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# From the AMS

## 1995 Report— AMS Committee on Science Policy

In 1995 the AMS Committee on Science Policy has been under the leadership of W. James Lewis as chair. There have been two formal meetings of the committee in Washington, DC, in the spring and fall. The CSP has also conducted activities and informal discussions at the AMS's annual and summer meetings.

The activities of the committee have largely centered around the four elements of its charge:

Governance and Organizational Issues

Advocacy and Public Information

Fostering Awareness and Appreciation of Mathematics  
Mathematics as a Science

Under Governance and Organizational Issues, the committee finalized work on its revised charge, which will be forwarded by the AMS secretary to the Council for approval. The CSP National Policy Agenda Subcommittee (NATPOL) has been reappointed, with William H. Jaco as chair and a revised charge "to articulate public policy issues of significance for the mathematical sciences, to inform public policymakers and the public about these issues, and to help formulate goals at the national level and set priorities for their accomplishment." The chair of CSP also appointed a Current Policy Issues Committee, chaired by Jean E. Taylor and charged to "identify for discussion

and debate issues facing the mathematics community and where appropriate see that documents are created to act as a community sounding board," and a Long Term Strategy Committee, chaired by Richard E. Ewing and charged with "interacting with the Washington Office by recommending strategy, advising on the relationship of the profession and the AMS to federal agencies, and identifying groups of mathematicians to work on particular concerns and issues related to the federal agencies and federal policy affecting mathematics."

As part of the efforts for Advocacy and Public Information, the Committee meets regularly with the leadership of BMS, JPBM, MAA, NAS, NSF, SIAM, distinguished members of the mathematics community, and representatives of the federal agencies. CSP is also involved in sending alerts to the mathematical community and has formed a contact group of mathematicians actively involved in advocacy and public information with members of Congress and federal agencies. The CSP home page is available in e-MATH, allowing the committee to generate and disseminate ideas on a regular and immediate basis.

The CSP continues to work on fostering awareness and appreciation of the role and value of mathematics through activities generated by the AMS Washington Office and JPBM, such as Mathematics Awareness Week; by dissemination of the AMS National Policy Statement; by working with the AAAS Coalition to Improve Public Understanding of Science, Mathematics and Technology; by supporting activities such as the participation of research mathematicians in exhibitions for members of Congress and the public; and by holding lectures and panels on a regular basis as part of the AMS meetings program.

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*Editor's Note: This report was received on November 20, 1995, and was inadvertently omitted from the regular February publication of policy committee reports.*

Concerning Mathematics as a Science, the Committee continues to investigate and support mathematical research and applications by making recommendations on the structure and breadth of federal support for mathematical research within the context of federal objectives and policies through activities such as the JPBM-generated testimonies before Congress and Senate appropriations committees. On a regular basis the CSP consults with members of the National Science Foundation and other agencies in order to gain knowledge regarding new initiatives, strategic directions, and other information of importance to the mathematics community, such as the Office of Multidisciplinary Activity and the new Group Infrastructure Grants, and to advise and contribute to the direction that will affect the discipline by providing input, lectures, and panel discussions at AMS meetings. The CSP has scheduled Dr. William C. Harris, assistant director for the Mathematical and Physical Sciences at the NSF, to be the plenary speaker at the Annual Meeting in Orlando and has also scheduled several panel discussions that will explore the possibilities of establishing priorities for research in mathematics.

## The January 1996 Council

The Council met at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 09 January 1996, in Orlando, Florida. Despite inclement weather on the northeastern seaboard, twenty-five members attended, including President Morawetz, who was, however, slightly delayed. Several chairs of policy committees and several persons who were elected to serve on the Council as of 01 February 1996 were in attendance.

The meeting lasted until 10:30 p.m., with a 1 1/2-hour break for dinner. Marc Rieffel presided for most of the afternoon meeting. President Morawetz presided during the evening meeting.

