

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

COUNCIL MINUTES

Seattle, Washington

09 August 1996

Abstract

The Council of the Society met at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, 09 August, 1996, in the Regents Room of the Meany Tower Hotel, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington. The following members were present: Michael Aschbacher, David Bressoud, Gail Carpenter, John Conway, Robert Fossum, John Franks, Arthur Jaffe, Irwin Kra, Steve Krantz, Krystyna Kuperberg, Robert Lazarsfeld, Jerry Marsden, Hugh Montgomery, Cathleen Morawetz, Frank Morgan, Franklin Peterson, Marc Rieffel, Gian-Carlo Rota, Cora Sadosky, Peter Shalen, Jean Taylor, and Sylvia Wiegand.

Others in attendance in some official capacity were: Roy Adler (trustee), Judith Bailey (Vice-President, University of Maine), Chandler Davis (Canadian Mathematical Society representative), John Ewing (Executive Director), James Lewis (Chair, Committee on Science Policy), Jim Maxwell (Associate Executive Director), Don McClure (trustee), Sam Rankin (Associate Executive Director), and Sy Schuster (Chair, Committee on Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Employment Security (CAFTEs)).

During a portion of the meeting the Council sat in Executive Session. It received and acted on recommendations from its Editorial Boards Committee and it considered a report from its Committee on Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Employment Security. The actions taken on these items are reported in these open minutes.

President Morawetz presided.

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Part I

AGENDA

0 CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:15 PM PDT. The President asked those present to introduce themselves.

1 MINUTES

1.1 April 96 Council.

The Minutes of the 24 April 1996 Council were approved as presented.

1.2 May 96 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees.

The minutes of the May 96 meeting have been distributed to members of the Council and trustees. They are considered to be part of the minutes of the Council. They are available on the WEB at <http://sol.math.uiuc.edu/docs/sec-homepage/index.html>¹ or by pointing to the Secretary's Home Page on e-Math.

2 CONSENT AGENDA.

2.1 Accessibility for the Handicapped Committee.

The MAA has agreed to the establishment of this joint committee. However there is still the matter of a charge. The Secretary recommended that the Council assigns to the President the matter of negotiating the final charge for this committee with the other three co-sponsoring organizations. The item was approved.

3 REPORTS OF BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES.

3.1 Editorial Boards Committee [EXECUTIVE SESSION].

The Editorial Boards Committee (EBC) submitted recommendations that were considered in Executive Session.

3.1.1 Journal of the AMS Editorial Committee.

In consultation with the managing editor of JAMS, the EBC recommended the appointment of BENEDICT GROSS to be reappointed as an Editor for the Journal of the AMS for another three year term: 1997-2000.

The Council approved this appointment.

¹URL <http://sol.math.uiuc.edu/docs/sec-homepage/index.html>

3.1.2 Proceedings of the AMS Editorial Committee.

The Editorial Boards Committee recommended the appointment of ERIC BEDFORD (Indiana University) as Coordinating Editor for the Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society for a four year term, 1997-2001.

The Council approved the appointment.

3.1.3 Bulletin Editorial Committee.

Research Reports Editor. The EBC recommended and the Council approved the reappointment of HAYNES MILLER as the Research Reports editor for a term of three years (from February 1997 to January 2000).

Book Review Editor. The EBC submitted an alphabetical list of candidates for appointment as Book Review Editor of the Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society. The Council approved the list. Subsequently, ROBERT J. BLATTNER, agreed to serve and has been appointed to fill the remaining part of the vacant term (31 January 1997) and an additional three year term (01 February 1997 to 31 January 2000).

3.1.4 Mathematical Surveys and Monographs Editorial Committee.

Last year a recommendation was developed to let this committee shrink from 4 to 3 members, but at the last second, nothing was done. Georgia Benkart indicated then that she would step down this year and if the committee were to shrink, she would simply not be replaced. The publishing side of AMS is still firmly in favor of shrinking to 3 members. The EBC proposed the following recommendation for the Council:

EBC would like the option of not filling the vacancy created by Georgia Benkart's retirement from Math Surveys and Monographs, thereby shrinking the committee from four to three members. If the Council approves and this course of action continues to seem as desirable as it does now, we will submit no replacement for the January Council meeting. Otherwise, we will submit a replacement for the January meeting.

