

The Council

Contemplation of the Council over a period of fifty years reveals changes in composition, voting strength, and function.

The Council consists of members-at-large and ex officio members. The number of members-at-large, called elected members in earlier times, has been fifteen since 1924. The changes in composition and in voting strength in the Council with time have taken place among the ex officio members.

In 1938 the Council consisted of the president, three vice presidents, the secretary, four associate secretaries, the treasurer, the librarian, four editorial committees of three persons for the *Bulletin*, the *Transactions*, the *Colloquium Publications*, the representatives on the *American Journal*, any ex-secretary who had served for at least ten years, ex-presidents for six years after their terms as president, and fifteen member-at-large.

Certain other named committees have been represented on the Council by their full membership. When *Mathematical Reviews* began in 1940 and *Mathematical Surveys* and *Monographs* in 1944, these were added. When the *Proceedings* was split from the *Bulletin* in 1950 and when *Mathematics of Computation* became an official Society journal in 1966, these were added. The members of the Committee on Printing and Publishing, which was concerned with non-editorial matters and existed in the interval 1953 to 1971, were Council members.

Council membership by members of editorial committees was changed in 1985 in a manner to be described as part of the account of voting rights.

The Committee to Monitor Problems in Communication, which had been a standing committee, gained representation by its chairman in 1971. The Committee on Science Policy, which had been a standing committee, was represented by its chairman since 1985.

Up to 1938, the Nominating Committee traditionally offered one candidate for each position. In 1940 there were two petitions that the bylaws be revised, in particular to allow for freer methods of nominating and electing members of the Council. A committee consisting of L. P. Eisenhart, chairman, C. R. Adams, W. C. Graustein, W. T. Martin, and A. D. Michal,

made a proposal, the burden of which was that the membership should elect members-at-large in contested elections and that the Council elect officers and editors. The chairman himself opposed the recommendations in a covering letter. There was no action on this formulation. A committee consisting of W. M. Whyburn, chairman, A. Church, and P. Franklin produced a revision that was approved by the Council and the membership in 1941.

The revision added the Editorial Committee of *Mathematical Reviews* to the list of editorial committees and did not otherwise change the composition of the Council. However, it changed the voting strength in that each editorial committee designated one voting member (who might be replaced by an alternate). Associate secretaries (unless one was acting secretary) did not vote. Moreover, although the bylaws did not so specify, elections for vice-president and member-at-large were contested. From that point on, the majority of the voting strength lay with members chosen in contested elections.

The total result was not completely satisfactory. A Committee on Reorganization, consisting of W. L. Ayres, chairman, S. S. Cairns, B. P. Gill, J. R. Kline, W. T. Martin, P. A. Smith, and M. H. Stone made several recommendations to the Council of 16 April 1948. These included the creation of the office of president elect, the creation of an Executive Committee with delegated powers, and some changes in the Council. The difficulty with the Council lay in the editors and associate secretaries, who were members without vote. The proposed solution was that all editors should be voting members but that the set of four associate secretaries and the editorial committees should each have one vote, divided among the members present. Matters were to be decided by simple majority vote but in the event that a count was requested it was to be carried out "by fractions."

The Council accepted these recommendations and turned the writing over to a committee consisting of S. S. Cairns, chairman, J. R. Kline, and P. A. Smith, who produced the required draft at the Council of 30 August 1949. It was approved by the Council and the membership. In particular the term of an ex-president was limited to one year and of an ex-secretary to two years.

The position of librarian disappeared in 1952 when the library was sold. See the section on the move from New York to Providence.

The position of associate treasurer as a council member appeared in 1973.

By 1985 the Council as described above had become too large. The possible maximum of 41 in 1938 had grown to 66, mostly with the increase in number and size of editorial committees. Moreover, the voting strength had changed in a subtle and unintended manner. There were fifteen members at large and three vice-presidents, all elected in contested elections. To maintain the principle that persons so elected should be in the majority, single votes had been assigned to each editorial committee and to the set of associate secretaries, with voting done by voice vote unless there was a request for a

roll call, when it was done “by fractions” as already described. As the Council grew larger, there were more voices, both in the debate and in the voice votes, from persons chosen in uncontested elections even though the distribution of votes by fractions remained unchanged.

