on the development of Section. Serving on the advisory board is a recognition of the individual's leadership and accomplishments in the field. The board will overview the operation of the Section, provide advice on various activities, and support Section officers to run the Section effectively and efficiently.

ARTICLE V: Elections: The Vice-Chairperson and Two new Council members should be elected in each year by the membership by paper and/or electronic ballot. The Secretary-Treasurer will be elected every other year. The election procedures will be structured so as to provide for the democratic selection of Section leadership in accordance with the usual practice of scientific societies. Each year, a Nominating Committee will be formed, composed of the outgoing Chairperson or the Chairperson when there is no outgoing Chairperson, and the two past Chairpersons most recently retired. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee will forward a slate of candidates to the Section Secretary-Treasurer, prior to the annual meeting, consisting of at least one member of the Section and the Institute as candidate for the Vice-Chairperson

(Chairperson-Elect) and each of two Council members. When it is an election year for the Secretary-Treasurer, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee will also forward a slate of candidates to the Section Secretary-Treasurer, prior to the annual meeting, consisting of at least one member of the Section and the Institute as candidate for Secretary-Treasurer. The slate of candidates will be announced at least three weeks before the annual INFORMS meeting. Nominations for any office may be made before the announcement by a petition signed by at least six members. Such petitions should reach the Secretary at least four weeks before the annual INFORMS meeting. The election will be held by mail or e-mail ballot and the results will be announced in the annual Business Meeting of the Section. The results will be based on a plurality of ballots. In case of ties, a coin flip will decide the outcome. The new office bearers will assume office at the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting of the Section.

Vacancies arising after elections will be filled as follows. Vice- Chairperson and Secretary-Treasurer will fill the vacancies in the office of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively. A vacancy in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer will be filled by one of the Council members. This selection will be made by the Council. No other vacancy in the Council will be filled until the following election, at which time vacancies will be filled by election where appropriate. These replacements will be effective only until the following election, at which time vacancies will be filled by election where appropriate.

In general, the term of an advisory board member is three years. One-third of the advisory board will be newly appointed each year by the incoming Chairperson.

The founding officers, council, and advisory board will be selected through nomination, self-nomination, and will be appointed by the Advisory Board of the Section.

ARTICLE VI: Responsibility to the Institute: The Section and its officers are accountable to the Institute. The Section may be dissolved at the discretion of the Council of INFORMS. A yearly report shall be submitted to the Councils of the Institute before February 15 of each year. In case of dissolution, the unused funds are to be retained by the Institute. Prompt notification of the results of yearly elections shall be made to the Institute through the Vice-President for Member Activities of the Institute.

ARTICLE VII: Amendments to Bylaws: The Bylaws may be adopted, annulled or amended by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members of the Council. Bylaws may also be adopted, annulled or amended by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at a general business meeting of the Section. Members shall be given adequate notice of proposed Bylaws changes prior to such a meeting. The Council shall have the authority to interpret the Bylaws.

Prior to taking effect, Bylaws approved by the Council or the membership must be approved by the proper authorities of the Institute. Proposed changes in these Bylaws must be publicized through the Newsletter to the membership at least one year before the changes become effective.

ARTICLE VIII: Meetings: The Section will meet at least once each calendar year, preferably during the INFORMS Annual Meeting, at the time and place determined by the officers. Special meetings of the Section may be held as determined by the officers. The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order shall govern business meetings held during any regular or special meeting, in all cases to which they are applicable.