Beal Prize Committee

General Description
- Committee is standing
- Number of members is three. Members are appointed by the AMS President.
- Term is six years. A member can serve two consecutive terms, but not more.

Principal Activities

The committee is responsible for overseeing determination of the validity of a claim that the Beal Prize Conjecture has been proved or that a counterexample has been found. The procedure for determining if an award of the prize is warranted shall be approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT) and Council and documented in Minutes of the ECBT and Council. A recommendation by the prize committee to award the prize shall be made to the ECBT for its approval.

Further Information

Procedures for Determination of an Award of the Beal Prize:

The administration of the Beal Prize is overseen by the Beal Prize Committee (the "BPC"), to be appointed by the President of the AMS. Decisions made by the BPC shall be made by a majority of the members of the BPC. The formal charge of the BPC and these "Procedures for Determination of an Award of the Beal Prize" are subject to the review and modification from time to time by the Council of the AMS.

The Beal Prize Fund is held as a restricted asset of the AMS, with US$1,000,000 to be awarded if, in the sole judgment of the BPC and subject to the subsequent approval by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the AMS (the "ECBT"), the Beal Prize Conjecture is proved or a counterexample is presented.

A proposed solution of the Beal Prize Conjecture may <u>not</u> be submitted directly to the AMS, or to the BPC, or to Mr. Beal. Unpublished manuscripts will not be considered.

The BPC will consider a proposed solution (the "Work") if it is a complete mathematical solution of the Beal Prize Conjecture. Before consideration, the Work must be published in a refereed mathematics publication which is respected and, in the opinion of the BPC, maintains the highest editorial standards (or published in another form as the BPC, in its sole discretion, decides may qualify). In the case of a counterexample, the Work will be subject to independent verification by the BPC Expert Advisors (as defined below). Upon publication, the author(s) of the Work should notify the AMS and the BPC by sending an email to bealprize@ams.org or by sending mail to:

Beal Prize Committee
c/o Executive Director
American Mathematical Society
201 Charles Street
Providence, RI 02904 USA

The Work must be widely accepted by the mathematics community following a waiting period of

at least two (2) years after the publication of the Work; the determination of such acceptance by the mathematics community is the sole discretion of the BPC. (In the case of a counterexample, that recognition and acceptance by the mathematics community may happen sooner.) Following the two-year waiting period (or in the case of a counterexample, such shorter period, as determined in the sole discretion of the BPC), the BPC will decide whether the Work merits detailed evaluation.

If the Work merits detailed evaluation, the BPC will identify at least two experts who can verify the correctness of the Work and who are not members of the BPC to assist in the evaluation, and such experts shall be approved by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the AMS (collectively, the "BPC Expert Advisors"). The BPC Expert Advisors will report to the BPC within a reasonable time.   Based upon the report of the BPC Expert Advisors and potential additional evaluation, if the BPC can make a clear decision, it may (subject to the approval of the ECBT as provided above), award the Prize Money and determine attribution of credit for a solution. The BPC shall consider whether a solution relies directly on contributions of others published prior to the Work and it may, in its sole discretion and subject to the approval of the ECBT, divide the Prize Money among multiple contributors.

If the BPC cannot make a clear decision based upon the report of the BPC Expert Advisors and potential additional evaluation, the BPC may, in its sole discretion, decide that the Prize Money shall not be awarded at that time. The BPC may, in its sole discretion, revisit a decision to make no award if new information becomes available, provided that the approval of the ECBT shall be required prior to the payment of any award.

All deliberations of the BPC or of the BPC Expert Advisors assisting in an evaluation are confidential.   No records of deliberations or related correspondence shall be made public unless approved by the BPC and the AMS Board of Trustees.

No prize shall be awarded to any person who (a) is a "disqualified person" (as such term is defined in Section 4946 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended) in connection with the AMS or (b) is a then serving member of the BPC.

(*These procedures were approved by the ECBT on November 23, 2013 and by the Council on January 14, 2014*).

Miscellaneous Information
The business of this committee can be done by mail, electronic mail, or telephone, expenses which may be reimbursed by the Society.

Note to the Chair
Committee chairs should be informed, at the beginning of each fiscal period, the budget of their committees and cautioned to remain within the budget.   Such items as travel reimbursement to, accommodations for, and meals for guests of any kind fall within these budgets.

Work done by committees on recurring problems may have value as precedent or work done may have historical interest.   Because of this, the Council has requested that a central file system be maintained for the Society by the Secretary.   Committees are reminded that a copy of every sheet

of paper should be deposited (say once a year) in this central file.   Confidential material should be noted, so that it can be handled in a confidential manner.

Authorization
January 2014 Council, Item 6.3.1
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