The Executive Committee proposed that only the chairman of an editorial committee (or a deputy) be a Council member, that only the associate secretary for the scientific program (or a suitable alternate) be a member and, incidentally, that the chairman of the Committee on Science Policy be made a member. The need for fractional votes would vanish. The Long Range Planning Committee endorsed this position. The Council of 8 January 1985 approved the amendment to the bylaws and so did the Business Meeting of 14 August 1985. The expected clause that no one already on the Council on 1 January 1986 should be displaced during the current term was included. The effect was to reduce the size of the Council over a four year period to a maximum of 39, achieved only when there is an eligible past secretary and when three of the four elected members of the Executive Committee have had their terms extended to allow for that duty. The voting by fractions was eliminated.

NOMINATIONS

The bylaws specify that nominations are made by the Council. In practice, a Nominating Committee brings recommendations to the Council, which almost invariably follows them. With respect to editors, the Council of 29 December 1938 instructed the Nominating Committee to consult the appropriate editorial committee in making nominations. Recently proposals for vice-president and member-at-large have also come to the Council by petition and, except in the case of repeated petitions for the same candidate, these are followed also.

It has already been noted that the nominating procedure was liberalized in 1941 in that the election for member-at-large and for vice-president was contested.

For many years the Nominating Committee was named by the President, who usually chose a new committee each year with the possible exception of holding one person from a previous year to serve as chairman. Two objections appeared. One was that it perpetuated an “old boy” effect. The other was that, inasmuch as the election of a president is uncontested, each president is naming his successor at one remove.

At the meeting of 31 August 1971, the Council agreed to hear a presentation by Mary Gray in which she proposed that suggested candidates supported by petition be nominated. The Council agreed to consider such a plan with respect to candidates for member-at-large and vice-president. A committee consisting of M. Gerstenhaber, chairman, P. R. Halmos, and V. L. Klee,

Jr., presented a motion on the proposed lines at the Council of 16 January 1972. The number of signatures on a valid petition was set at 50 after discussion. The most intense argument came over the issue, raised by Halmos in a minority opinion, who wrote as follows:

The ballot . . . nominates people who are to help make decisions of scientific import; I think a certain quantity of proved scientific competence should be a prerequisite I prefer the . . . procedure of nominating deserving and competent people by good will and good sense to one legalistically circumscribed. If, however, that procedure is called into question, . . . then I urge a very carefully legalistically formulated set of qualifying conditions that a candidate must satisfy.

After extended argument an amendment by Saunders Mac Lane was passed to include a qualification that the candidate must have had five books or papers reviewed in *Mathematical Reviews* and that the petitioners should present a statement on the mathematical accomplishments of the candidate. In this form the motion was returned to the committee.

The committee, reduced to two with the resignation of Halmos, presented a revised resolution that did not contain reference to scientific qualifications. The Council made changes in details and authorized a two-year trial.

Nomination by petition (that is, proposals for nomination) became a permanent feature of the nomination procedure. In the initial year 1972, there were seven candidates by petition, of whom one, Anatole Beck, was elected. In subsequent years through 1987 there appear to have been 17 such candidates of whom three were elected. In the same spirit, effective with the Nominating Committee of 1976, the committee was elected by the membership in a contested election from candidates named by the president together with candidates proposed by petition, if any.

In the election to the Nominating Committee, the "single transferrable ballot" is used. Opinions vary as to the utility and effectiveness of this method. The secretary has served as teller in these elections and has observed that in filling four places there have been two occasions in thirteen years when the person scoring fifth in first choice votes has been elected through the effect of the transfers.

There has been some objection to having more than one member-at-large from an institution. Recommendations of the nominating committee that violate this convention have been rejected, as in 1954 when two names from the University of Illinois were suggested. More recently, the nominating committee has been advised to consider seriously any proposed nomination that places more than three Council members or one Trustee at an institution. With the reduced size of the Council this advice can be expected to change.