The Council approved this course of action.

3.1.5 Transactions and Memoirs Editorial Committee.

The EBC recommended and the Council approved the following appointments:

- PETER SHALEN to continue as managing editor for the remainder of his term.
- JOHN LEUCKE (University of Texas) as editor for a regular four year term beginning in 1997.
- THEODORE A. SLAMAN (University of Chicago) as editor for a regular four year term.
- CHUU-LIAN TERNG (Northeastern University) as editor for a regular four year term.

3.2 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT).

3.2.1 Mass E-mail to Members.

The ECBT voted to recommend to the Council that the 8/95 Council resolution be amended so that only the President is authorized to send e-mail to all members.

The current policy was established by the 8/95 Council and reads as follows:

... the Council authorizes the Committee on Science Policy and/or the President of the AMS to use the e-mail addresses of members collected by the AMS to send a message to members concerning whatever actions on the part of the membership that the Committee and/or the President believe are politically desirable.

The ECBT moved that the policy be changed to read:

... **the Council authorizes only the President of the AMS to use the e-mail addresses of members collected by the AMS to send a message to members concerning whatever actions on the part of the membership that the President believes are desirable.**

The Council tabled this motion.

3.3 Committee on the Profession (CPROF).

The Committee on the Profession forwarded to the Council the report *Committee on the Profession Review of AMS Public Awareness Activities*. The CPROF requested that the Council file this report and the Council did so. (The report is available on the Secretary's Home Page <http://sol.math.uiuc.edu/docs/sec-homepage/index.html>² and is filed in the AMS Committee Report Book for 1996, report no. 960XXXX-XX.)

3.4 Committee on Publications (CPUB).

The Committee on Publications forwarded several resolutions to the Council for adoption. These were endorsed by the ECBT.

3.4.1 Editors' Reports to Authors.

The CPUB recommended adoption by the Council of the following policy:

The Council of the AMS adopts the policy below for editors of its journals:

Editors for journals of the American Mathematical Society are expected to follow the Society's ethical guidelines, treating all potential authors with reasonable professional courtesy, responding promptly to submissions and making decisions based on the merit of the paper as well as its suitability to the journal. Editors are not obliged, however, to provide a rationale for not accepting a paper, nor are editors obliged to provide an author with a

²URL <http://sol.math.uiuc.edu/docs/sec-homepage/index.html>

detailed list of errors and corrections. When information is available to help the author improve a paper, whether it is accepted or not, the editor should communicate that information to the author if appropriate.

The Council approved the policy.

3.4.2 Resolution on Simplicity.

The Committee on Publications recommended adoption of the policy stated below. The statement was endorsed by the ECBT.

Ease of access and use is one of the main attractions of electronic publications. For the AMS to gain a significant role in electronic information dissemination, and to provide service to all mathematicians, especially those with inadequate communication and computing facilities, it is important that AMS electronic products should strive to be as user friendly as possible. In particular, the Council urges that access by email be provided and that as many input and output formats be accepted as feasible and financially prudent.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the last sentence. This failed.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by deleting the words “**access by email be provided and that**”. This failed.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to amend the resolution by changing the last sentence to read: “**In particular, the Council urges that access by email be provided and that as many input and output formats be accepted as feasible, financially prudent, and editorially wise.**”

The Council then approved the amended resolution, which now reads

Ease of access and use is one of the main attractions of electronic publications. For the AMS to gain a significant role in electronic information dissemination, and to provide service to all mathematicians, especially those with inadequate communication and computing facilities, it is important that AMS electronic products should strive to be as user friendly as possible. In particular, the Council urges that access by email be provided and that as many input and output formats be accepted as feasible, financially prudent, and editorially wise.

3.5 Committee on Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Employment Security.

The Committee on Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Employment Security submitted a report about a tenure case. The report is on file with the Secretary. As it contains confidential material, it is not available for general distribution (according to rules of the Council).