The terms of Ronald Graham as ex-president; Vice-President Anil Nerode; *Bulletin* Editorial Committee Chair Haynes Miller; Executive Committee member Joan Birman; and Members-at-Large Svetlana Katok, James Lepowsky, Peter Li, and Susan Gayle Williams end on 31 January 1996. This was their last meeting in their current positions. They were thanked for their service to the Society and the mathematical community.

The Minutes of the August 1995 Council, which had been distributed by mail, were approved.

The Council recognized the founding twenty-five years ago of the Association for Women in Mathematics by passing the following resolution:

The Association for Women in Mathematics, founded in 1971, "to encourage women to study and to have active careers in the mathematical sciences" is celebrating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of its founding at this meeting in Orlando.

The American Mathematical Society extends to AWM its warmest congratulations on this very

happy occasion. The Society looks forward to continued cooperation with the AWM to encourage equal opportunity to all within the mathematical sciences.

The Council approved the reports of the teller. Arthur Jaffe of Harvard University was elected president-elect, a position in which he will serve for one year, after which he will become president for two years. Michael Aschbacher of the California Institute of Technology was elected to a three-year term as vice-president. Michael Crandall of the University of California Santa Barbara was elected to a five-year term as trustee. David M. Bressoud of Macalester College, Gail A. Carpenter of Boston University, John B. Conway of the University of Tennessee, Krystyna Kuperberg of Auburn University, and Andrew Odlyzko of AT&T Bell Laboratories were elected to three-year terms as members-at-large of the Council. Their terms all began on 01 February 1996.

Sylvain Cappell of New York University, Eric M. Friedlander of Northwestern University, and Jane P. Gilman of Rutgers University were elected to three-year terms on the Nominating Committee. Their terms began on 01 January 1996.

Sun-Yung Alice Chang of UCLA and Andrew Granville of the University of Georgia were elected to three-year terms on the Editorial Boards Committee. Their terms began on 01 February 1996.

The amendments to the bylaws that were submitted to the membership for ratification were approved.

The Council approved the appointment of Susan Friedlander to a three-year term, Joan Birman to a two-year term, and Ken Brown to a one-year term on the Colloquium Editorial Committee. Friedlander was appointed chair of the Committee.

The Council approved the appointment of G. W. Stewart and Stanley Osher to three-year terms on the *Mathematics of Computation* Editorial Committee.

The Council approved the appointment of Clarence Wilkerson for a three-year term as (Electronics) Editor and the reappointment of Wendell Fleming for a three-year term retroactive to 01 February 1995 on the *Mathematical Reviews* Editorial Committee.

The Council approved the appointment of Clifford Earle as managing editor of the *Proceedings* effective 01 February 1997.

The Council approved the appointment of Rodrigo Banuelos for a four-year term on the *Transactions* and *Memoirs* Editorial Committee.

The Council approved replacing Nolan Wallach by David Eisenbud for the unexpired term of Wallach and appointing Eisenbud to a full term when that term expires on the *Bulletin* Editorial Committee.

Based on a report of a special task force on electronic journals appointed by the president, the Council authorized the creation of three initial electronic journals:

*The Electronic Journal of Representation Theory*  
*The Electronic Journal of Conformal Dynamics*  
*The Electronic Journal of Geometric Methods in Differential Equations*

The Council reappointed for two-year terms, beginning on 01 February 1997, Robert Daverman as associate secretary for the Southeastern Section, Lesley Sibner as associate secretary for the Eastern Section, B. A. Taylor as associate treasurer, Franklin Peterson as treasurer, and Robert Fossum as secretary.

It also agreed that the Society should conduct nationwide searches for a secretary and a treasurer to be appointed to take office on 01 February 1999. The searches, which are to begin in 1996, are to be coordinated by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees. The search committees will be appointed by the president.

The ECBT Nominating Committee was established by the Council in August 1991. It consists of members of the Executive Committee and trustees. The Council agreed that the composition of the committee should consist of the fourth- and second-year members of the EC, the third- and second-year trustees, and the chair of the Nominating Committee.

