

From the AMS

The April 1996 Council Meeting

The Council met at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, 13 April 1996, in New York, NY. Twenty-one members attended, as did several policy committee chairs and other representatives. President Morawetz presided.

President Morawetz introduced the Council and guests. Several newly elected or appointed members of the Council attended for the first time.

The meeting began with the usual routine business. Minutes were approved. It was announced that Andrew Odlyzko, a member-at-large, had been elected by the Council to a four-year term on the Council's Executive Committee and that AMS secretary Robert Fossum had been elected to a two-year term as Council representative to the Joint Policy Board in Mathematics.

The Council, sitting in executive session, elected Michael Renardy (VPI) to a three-year term on the Mathematical Surveys and Monographs Editorial Committee. Also, upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee, it nominated candidates for various positions in the upcoming election as follows:

For vice-president it nominated H. Blaine Lawson (SUNY at Stony Brook) and Ruth J. Williams (University of California at San Diego, La Jolla).

For member-at-large of the Council it nominated: Francis Bonahon (University of Southern California), William G. Dwyer (University of Notre Dame), Frederick P. Gardiner (Brooklyn College),

William A. Massey (AT&T Bell Labs), Peter A. Perry (University of Kentucky), Gail D. L. Ratcliff (University of Missouri at St. Louis), Joel H. Spencer (NYU Courant), Philip Uri Treisman (University of Texas at Austin), Karen Vogtmann (Cornell University), and Zhihong (Jeff) Xia (Northwestern University).

For trustee it nominated Richard Ewing (Texas A&M University) and Andy R. Magid (University of Oklahoma).

After rising from executive session, the Council adopted several changes in the committee structure. The current AMS Committee on Accessibility for the Handicapped was changed to a joint AMS-MAA-SIAM committee with the same name. The AMS-MAA Committee on Cooperation was made a standing committee, with ex officio membership consisting of the presidents, secretaries, executive directors, and either the past presidents or presidents-elect of the two organizations. The International Affairs Committee, which had not functioned for several years, was discharged with thanks. The Advisory Committee on Former Soviet Union Mathematics was also discharged with thanks, as funds collected to aid endeavors in the former Soviet Union mostly had been expended, fulfilling the committee's stated purpose. Finally, AMS representation on the Advisory Board of the National Translations Center of the John Crerar Library was terminated, in part because no representative has been named since 1992.

Arthur Jaffe, chair of the Rochester Task Force, reviewed activities of the Task Force in 1996. At the conclusion of his report, the Coun-

cil unanimously adopted the following resolution, proposed by the Rochester Task Force and the Committee on the Profession:

The Council of the American Mathematical Society commends the Administration of the University of Rochester under President Thomas H. Jackson, and the Mathematics Department under the Chairmanship of Joseph Neisendorfer, for reaching an agreement about the future of the mathematics programs at Rochester.

The Council commends President Jackson and his Administration for their recognition of the importance of supporting programs in mathematics at all levels. The Council also expresses its confidence and optimism in the plans for the future of the department as articulated by Professors Neisendorfer and Ravenel.

Then, noting the extraordinary efforts of the Rochester Task Force itself, the Council adopted the following resolution, proposed by the Committee on the Profession, and expressed its appreciation to the Task Force leadership (Arthur Jaffe, Joseph Lipman, and Salah Baouendi) with a round of hearty applause.

The Council commends the AMS Rochester Task Force, under the direction of Arthur Jaffe, for their outstanding efforts to resolve the situation concerning the Department of Mathematics at the University of Rochester.

Acting on another recommendation of the Committee on the Profession, the Council extended the life of the AMS Rochester Task Force (RTF) for two more years under the name Mathematics Advocacy Task Force (MATF). The purpose of the MATF is to bring together prominent representatives from mathematics, sciences, technology, and business to address the role of mathematics in universities and society at large. The MATF will collaborate with policy committees and the AMS Council on specific goals. The internal structure of the RTF will remain in place, and the new MATF will strive to build on the momentum achieved by the RTF recently. The Council's Executive Committee will review the MATF during its second year.

Upon request of the executive director and endorsement by the Committee on the Profession, the Council approved an increase to \$25 for the suggested gift to the Centennial Fellowship Fund which annually appears on member dues statements.

The executive director, John H. Ewing, gave his annual report to the Council.

Member-at-large Cora Sadosky noted a piece from the 22 March 1996 issue of *Science*, which read in part that "The U.S. Senate and House will soon consider major changes in immigration policy. S. 1234...as passed in subcommittee...would have sharply reduced the number of foreign nationals who can enter the country legally and imposed a number of disincentives for employers to sponsor foreign workers. ...It also would have limited the national interest waiver and the waiver granted to outstanding professors and researchers." Council adopted the following resolution:

The officers of the AMS should make known the opposition of the mathematical profession to such measures, which would impede the ability of U.S. institutions to appoint mathematicians and scientists from other countries.

The Council adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Robert J. Daverman
Acting Secretary
Knoxville, TN