

ATTACHMENT G REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PROFESSION

Committee on the Profession Report of Activities, January-October 1999

AMS Membership. In fulfillment of its charge to conduct an annual high-level review of the Society's efforts in designated areas, CoProf focused on Membership and Member Services. The review was carried out jointly with the Task Force on Membership appointed by Arthur Jaffe in summer 1998. (Several members of CoProf served on the task force.) CoProf met jointly with the task force on October 16, 1999 and a draft final report is expected to be prepared by the time of the fall ECBT meeting. As part of the review, a sample survey was conducted in early 1999 to learn characteristics of the research mathematics community and of individual participation in the Society. The survey was guided by the concerns of the review and was carried out with considerable effort by the Division of Professional Programs and Services. Survey results pertaining to membership are included with the task force report and a follow-up article is planned. The survey yields a great deal of information about the demographics of the academic mathematics community.

Recognition and Awards. At the October meeting, CoProf decided to review during the year ahead the Society's efforts in the area of Recognition and Awards. A subcommittee is being appointed to conduct this high-level review.

AMS Centennial Fellowship Program. One element of the review of recognition and awards will be revisiting the criteria for awarding the Centennial Fellowship. The current rules were adopted just a few years ago, and some concerns have been expressed that they may attempt to be too precise and, as a result, hard to follow. Since the current rules have now been in place for a few years, the committee feels it is time to evaluate how well they are working.

Proposal for Conant Prize. CoProf received and discussed the proposal to create a "Conant Prize" for the best expository article published in either the Notices or the Bulletin in the preceding five years. CoProf endorsed the proposal, though reservations were expressed as to whether the proposed prize is consistent with the letter and spirit of L.L. Conant's 1916 bequest to the Society.

Follow-up to Task Force on Excellence activities. The report *Towards Excellence: Leading a Doctoral Mathematics Department in the 21st Century* of the Task Force on Excellence contained several recommendations to the Society, including one that CoProf assume responsibility for certain continuing activities. These recommendations were discussed at the October meeting. CoProf will establish a subcommittee to oversee continuation of (i) focus group discussions at meetings and (ii) the workshop for (new) department chairs held in conjunction with the joint annual meeting.

Professional Development. In discussion spurred by the Task Force on Excellence book, CoProf discussed concerns about how research mathematicians can maintain vitality of a research program at the same time that demands and expectations for other professional activities have

increased. Broader issues of professional development were discussed as well, and CoProf approved the establishment of a subcommittee on professional development to help focus attention to what the Society can reasonably do, recognizing that many of the issues transcend mathematics per se and affect all of academia. CoProf anticipates professional development being the area of Society activities for high-level review a year from now.

Articles from Concerns of Young Mathematicians. CoProf notes the publication this year of *Starting Our Careers: A Collection of Essays and Advice on Professional Development* from the Young Mathematicians' Network, edited by Curt Bennett and Annalisa Crannell.

CoProf Tenure Statement. The statement on tenure proposed by CoProf in 1998 was passed by the Council in early 1999 so as to speak in the name of the Society.

Donald E. McClure, Chair