

**2003 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, IL. Highlights of that meeting are provided below. The Council agenda contains four items forwarded to Council for action.

**Committee on the Profession Highlights  
September 13, 2003  
O'Hare Hilton Hotel, Chicago**

The Committee on the Profession (CoProf) and the Committee on Science Policy have formed a joint organizing committee to plan for a panel presentation in Phoenix dealing with aspects of pipeline issues in mathematics. Members of the Committee discussed the possible goals and conceptual framework of the panel and suggested potential panelists and perspectives which could be represented.

CoProf considered a recommendation made by the Centennial Fellowship Selection Committee to change the eligibility period from its current time of between three and twelve years since receipt of PhD to between five and twelve years. The Committee reviewed a history of eligibility criteria for the Centennial Fellowship, data on contribution levels to the Centennial Fellowship Fund and a profile of the PhD-age of the most recent applicant pool. After thoughtful discussion of this topic, it was agreed that action on this item should be tabled for now but revisited in two years at the 2005 CoProf meeting.

The Committee approved recommending to Council the expansion of eligibility for Life membership and the modification of the dues levels for Life Membership, assuming approval of the bylaws changes on the current ballot. It was noted that the bylaws change provides the AMS the flexibility to make future changes to the specific requirements and dues levels for life membership.

CoProf reviewed background material on the Focused Planning effort in the area of membership as well as a preliminary set of recommendations. Members of the Committee discussed the recommendations, and provided feedback on the document for the Staff Steering Committee.

CoProf reviewed alternate phrasing for a proposed prize for outstanding achievement by a mathematics department drafted by President Eisenbud. A subcommittee was formed to elaborate upon and refine the proposal. The refined version, which will emphasize innovation and copy-ability, will be distributed and reviewed by CoProf via email. If CoProf can reach agreement in time, then a final version will be recommended to the November 2003 ECBT and January 2004 Council.

The Committee discussed a 2002 CoProf subcommittee suggestion to recommend to the AMS Council that the charge to the Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians be broadened to include issues of human rights of foreign mathematicians and the U.S.

government. CoProf formed a subcommittee to review the Charge to the Committee on Human Rights, to assess whether it makes sense to include a portion on the rights of foreign mathematicians who experience difficulties during U.S. travel. The recommendations of the subcommittee will be reviewed by CoProf and any approved changes in the charge will be forwarded to the Council for their consideration.

CoProf reviewed a draft paragraph on plagiarism, which the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) recommends appending to the current AMS Ethical Guidelines. CoProf formed a subcommittee to review and revise, if necessary, the current AMS Ethical Guidelines. The subcommittee will discuss what portions of the statement warrant update, determine how the revised portions will be phrased, what examples will be included and to whom the statement will be addressed. The recommendations of the subcommittee will be reviewed by CoProf and any approved changes in the charge will be forwarded to the Council for their consideration.

The Committee selected employment opportunities, a subject last reviewed in 1995, as the topic of the coming annual review. Employment issues affecting PhD's and Bachelors recipients may also be examined. A subcommittee will be formed to conduct the review.

CoProf reviewed a report provided by Christine Stevens of the MAA supported Project NExT. The profile of the program and a listing the AMS sponsored recipients and their affiliations were discussed. The committee agreed, without hesitation, to recommend to the November 2003 ECBT the continued support of Project NExT, at its current level of \$15,000 per year.

The next meeting of CoProf is scheduled for October 2-3, 2004 at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton.

*Jim Maxwell*  
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*December 1, 2003*