At the time of preparation of this book arrangements were being made to have editorial committees named in the bylaws appointed by the Council on the basis of nominations made by an elected Editorial Boards Committee (EBC). The principle had been established but not all of the details of mechanism. The EBC was also to be charged with monitoring the functioning of those editorial committees.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

There is a separate chapter devoted to the presidents of the second fifty years. There is a chapter for the other officers, namely vice-president, secretary, associate secretary, treasurer, associate treasurer, and librarian.

The members of the editorial committees are listed with the accounts of the publications that they edited. Those elected before 1 January 1986 were Council members during the entire term covered by the election. One elected after that date was not a Council member unless serving as chairman of the editorial committee. (The title was sometimes managing editor.) Members from the Committee on Printing and Publishing, the Committee to Monitor Problems in Communication, and the Committee on Science Policy are named in the discussion of those committees.

It is only in recent years, beginning in 1965, that travel costs of Council members to Council meetings have been paid. These are limited to economy plane fare or the equivalent and some ground transportation.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Neither members-at-large nor ex officio members are eligible for immediate election as member-at-large. There is, however, no bar to election more than once, though this rarely happens. Fourteen persons have served as member-at-large for two terms. A member-at-large may simultaneously be an editor or may follow membership at large by membership in some other capacity. There are persons who have been members of the Council almost continuously over many years. The prime example is P. R. Halmos, with four terms as member-at-large and one as vice-president, as well as membership on the Council on editorial committees and the Executive Committee.

The terms stated in the following list are the statutory terms of three years. A member of the Council elected to the Executive Committee for a term extending beyond the statutory term remains on the Council and serves as a member-at-large. No account has been taken of that phenomenon in this list. It is not certain that all irregularities such as resignations have been flagged. Here are the members-at-large of the second fifty years:

W. L. Ayres	1/37-12/39	I. S. Sokolnikoff	1/45-12/47
G. A. Hedlund	1/37-12/39	Ralph P. Boas	1/46-12/48
H. L. Rietz	1/37-12/39	R. H. Cameron	1/46-12/48
Warren Weaver	1/37-12/39	R. V. Churchill	1/46-12/48
G. T. Whyburn	1/37-12/39	Churchill Eisenhart	1/46-12/48
Philip Franklin	1/38-12/40	A. P. Morse	1/46-12/48
A. D. Michal	1/38-12/40	H. W. Bode	1/47-12/49
J. L. Synge	1/38-12/40	Samuel Eilenberg	1/47-12/49
W. J. Trjitzinsky	1/38-12/40	B. O. Koopman	1/47-12/49
John von Neumann	1/38-12/40	Gordon Pall	1/47-12/49
H. E. Bray	1/39-12/41	J. W. Tukey	1/47-12/49
Alonzo Church	1/39-12/41	J. L. Doob	1/48-12/50
E. J. McShane	1/39-12/41	R. L. Jeffery	1/48-12/50
H. P. Robertson	1/39-12/41	J. B. Rosser	1/48-12/50
Hermann Weyl	1/39-12/41	Norman E. Steenrod	1/48-12/50
L. E. Dickson	1/40-12/42	Alfred Tarski	1/48-12/50
C. G. Latimer	1/40-12/42	Emil Artin	1/49-12/51
Saunders Mac Lane	1/40-12/42	Herbert Busemann	1/49-12/51
N. H. McCoy	1/40-12/42	George W. Mackey	1/49-12/51
W. M. Whyburn	1/40-12/42	M. H. Heins	1/49-12/52
L. R. Ford	1/41-12/43	L. C. Young	1/49-12/51
G. B. Price	1/41-12/43	Warren Ambrose	1/50-12/52
Tibor Radó	1/41-12/43	Paul R. Halmos	1/50-12/52
A. W. Tucker	1/41-12/43	Mark Kac	1/50-12/52
Morgan Ward	1/41-12/43	S. B. Myers	1/50-12/52
G. A. Bliss	1/42-12/44	D. C. Spencer	1/50-12/52
Nelson Dunford	1/42-12/44	David Blackwell	1/51-12/53
W. T. Martin	1/42-12/44	H. F. Bohnenblust	1/51-12/53
Gabor Szegő	1/42-12/44	Irving Kaplansky	1/51-12/53
S. S. Wilks	1/42-12/44	H. S. MacDonald Coxeter	1/51-12/53
R. P. Agnew	1/43-12/45		
Harry Bateman	1/43-12/45	W. T. Reid	1/51-12/53
E. T. Bell	1/43-12/45	L. V. Ahlfors	1/52-12/54
Richard Courant	1/43-12/45	C. B. Allendoerfer	1/52-12/54
D. H. Lehmer	1/43-12/45	R. H. Bing	1/52-12/54
Garrett Birkhoff	1/44-12/46	E. R. Lorch	1/52-12/54
M. R. Hestenes	1/44-12/46	J. C. Oxtoby	1/52-12/54
Harold Hotelling	1/44-12/46	F. B. Jones	1/53-12/55
Nathan Jacobson	1/44-12/46	Edwin E. Moise	1/53-12/55
R. D. James	1/44-12/46	B. J. Pettis	1/53-12/55
H. F. Bohnenblust	1/45-12/47	R. M. Thrall	1/53-12/55
S. S. Cairns	1/45-12/47	George W. Whitehead	1/53-12/55
H. B. Curry	1/45-12/47	R. P. Dilworth	1/54-12/56
M. H. Ingraham	1/45-12/47	R. D. James	1/54-12/56