When the Council established the five policy committees, it also requested that a review of their efficacy take place three years later. This review should thus be undertaken in 1996. At the request of the Council, the president has established five committees consisting of Council members that will each review a committee. The chairs of the five committees will form a committee to review the overall structure and to collect and assimilate the individual reviews.

The Council agreed that chairs of AMS committees, including joint committees, may, on request, receive free copies of the Council agenda and minutes.

Upon recommendation by the Committee on Meetings and Conferences and the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, the Council agreed that

there be no joint summer meeting in the present Mathfest format in the summers of 1997, 1998, and 1999.

After hearing from members of a special task force that had visited the University of Rochester in order to inquire further into that university's decision to terminate the mathematics graduate program, the Council passed the following resolution:

The Council of the American Mathematical Society is deeply concerned over the University of Rochester's announced intention to severely downgrade its strong mathematics program by eliminating Ph.D. studies, shrinking the mathematics faculty "over time" by more than one half, and assigning the teaching of calculus to faculty in other departments and to nontenured adjuncts.

This plan displays a lack of understanding of the nature of mathematics, its role as a core discipline among the sciences, and its place in a well-rounded education.

The entire Rochester academic community is ill-served by such a strategy. Calculus students will be taught by instructors much less likely to have either the wide-ranging overview of mathematics or the involvement with the subject necessary for truly effective teaching. Nor will these instructors be likely to stay abreast of current evolution in the pedagogy and content of calculus.

The hiring of low-paid adjuncts with no long-term commitment to or from the institution will undermine educational quality. It could lead to an egregious violation of principles of nonexploitation enunciated in the January 1994 resolution adopted by the Council in the name of the Society, on "Supportive Practices and Ethics in the Employment of Young Mathematicians".

Advanced undergraduates in mathematics and graduate students in other scientific disciplines will be deprived of the support that a mathematics graduate program provides to their studies. Faculty in quantitative disciplines will miss opportunities to consult and collaborate with their colleagues in mathematics. In the absence of excellence in mathematics, the attractiveness of Rochester as a first-rate research center in physical science, engineering, and economics will diminish.

On intellectual, educational, and practical grounds, Rochester's intended treatment of mathematics is incompatible with its aspirations to national distinction as a research university emphasizing quality undergraduate education.

The Council strongly urges the University of Rochester's administration to reconsider its proposed course of action with regard to mathematics.

The Council approved a change in the eligibility rule for the Fulkerson Prize. It approved a revision to the charge to the University Lecture Series Editorial Committee and it approved a charge for the Committee on Science Policy.

The Council reviewed and filed a preliminary report from the president's Special Task Force on Participation for Underrepresented Minorities in Mathematics. Since the report recommends creation of a Society committee that will address the issues involved, the Council agreed to withdraw its cosponsorship of the joint Committee on Opportunities in Mathematics for Underrepresented Minorities.

The special Committee on Procedures for the Committee on Professional Ethics presented its final report for approval by the Council. The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, at its meeting in November 1995, had the opportunity to review a version of this report. Based on this

review, several minor amendments to the procedures were proposed and adopted by the Council, which then adopted the procedures for the Committee on Professional Ethics. The final version of the procedures is printed separately elsewhere in this issue.

The Council of the AMS endorsed the following AWM resolution on affirmative action.

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) regrets the recent action by the regents of the University of California to end its affirmative action programs. Twenty years ago there were many fewer women and underrepresented minorities among students, faculty, and administrators in the University of California system. Affirmative action has played an important role in increasing the representation of these groups and in making the higher-education community at large aware of the discrimination, blatant or subtle, against underrepresented groups. At the same time, bringing people from these groups has strengthened the universities while maintaining the high quality of faculties and student bodies.

In particular the dramatic change in the representation of women in the mathematical sciences in the past decades would have not have been possible without the changes that affirmative action has brought. Less than thirty years ago the highest ranked mathematics graduate program in the U.S. did not even allow applications from potential women students. Many of the leading colleges and universities either accepted only men or kept the ratio of women students intentionally small. Even among public high schools, some of those most successful in scientific and mathematical training were closed to girls. Some men who received their scientific training in the sixties and earlier and who are now holding positions with responsibility and power came to accept the official discrimination against girls and women as the normal status quo.

