

*The January 2011 Council directed that the following proposal be presented to the membership in 2011 for their vote to support or oppose an AMS Fellows Program. The Council further directed that the ballot be accompanied by this statement: “If more than 1/2 of the members voting on this issue are in favor, then the AMS will implement the program.”*

*Information about the history of the AMS Fellows Proposals can be found at [www.ams.org/about-us/governance/elections/fellows-info](http://www.ams.org/about-us/governance/elections/fellows-info)*

## **A Proposal for a Fellows Program of the AMS**

*The Fellows program is created and updated by the Council of the AMS. The program below describes in general terms what a new Fellows program will look like. If approved, some details of the program may be changed by the AMS Council prior to implementation in order to address practical needs. Future Councils can make further changes, keeping in mind the intent of the membership in approving the initial program.*

*The goals of the Fellows Program are:*

- *To create an enlarged class of mathematicians recognized by their peers as distinguished for their contributions to the profession.*
- *To honor not only the extraordinary but also the excellent.*
- *To lift the morale of the profession by providing an honor more accessible than those currently available.*
- *To make mathematicians more competitive for awards, promotion and honors when they are being compared with colleagues from other disciplines.*
- *To support the advancement of more mathematicians in leadership positions in their own institutions and in the broader society.*

### **I. Program (steady-state)**

- A. The Fellows program of the American Mathematical Society recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to the creation, exposition, advancement, communication, and utilization of mathematics.
- B. The responsibilities of Fellows are:
- To take part in the selection of new Fellows,
  - To present a “public face” of excellence in mathematics, and
  - To advise the President and/or the Council on *public matters* when requested.

- C. The target number of Fellows will be determined by the AMS Council as a percentage of the number of members.<sup>1</sup> The target percentage will be revisited by the Council at least once every ten years and may be increased or decreased in light of the history of the nomination and selection process. The intended size of each year's class of new Fellows should be set with this target size in mind.
- D. Following a selection process (see below), individuals are invited to become Fellows. They may decline and they may also resign as Fellows at any time.
- E. Fellows receive a certificate and their names are listed on the AMS web site. The names of new Fellows are also included in the *Notices* each year.
- F. If they are not already Fellows, the AMS President and Secretary are made Fellows when they take office.

## II. Initial Implementation

- A. In the initial year of the program, individuals who are AMS members during both the years 2010 and 2011 as of January 1, 2012 and who have done one or more of the following will be invited to become AMS Fellows.<sup>2</sup>
  - 1. Given an invited AMS address (including at joint meetings).<sup>3</sup>
  - 2. Been awarded an AMS research prize.<sup>4</sup>
  - 3. Given an invited address at an International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) or an International Congress of Industrial and Applied Mathematicians (ICIAM).<sup>3</sup>
- B. An additional 50 individuals who are AMS members during both the years 2010 and 2011 as of January 1, 2012 will be selected to become AMS Fellows. These will be chosen by a committee appointed by the President with the advice of the Executive Committee of the Council. Attention will be paid to selecting AMS members recognized for their contributions beyond research.

## III. Selection Process

- A. New Fellows are selected each year after a nomination process. The

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<sup>1</sup> This proposal's recommendation to Council is 5% of members. At present there are about 30,000 members so the number of Fellows would be about 1,500.

<sup>2</sup> The seeding process described in II.A would produce offers of Fellows status to approximately 800 current AMS members.

<sup>3</sup> An invited address is one given at the invitation of the program committee and delivered before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

<sup>4</sup> These are the Birkhoff, Bôcher, Cole, Conant, Doob, Eisenbud, Fulkerson, Moore, Robbins, Satter, Steele, Veblen, Whiteman, and Weiner prizes. These prizes must have been awarded before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012.

nomination process is carried out under the direction of the Secretary with help from the AMS staff. The procedures for nominating AMS Fellows will be available on the AMS website.

- B. The Selection Committee will consist of twelve members of the AMS who are also Fellows, each serving a three-year term, and with four new members appointed each year. The AMS president, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Council, nominates the new members of the Selection Committee in November of each year. At the same time, the President nominates a continuing member of the Selection Committee to serve as Chair.
- C. The Selection Committee accepts nominations for Fellows between February 1 and March 31 each year. Nominations are made by members of the AMS. A member can nominate no more than 2 nominees a year.
- D. To be eligible for nomination to Fellowship, an individual must be an AMS member for the year in which he or she is nominated as well as for the prior year.
- E. A nominator must supply a package with the following information on the nominee:
  - 1. A Curriculum Vitae *of no more than five pages*.
  - 2. A citation of fifty words or less explaining the person's accomplishments.
  - 3. A statement of cause of 500 words or less explaining why the individual meets the criteria of Fellowship.
  - 4. The signatures of the nominator and three additional AMS members who support the nomination, with at least two of these individuals current Fellows.
- F. Any person who is nominated and is not selected a Fellow will remain an active nominee to be considered by the Selection Committee for possible selection for a further 2 years.
- G. Each year the January Council provides a guideline for the number of Fellows to be selected<sup>5</sup>. The Selection Committee chooses Fellows from the nominations bearing in mind this guideline, diversity of every kind, and the quality and quantity of the external nominations. The Selection Committee has the discretion to make nominations to fulfill the general goals of the Fellowship.
- H. Those members who are chosen by the Selection Committee are invited by the President to become new Fellows of the AMS.

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<sup>5</sup> It is anticipated that during a transition period of approximately 10 years about 75 new Fellows will be appointed each year. In the steady state of 1500, it is anticipated that about 40 new Fellows positions will occur annually due to attrition.