C. C. MacDuffee	1/54-12/56	R. C. Lyndon	1/62-12/64
D. V. Widder	1/54-12/56	Lawrence Markus	1/62-12/64
Antoni Zygmund	1/54-12/57	D. A. Darling	1/63-12/65
E. F. Beckenbach	1/55-12/57	Karel de Leeuw	1/63-12/65
David Blackwell	1/55-12/57	G. F. D. Duff	1/63-12/65
R. H. Fox	1/55-12/57	Louis Nirenberg	1/63-12/65
Kurt O. Friedrichs	1/55-12/57	Leo Zippin	1/63-12/65
G. de B. Robinson	1/55-12/57	Eugenio Calabi	1/64-12/66
John L. Kelley	1/56-12/58	Victor L. Klee, Jr.	1/64-12/66
Hans Samelson	1/56-12/58	John W. Milnor	1/64-12/66
Abraham H. Taub	1/56-12/58	A. E. Taylor	1/64-12/66
A. D. Wallace	1/56-12/58	John Wermer	1/64-12/66
Einar Hille	1/56-12/59	R. F. Arens	1/65-12/67
R. E. Bellman	1/57-12/59	Maurice Auslander	1/65-12/67
Lipman Bers	1/57-12/59	Alberto P. Calderón	1/65-12/67
Andrew M. Gleason	1/57-12/60	Lamberto Cesari	1/65-12/67
Paul R. Halmos	1/57-12/60	Paul J. Cohen	1/65-12/67
D. H. Lehmer	1/57-12/59	J. B. Diaz	1/66-12/68
R H Bing	1/58-12/60	Walter Feit	1/66-12/68
L. H. Loomis	1/58-12/60	Henry Helson	1/66-12/68
P. C. Rosenbloom	1/58-12/60	Kenneth M. Hoffman	1/66-12/68
Walter Rudin	1/58-12/60	Ivan Niven	1/66-12/68
I. E. Segal	1/58-12/60	Richard D. Anderson	1/67-12/69
R. H. Bruck	1/59-12/61	William Browder	1/67-12/69
P. R. Garabedian	1/59-12/61	Avner Friedman ¹	1/67-12/69
Edwin Hewitt	1/59-12/61	Jürgen K. Moser	1/67-12/69
G. de B. Robinson	1/59-12/61	Gian-Carlo Rota	1/67-12/69
Leo Zippin	1/59-12/61	Armand Borel	1/68-12/70
R. Creighton Buck	1/60-12/62	Raoul H. Bott	1/68-12/70
M. M. Day	1/60-12/63	Israel N. Herstein	1/68-12/70
Arthur Erdélyi	1/60-12/62	Serge Lang	1/68-12/70
G. E. Forsythe	1/60-12/62	Jacob T. Schwartz	1/68-12/70
Edwin H. Spanier	1/60-12/62	Hyman Bass	1/69-12/71
Paul T. Bateman	1/61-12/63	Paul J. Cohen	1/69-12/71
H. W. Bode	1/61-12/63	J. Wallace Givens, Jr.	1/69-12/71
Raoul H. Bott	1/61-12/63	Victor L. Klee, Jr.	1/69-12/71
R. S. Phillips	1/61-12/63	Ray A. Kunze	1/69-12/71
C. B. Tompkins	1/61-12/63	Michael Artin	1/70-12/72
Leon A. Henkin	1/62-12/64	Michael F. Atiyah	1/70-12/72
Alston S. Householder	1/62-12/64	Philip Hartman	1/70-12/72
Peter D. Lax	1/62-12/64	C. C. Lin	1/70-12/72
		Calvin C. Moore	1/70-12/72

