



Committee on Publications
2019 Annual Meeting
SUMMARY REPORT

A meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications (CPub) was held on Friday and Saturday, September 20-21 2019 at AMS Headquarters in Providence, Rhode Island. Claudia Polini, chair, presided.

Actions taken by CPub include the following:

- **Minutes of Business by Mail**

The November 27, 2018 minutes of business by mail were approved. The business conducted was to approve the minutes of the September 14-15, 2018 CPub meeting.

- **Collected Works Editorial Committee Charge**

The Editorial Committee of the Collected Works series of the AMS asked CPub to consider a revision to the Principal Activities section of its charge to better define current practices.

The Committee's proposal was approved with slight modifications and will be included in the January 2020 Council agenda with CPub's recommendation for approval.

- **2019 Annual Review – Review of Primary Journals**

Claudia Polini, chair of the CPub subcommittee that conducted the 2019 review of the AMS Primary Journals (*Journal of the AMS*, *Mathematics of Computation*, *Proceedings of the AMS*, and *Transactions of the AMS*), presented the report prepared by the subcommittee.

CPub discussed the following items:

- Journal backlogs and AMS's method for calculation of backlog data,
- The variability in acceptance rates by editor and the suggestion that managing editors periodically share this data with individual editors for the purpose of corrective action, and
- Appropriateness of coverage, specifically regarding the lack of papers in applied mathematics published in *Journal of the AMS* (JAMS).

Based on the subcommittee's report, CPub moved to approve the following recommendations:

- *AMS should develop a means to collect gender, race and geographic data for authors by the time of the next review of the primary journals in 2022.*
- *The managing editors of Transactions of the AMS and Proceedings of the AMS should communicate acceptance/rejection rates to editors.*
- *The Journal of the AMS description, "this journal is devoted to research articles of the highest quality in all areas of pure and applied mathematics," should better reflect the journal's current scope.*

- *Subcommittee reports regarding the review of AMS journals should be shared with managing editors prior to being presented to CPub.*

- **Report of CPub Subcommittee Investigating Additional Research Publications (CPub-ARP)**

The CPub Subcommittee to Investigate Additional Research Publications (CPub-ARP) presented an updated report, and CPub discussed options outlined in the Subcommittee's report including the question, *what is the need in mathematics for a new journal, and if so, what should the new journal look like?*

It was agreed that the AMS would aid the mathematics community by creating a new, high-quality, broad-based journal that encompasses both pure and applied mathematics.

CPub voted to endorse the following:

- *The establishment of a new primary journal with two editors-in-chief (one pure and one applied mathematician), who must be able to work together;*
- *there will be no article length limitations;*
- *preferably, this will be a Diamond Open Access journal;*
- *the new editors-in-chief will work out a carefully designed editorial process to ensure publication of a broad swath of high-quality mathematics; and*
- *the establishment of a quick-acting subcommittee (consisting of two pure mathematicians, two applied mathematicians, and two non-voting ex officio members to serve as advisors) to find the appropriate two editors-in-chief.*

CPub's proposal for the establishment of a new journal will go forward to the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees for consideration at its November 2019 meeting.

- **Subcommittee Investigating Double-Blind Refereeing**

At its 2018 meeting, upon the recommendation of President Elect Jill Pipher, CPub moved to form a subcommittee charged with considering whether double-blind refereeing should be instituted for some or all AMS journals. The subcommittee was asked to focus solely on the matter of policy (i.e., whether double-blind refereeing is a policy that reflects AMS's standards and goals), exclusive of implementation.

CPub was informed that more work needs to be done by the subcommittee, and it was suggested that the subcommittee should have better findings with a well-planned strategy, AMS staff support, and the collection of data. It was reiterated that issues around bias are real and need to be addressed.

The subcommittee will continue its investigation of double-blind refereeing with David Morrison as chair.

- **Web Advisory Group (WAG)**

Following CPub's recommendation, the Web Editorial Group was disbanded by Council decision in January 2018, and Nathan Dunfield was appointed to the AMS Web Advisory Group (WAG) to act as a liaison and advise CPub on matters concerning AMS website content. Professor Dunfield reported that because WAG is an

AMS staff committee that does not make mathematical decisions, he does not consider it necessary or appropriate to continue to serve on the WAG.

C Pub voted unanimously to remove C Pub's liaison position from the Web Advisory Group.

- **Upcoming Subcommittees - Chair and Member Selection**

- The Subcommittee Investigating Double-Blind Refereeing will be chaired by David Morrison.
- C Pub Chair Claudia Polini (in consultation with C Pub members Douglas Arnold and Amie Wilkinson) will appoint the members of the subcommittee to find two editors-in-chief (one pure and one applied mathematician) for the proposed new journal.

Informational Reports - the following reports were provided by staff:

- 2016-2020 Strategic Plan Update
- Report from the AMS Publisher
- eBook Program Update
- Report on Journal Backlogs
- Report on *Mathematical Reviews*/MathSciNet®
- Primer on Open Access

Other Business:

2020 Annual Review - C Pub's charge calls for reviews according to the following schedule:

- Year 1: AMS Book Program
- Year 2: Primary Journals (JAMS, MCOM, PAMS, TAMS)
- Year 3: Member Journals (*Bulletin, Notices, Abstracts*) and All Other Journals (electronic only, translation, and distributed journals)

In keeping with its review cycle, an evaluation of the Member and "All Other" journals will be conducted, and the member journal managing editors will be invited guests of C Pub's 2020 meeting.

Next Meeting - The next C Pub meeting will be held *October 16-17, 2020* at the Westin Detroit Metropolitan Airport, located at 2501 Worldgateway Place, Detroit, MI 48242.

*Sergei Gelfand
Publisher
October 31, 2019*