The CAFTES moved that the Council publish the report in the *NOTICES of the American Mathematical Society*.

The report and the motion was considered in executive session.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to

return the report to CAFTES and request a shorter report that would take into account the discussion held during the meeting.

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFORMATION, AND RECORD.

8.1 Task Force on Participation for Underrepresented Minorities.

The report from this committee was received and was attached to the 96/05 ECBT minutes. The report recommended the establishment of an Office of Minority Affairs. The 96/05 ECBT voted to approve the proposal in principle, but recommended further exploration to look for a structure that will ensure that the objectives of the AMS Task Force on Participation for Underrepresented Minorities in Mathematics are met.

8.2 Summer Meeting in the Year 2000.

The ECBT received the report of the Blue Ribbon Committee on the Year 2000. It is proposed to hold a meeting during the summer of that year in conjunction with the International Mathematical Union. A program committee has been proposed and appointments are being made by the President. Approval of this meeting will be handled in the usual fashion (by the Secretariat). [Added for information: The Secretariat has approved this meeting in principle, subject to site selection and funding.]

8.3 Business by Mail.

The Bylaws spell out quite explicitly how business by mail is to be conducted for the Council. It is the interpretation of the Secretary that business can be conducted by e-mail in the same manner. There are instances, such as voting for members of the Executive Committee, where the Secretary wishes to have hard copy backup for decisions made by the Council. In these cases, business by mail will be conducted in the traditional manner. Members are urged to notify the Secretary of changes in both regular postal addresses and e-mail addresses as promptly as possible. Currently the alias for the Council is: `council@odin.math.uiuc.edu`. This alias includes just current members of the Council as well as the Assistant to the Secretary.

8.4 Future Meetings

A list of future meetings involving members of the Council can be found on the Society's Web page, <http://www.ams.org>³

and is not included here. A modified form of this calendar can be found on the Secretary's Home Page

<http://sol.math.uiuc.edu/docs/sec-homepage/index.html>⁴.

Deadlines for submitting items for Council meetings, Council meetings, and most of the other meetings of important Society committees are listed in this calendar.

³URL <http://www.ams.org>

⁴URL <http://sol.math.uiuc.edu/docs/sec-homepage/index.html>

9 ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned at 4:28 PM.

Robert M. Fossum

Secretary

Urbana, Illinois

March 26, 1999

Part II

ATTACHMENTS

A 1996 Council

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
effective 2/01/96

1996 COUNCIL

President	Cathleen S. Morawetz	Secretary	Robert M. Fossum
President-Elect	Arthur M. Jaffe	Associate Secretaries	Robert J Daverman
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	Gian-Carlo Rota		William A Harris
	Jean E. Taylor		Lesley Sibner
Treasurer	F.P. Peterson		
Associate Treasurer	B.A. Taylor		

Representatives of Committees

Bulletin Editorial Committee	Murray Protter, Chair
Colloquium Editorial Committee	Susan Friedlander, Chair
Journal of the American Mathematical Society	William Fulton, Chair
Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee	Hugh Montgomery, Chair
Mathematical Surveys Editorial Committee	Tudor Ratiu, Chair
Mathematics of Computation Committee	Lars B. Wahlbin, Chair
Proceedings Editorial Committee	Irwin Kra, Chair
Transactions and Memoirs Committee	Peter B. Shalen, Chair
Executive Committee	John M. Franks
Executive Committee	Steven Krantz
Executive Committee	Marc Rieffel

Members at Large

David M. Bressoud	Gail A. Carpenter	John B. Conway
David B.A. Epstein	James M. Hyman	Krystyna Kuperberg
Robert Lazarsfeld	Jerrold E. Marsden	Frank Morgan
Andrew Odlyzko	Cora Sadosky	Norberto Salinas
Alice Silverberg	Sylvia M. Wiegand	

Executive Committee

Robert M. Fossum	John M. Franks	Arthur M. Jaffe
Steven Krantz	Cathleen S. Morawetz	Andrew Odlyzko
Marc Rieffel		

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Roy Adler	Hyman Bass	Michael Crandall
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F.P. Peterson	B.A. Taylor	