⁽¹⁾Friedman was elected by the Council to fill a vacancy caused by the fact that Sigurdur Halgason declined to serve.

George F. Carrier	1/71-12/73	Ronald L. Graham	1/78-12/81
Morton L. Curtis	1/71-12/73	Stephen S. Shatz	1/79-12/79
Mary Ellen Rudin	1/71-12/73	Chandler Davis	1/79-12/81
James B. Serrin	1/71-12/73	Robert P. Gilbert	1/79-12/81
Elias M. Stein	1/71-12/73	Johan H. B. Kemperman	
William Browder	1/72-12/74		1/79-12/81
P. S. Mostert	1/72-12/74	Karen Uhlenbeck	1/79-12/81
Robert T. Seeley	1/72-12/74	Daniel H. Wagner	1/79-12/81
Dorothy Maharam Stone		Frederick W. Gehring	1/80-12/82
	1/72-12/74	Lee Lorch	1/80-12/82
Olga Taussky-Todd	1/72-12/74	Richard S. Millman	1/80-12/82
Anatole Beck	1/73-12/75	Marian B. Pour-El	1/80-12/82
Michael Golomb	1/73-12/75	Mary Ellen Rudin	1/80-12/82
Mary W. Gray	1/73-12/75	Donald L. Burkholder	1/81-12/83
Arthur P. Mattuck	1/73-12/75	Alan J. Hoffman	1/81-12/83
Cathleen S. Morawetz	1/73-12/75	Linda Keen	1/81-12/83
Charles W. Curtis	1/74-12/76	Paul J. Sally, Jr.	1/81-12/83
Herbert G. Keller	1/74-12/76	David A. Sanchez	1/82-12/82
Robion C. Kirby	1/74-12/77	Isadore M. Singer	1/82-12/82
Lee Lorch	1/74-12/76	Peter A. Fillmore	1/82-12/84
Jane Cronin Scanlon	1/74-12/76	Robert P. Langlands	1/82-12/84
David Gale	1/75-12/77	M. Susan Montgomery	
Judy Green	1/75-12/77		1/82-12/84
Phillip A. Griffiths	1/75-12/77	Hector J. Sussman	1/82-12/84
Karl K. Norton	1/75-12/77	Melvin Hochster	1/82-12/86
J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr.	1/75-12/77	Peter L. Duren	1/83-12/85
Hugo Rossi	1/76-12/78	Susan J. Friedlander	1/83-12/85
Lee A. Rubel	1/76-12/78	Paul R. Halmos	1/83-12/85
Barry Simon	1/76-12/78	Robin Hartshorne	1/83-12/85
Daniel Waterman	1/76-12/78	Michael Shub	1/83-12/85
Guido L. Weiss	1/76-12/78	Olga Taussky-Todd	1/83-12/85
Theodore W. Gamelin		Michael G. Crandall	1/84-12/86
	1/77-12/79	David Eisenbud	1/84-12/86
Richard J. Griego	1/77-12/79	Carlos Kenig	1/84-12/86
Karl H. Hofmann	1/77-12/79	Jean Taylor	1/84-12/86
Henry P. McKean	1/77-12/79	William P. Thurston	1/84-12/86
Linda Preiss Rothschild		A. T. Bharucha-Reid ²	1/85-4/85
	1/77-12/79	Daniel M. Burns	1/85-12/87
Isadore M. Singer	1/78-12/78	Joseph B. Keller	1/85-12/87
Joan S. Birman	1/78-12/80	Audrey A. Terras	1/85-12/87
Lenore Blum	1/78-12/80	David A. Vogan, Jr.	1/85-12/87
James A. Donaldson	1/78-12/80	Hyman Bass	1/86-12/86
Murray Gerstenhaber	1/78-12/80	Cora S. Sadosky ²	1/86-12/87

