

2001 Annual Report to the Council
from the
Committee on the Profession

The Committee on the Profession held its annual meeting in September at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel in Chicago. Highlights of that meeting are provided below.

The Committee on the Profession is sponsoring two special activities at the San Diego meeting. The first is a focus group of approximately 25 directors of graduate study from doctoral mathematics departments which will share information on issues of current concern to graduate programs. The second activity is the panel presentation "How the World Sees Mathematicians", organized by Allyn Jackson and scheduled for Sunday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm.

Committee on the Profession Highlights

September 22, 2001
Chicago O'Hare Hilton

The Committee on the Profession (CoProf) discussed several items related to membership. First, they endorsed staff's proposal to amend the eligibility criteria for life membership. They also discussed the merits of the creation of a special category of honorific membership in the society, *Fellow of the AMS*. The general view was that creating a highly selective membership would be helpful to departments in advancing their outstanding mathematics faculty for recognition and opportunities within their institution. Coprof recommended to Council that it form a subcommittee of the Council with a charge to study the merits of a fellows program. The Council will be provided with further background from the Coprof discussion and a profile of fellows programs of other professional societies.

The committee reviewed the method of election adopted by Council to fill Nominating Committee and Editorial Boards Committee positions, known as approval voting. After a review of a report on the merits of various voting systems from Donald Saari, the committee decided against recommending to Council any change in the current method of election used for these two committees.

The January 2001 Council approved in principle a new prize for the Best Paper Appearing in an AMS Publication. The committee approved an operational description of the new prize based on a draft by Secretary Daverman. The committee also passed a motion that recommends that Council consider naming the prize after E. H. Moore.

Over the coming year, subcommittees of Coprof will evaluate proposals for prizes in several other areas, including a book prize, a book or research monograph manuscript prize, and a non-research prize for outstanding achievement by a mathematics department. Coprof will consider subcommittee recommendations on each of these at its September 2002 meeting.

As part of its annual review of areas of Society activity within its charge, Coprof received a preliminary report on the Society's activities in the area of professional development from a subcommittee consisting of Frank Quinn (chair), Roy Adler, Jonathan Rosenberg, and Karen

Smith. Coprof members will gather additional information on the Society's activities in this broad area in the coming year, discuss these activities with their colleagues, and report briefly on this at its next meeting. For its annual review for 2002, subcommittees will be formed to conduct reviews of Society activity in the areas of 1) human rights of mathematicians and 2) professional ethics and responsibilities and report on these at the next meeting.

Prepared by Jim Maxwell
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