

**American Mathematical Society
Committee on Publications
September 28-29, 2012**

Summary Report

A meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications (CPub) was held on Friday and Saturday, September 28-29, 2012, at the Chicago Hilton O'Hare, Chicago, IL. CPub chair Matthew Ando presided over the meeting. A summary of the meeting is provided below.

Agenda Items for Information and Discussion:

Discussion Topic:

The AMS Book Program: An Acquisitions Overview

Publisher Sergei Gelfand led an informational discussion on the activities and practices of the AMS Acquisitions Editors. The presentation started with a brief history of the AMS Book Program, followed by discussion on what makes a book an "AMS book"; types of books published by the AMS; how books are obtained; and how Acquisitions staff work with editorial committees. Members and guests participated in discussion on how AMS can continue to improve the Book Program in the future, with particular emphasis on the textbook segment of the program.

Updates on 2011 Actions

- **The following 2011 CPub action items were approved by the January 2012 Council:**
 - Revision of the AMS Policy on Author Charges
 - Discontinuation of publication of the Scientific Program of the Joint Mathematics Meetings in *Notices of the AMS*
 - Updates to certain book and journal editorial committee charges

- **Web Editorial Group (WEG)**

At its 2011 meeting, CPub endorsed the Secretary and President's assembly of the Web Editorial Group (WEG) to collaborate with the Web Advisory Group (WAG) and make suggestions about the scientific and mathematical content hosted on the AMS website (www.ams.org). Executive Director Don McClure provided the Committee with a brief update on assembly of the WEG.

AMS eBook Program

Publisher Sergei Gelfand provided the Committee with an update on the AMS eBook program. AMS has continued to expand its electronic content offerings in 2012. Over 2,500 AMS eBooks are now available via Google's most recent electronic content platform, *Google Play* (<https://play.google.com/store>). Additionally, AMS has launched its own electronic book series subscription product (which includes all backlist titles), an electronic version of its *Contemporary Mathematics Series (e-Contemporary Mathematics)*. Libraries are now able to purchase the complete electronic collection for this series with significant savings since all backlist titles are being offered at a deeply discounted introductory price for one year. In 2013, AMS plans to expand direct sales of other series in this manner as well.

Review of AMS Book Program

Matthew Ando, chair of the CPub subcommittee that conducted the 2012 review of the AMS Book Program, presented the subcommittee's report. Other subcommittee members included: Luchezar Avramov, Hélène Barcelo, and Richard Brualdi. The subcommittee conducted its review by analyzing the report of the 2008 subcommittee, which provided the most recent review of the AMS Book Program, and by collecting data from the AMS Editorial Division and from surveys conducted with recent authors of AMS books, recent authors of non-AMS books, editors of AMS book series, and AMS members.

The report of the subcommittee concluded that, overall, the Book Program is doing "a good job of realizing its main objectives, and there has been some progress on some of the issues noted in the 2008 report." The following summary was provided:

- *The data generally support the proposition that the AMS's publication of research monographs and conference proceedings is in excellent shape.*
- *The AMS's new series of undergraduate texts (AMSTEXT) is off to a strong start, and the older Student Mathematical Library series is publishing interesting books.*
- *The AMS publishes very good graduate texts, but there continues to be some concern about early-career offerings in core areas of mathematics.*
- *The AMS's book program does an excellent job serving the needs of authors of mathematical books.*

The report also recommended that AMS continue to refine its book series in order to help improve awareness and understanding of the Book Program's offerings. Additionally, the chair and several members of the Committee cautioned against co-publication partnerships in which AMS has to relinquish editorial control of content.

New Developments in Open Access Journals

Executive Director Don McClure led the Committee in discussion on recent developments in the rapidly growing expansion of open access publication platforms occurring worldwide.

In the event that gold open access becomes a mandated requirement for publically funded research, AMS will take several steps over the next couple of years in an effort to smooth this transition. These include:

- Surveying authors (worldwide) to assess their views of author-pay models of open access
- Hosting a Committee on Science Policy Session, *Who Will Pay for the Papers We Publish?* at the 2013 Joint Mathematics Meetings
- Conducting a thorough analysis of cost-per-paper expenses
- Researching the feasibility of establishing open-access journal(s)

Report on Journal Backlogs

The Committee reviewed the "Backlog of Mathematics Research Journals" report published yearly in the *Notices*, as well as the AMS Internal Backlog Report. The increase in the number of papers being submitted and accepted for publication in *Proceedings*, which has led to a growing backlog, was discussed. The *Proceedings* managing editor is currently working with the editorial committee to address this issue.

Report on Mathematical Reviews

Mathematical Reviews (MR) Executive Editor Graeme Fairweather provided the Committee with an update on recent MR activities and initiatives and reported that the next meeting of the Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee (MREC) will take place October 8, 2012, in Ann Arbor.

Agenda Items Recommended for Approval by the Council:

History of Mathematics (HMATH) Series

The AMS has been publishing the HMATH series in partnership with the London Mathematical Society (LMS) since the series was first launched in 1989. The AMS was recently notified by LMS that they wish to discontinue their participation in the publication of the HMATH series. Since AMS will continue to publish the HMATH series under its own imprint, the Committee considered suggested revisions to remove wording about partnership with LMS in the charge to the History of Mathematics Editorial Committee. CPub approved the suggested changes to the charge and endorsed recommending the revised HMATH charge to Council for approval.

Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee Expansion

The Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee (MREC) is different from other AMS editorial committees in that its purview goes beyond strictly editorial matters to include policy decisions that have implications for allocation of resources. Its actions can have significant implications for the Mathematical Reviews budget and the allocation of staff effort. In this regard, it is similar to the Policy Committees of the Council. As such, the Executive Director and the Secretary suggested expanding MREC to include the Executive Director and the Associate Treasurer as ex-officio nonvoting members. CPub endorsed recommending to Council that the Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee be expanded to include the Executive Director and the Associate Treasurer as ex-officio nonvoting members.

Next meeting:

2013 CPub Meeting

The next meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications will be held Friday and Saturday, September 27-28, 2013, at the AMS Headquarters in Providence, RI. In accordance with CPub's annual review schedule, a subcommittee will be assembled to conduct an evaluation of the AMS Member Journals (*Bulletin, Notices, Abstracts*) for presentation at its 2013 meeting. CPub's last review of the Member Journals was conducted in 2009.

Sergei Gelfand, *Publisher*
November 30, 2012