(²)Bharucha-Reid died on 5 April 1985. Sadosky was elected to fill out the term.

James G. Arthur	1/86-12/88	Yiannis Moschovakis	1/87-
Jane P. Gilman	1/86-12/88	Linda A. Ness	1/87-
Chuu-Lain Terng	1/86-12/88	Marc A. Rieffel	1/87-
William A. Veech	1/86-	Carol S. Wood	1/87-
H. Blaine Lawson, Jr.	1/87-		

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The bylaws assign a number of powers and duties to the Council.

Article IV, Section 2 states that:

The Council shall formulate and administer the scientific policies of the Society and shall act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Trustees.

In fact, the administration lies with the secretary and the executive director. Much of the function of advising the Trustees is done through the Executive Committee of the Council, which sits regularly with the Board of Trustees at appropriate times.

Article IV, Section 8 begins by saying:

The Council shall also have power to speak in the name of the Society with respect to matters affecting the status of mathematics or mathematicians, such as proposed or enacted federal or state legislation; conditions of employment in universities, colleges, or business, research or industrial organizations; regulations, policies, or acts of governmental agencies or instrumentalities; and other items which tend to affect the dignity and effective position of mathematics.

The existence of this bylaw is the result of a controversy discussed in the chapter on political and social questions. The bylaw continues with a description of operating procedures.

Other defined functions are the election of members and the setting of times and places of meetings. These however have been delegated to the Executive Committee or to the secretary and associate secretaries.

The nature of the work of the Council has changed with time. Some kinds of business have moved to the Executive Committee. This has the advantage that the Executive Committee and the Trustees meet jointly. Other business has gravitated to the Providence office under the aegis of the executive director. The advantage here is that the Council does less administrative work than in the past. The Council is more concerned with planning, as through its Long Range Planning Committee, and with review, as through the periodic review program of the Executive Committee, than with semi-administrative

matters such as the number of pages that a journal should publish. The objection of some Council members to this change in perspective, though they state it in other terms, is that it is harder to plan or to review effectively without the knowledge gained through immersion in operations.

The Council is governed by the Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (second edition) by Alice Sturgis. Here is the background. The Society had a Business Meeting in January 1974 in San Francisco at which it was anticipated that there might be parliamentary difficulties. Usually the Society had depended on the imperfect knowledge of parliamentary procedures of the president or the secretary. Occasionally a member was used as parliamentarian. In this instance it was decided that the seriousness of the situation warranted investigation of the possibility of using a professional parliamentarian. The name of Alice Sturgis was found in the San Francisco yellow pages. The Society could not have been more fortunate. Not only was Mrs. Sturgis the author of an excellent book based on sound, clearly stated principles but also she was experienced in advising groups. Moreover, at the moment she professed to be interested in the special problems of non-profit organizations. With her guidance the meeting was handled effectively. The Council then adopted the book of Sturgis as the standard for the parliamentary governance of its meetings.