

Joint Policy Board for Mathematics Meeting

April 30, 2012---Washington, DC

Minutes

Members Present: Jim Crowley (Exec Dir, SIAM), Barbara Faires (Secretary, MAA), Eric Friedlander (President, AMS), Reinhard Laubenbacher (VP for Science Policy, SIAM), Don McClure (Executive Director, AMS), Michael Pearson (Executive Director MAA), Nick Trefethen (President, SIAM), Ron Wasserstein (Executive Director, ASA), Paul Zorn (President, MAA) .

Other Attendees: Joan Ferrini-Mundy (NSF), Irene Fonseca (President-Elect, SIAM), Jim Gates (Co-chair of the PCAST STEM Ed report), Bridget Glynn (SIAM Public Policy Consultant), Joel Haack (Public Policy Chair, MAA), Susan Kennedy (MAA), C. David Levermore (UMD-BMSA), Harry Mayfield (Public Policy Consultant, SIAM), Sastry Pantula (NSF-MPS/DMS), Stephen Pierson (Director of Science Policy, ASA), Miriam Quintal (by phone, Public Policy Consultant, SIAM), Sam Rankin (VP, AMS) Carla Savage (Secretary-Elect, AMS), Scott Weidman (BMSA)Dave Zook (Public Policy Consultant, MAA)

NSF budget outlook and priorities

Dr. Pantula presented a PowerPoint which dealt with NSF's budget and big data. EHR fared well in budget compared to previous years. Attached is a copy of his presentation.

Dr. Ferrini-Mundy expanded on Dr. Pantula's recommendation to think about the EHR directorate as a resource. She emphasized that NSF is a big investor in STEM education and workforce; it is up to us to make sure the investment has impact and to advocate for more of EHR's budget to go to mathematics. She also remarked that EHR needs the mathematics community's help to evaluate EHR programs. Attached is also a copy of her presentation.

BMSA Mathematics 2025

Dr. Levermore gave an overview of the Board on Mathematical Sciences and its Applications (BMSA) and its upcoming report. BMSA leads mathematics-related activities in the National Research Council, itself part of the National Academy of Sciences. BMSA is a non-profit entity, and not part of the government. There is a growing perception that mathematics is "at the table"; BMSA aims to demonstrate the value of mathematics and statistics.

Mathematics 2025 grew out of the SIAM science policy committee. The report will include a glossy brochure written at the level of the NY Times science page; it can function as a "leave-behind" when discussing mathematics with policy-makers. A more in-depth report will back up the brochure.

Link to report: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13373#toc

Math Awareness Month 2013

April 30 is the last day of Math Awareness Month 2012. ASA was in charge. Ron thanked participants for their help. He reported that although there is no way to measure impact precisely, he has received positive feedback.

AMS is in charge of MAM 2012. The theme will be something compatible with MPE 2013. Don asked for some brainstorming for 2-3 ideas. One idea so far is renewable energy. A second idea suggested was modeling and sustainability. Don will take the lead and keep people updated.

David Levermore emphasized that we should use words that are forward-looking and talk about solutions as well as problems.

Ron mentioned that 2013 is also the International Year of statistics. See website <http://statistics2013.org/>

Discussion of PCAST STEM report

Michael introduced Dr. Sylvester J Gates, co-chair of the working group that wrote the PCAST study "Engage to Excel." Dr. Gates gave an overview of the report—see attached slides. He also emphasized that he was speaking as a private citizen, not for the administration. PCAST could only advise the administration on the issues.

Link to report: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/pcast-engage-to-excel-final_2-25-12.pdf

At the end of Dr. Gates's presentation most of the discussion centered on recommendation #3. Dr. Gates advised JPBM to be part of the discussion to become part of the solution.

There was much discussion of how the societies should respond to the PCAST report. Should response be one, many, or one with a "wrapper" explaining that it is from the societies? In any event, responses should not come off as defensive.

Business Meeting

Correction to previous minutes—MAA's centennial celebration is 2015, not 2013.

Science Policy:

AMS is following the budget discussions on the Hill. They are impressed by increases in both House and Senate, but worried about sequestration, which would cut budgets to 90% of the 2005 levels.

ASA is also following budget. They are trying to establish relationships on the Hill. They conducted a "climate science day" and held a course on statistics for Senate staff.

MAA notes that staff turnover on the Hill complicates taking message to new members of Congress. MAA members are encouraged to reach out to Congressional staff in their home offices, not just in DC.

SIAM reiterated messages from AMS and ASA. They also have been meeting with DOE.

Communications Award:

This is chaired by MAA for the 2013 award. Paul needs to identify a person from each society to work by email. Ron Wasserstein (ASA) and Irene Fonesca (SIAM) volunteered. AMS will get back to Paul with their member.

Joint Committee on Women:

Don will draft changes, then circulate for discussion. The members of JPBM decided to go forward with the fall JCW meeting. Barbara, Bob, and one JCW person will work with Don.

Report from Societies

SIAM

Jim Crowley reported that SIAM is trying to shorten the length of time it takes from submission to acceptance to their journals from 15 months to 9. They are also moving forward with having authors submit add-ons to articles that will be posted online. They have a new joint publication with ASA: *Journal on Uncertainty Quantification* .

MAA

Paul Zorn announced that the MAA has a new Executive Director, Michael Pearson, and a new Treasurer, Jim Daniel. The MAA is using this time of transition to look systematically at what we do and how we do it. In this third year of the Calculus study 16 schools (which seem to be doing well) will be looked at closely. The CUPM report update will be out in 2014. Among changes planned is that this edition will pay more attention to undergraduate research. MPE 2103: Some sections will use the theme for summer workshops; there will also be faculty development workshops on the theme. Project NExT update: Joe Gallian's and Gavin LaRose's terms as associate directors have ended. They have been replaced by Julie Barnes and Matt DeLong. Exxon Mobil will no longer fund Project NExT. Plans are underway for the MAA to celebrate its centennial in 2015.

ASA

Ron Wasserstein reported that ASA is thinking about publications (how to decide whether to add new ones) and about concurrent sessions at meeting. Currently, ASA meetings run up to 50 sessions concurrently. This is too many, and makes it difficult to find places that can accommodate the meeting.

AMS

Eric Friedlander asked whether anyone knew what was happening with the DMS name change. (It should be announced any day, people responded.) Eric also wondered whether JPBM might in some sense replace or take over the 100 journals published by Elsevier, about which questions have been raised. AMS already supports authors posting manuscripts on ArXiv.org; MAA and ASA give authors permission for personal use of published articles.