The Council received and filed many annual reports.

Finally, the Council continued its discussion of the issue of its composition, after which it adjourned at about 10:30 p.m.

## Officers of the Society 1995 and 1996

Except for the members-at-large of the Council, the month and year of the first term and the end of the present term are given. For members-at-large of the Council, the last year of the present term is listed.

### Council

#### President

Cathleen S. Morawetz 2/95-1/97

#### Ex-President

Ronald L. Graham 2/95-1/96

#### President-Elect

Arthur M. Jaffe 2/96-1/97

#### Vice-Presidents

Michael Aschbacher 2/96-1/99

Anil Nerode 2/93-1/96

Gian-Carlo Rota 2/95-1/98

Jean E. Taylor 2/94-1/97

#### Secretary

Robert M. Fossum 1/89-1/97

#### Associate Secretaries

Robert J. Daverman 2/93-1/97

Susan J. Friedlander 2/96-1/98

William A. Harris 2/96-1/98

Andy Roy Magid 1/88-1/96

Lesley M. Sibner 2/93-1/97

Lance W. Small 1/88-1/96

#### Treasurer

Franklin P. Peterson 8/73-1/97

#### Associate Treasurer

B. A. Taylor 2/93-1/97

#### Members-at-Large

All terms are for three years and expire on January 31 following the year given.

#### 1995

Svetlana R. Katok

Steven George Krantz

James I. Lepowsky

Peter W. K. Li

Susan Gayle Williams

#### 1996

Robert K. Lazarsfeld

Frank Morgan

Norberto Salinas

Sylvia M. Wiegand

Robert J. Zimmer

#### 1997

David B. A. Epstein

James Hyman

Jerrold E. Marsden

Cora S. Sadosky

Alice Silverberg

#### 1998

David M. Bressoud

Gail A. Carpenter

John B. Conway

Krystyna M. Kuperberg

Andrew M. Odlyzko

**Member of Executive Committee**

Members of the Council, as provided for in Article 7, Section 4 (last sentence) of the Bylaws of the Society.

Joan S. Birman 2/93-1/96

John M. Franks 2/91-1/97

Steven George Krantz 2/95-1/99

Marc A. Rieffel 2/92-1/98

**Publications Committees*****Bulletin* Editorial Committee**

Haynes R. Miller 2/94-1/97

Murray H. Protter 2/95-1/98

***Colloquium* Editorial Committee**

William Browder 2/93-1/96

Susan J. Friedlander 2/96-1/99

***Journal of the AMS* Editorial Committee**

William Fulton 2/93-1/99

***Mathematical Reviews* Editorial Committee**

Philip J. Hanlon 2/93-3/95

Hugh L. Montgomery 3/95-1/99

***Mathematical Surveys and Monographs* Editorial Committee**

Georgia Benkart 1/94-1/97

Tudor Stefan Ratiu 2/96-1/99

***Mathematics of Computation* Editorial Committee**

Walter Gautschi 1/84-1/96

Lars B. Wahlbin 1/90-1/98

***Proceedings* Editorial Committee**

Irwin Kra 2/91-1/97

***Transactions and Memoirs* Editorial Committee**

Peter B. Shalen 2/92-1/00

**Board of Trustees**

Roy L. Adler 2/93-1/98

Hyman Bass 7/95-1/99

Michael G. Crandall 2/96-1/01

Maria M. Klawe 2/92-1/97

D. J. Lewis 2/94-6/95

Donald E. McClure 2/95-1/00

M. Susan Montgomery 1/86-1/96

Cathleen S. Morawetz (*ex officio*) 2/95-1/97

Franklin P. Peterson (*ex officio*) 8/73-1/97

B. A. Taylor (*ex officio*) 2/93-1/97