

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

2:00 pm

Orono, ME

07 August 1991

Abstract

The Council of the American Mathematical Society met at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, 07 August 1991, in the Black Bear Inn, Orono, Maine. Members present were Steve Armentrout, Michael Artin, Sheldon Axler, Joan Birman, Lenore Blum, Fan R.K. Chung, Joseph Cima, Lawrence Corwin, David Cox, Chandler Davis, Robert Fossum, Frank Gilfeather, Richard Palais, Michael Reed, Hugo Rossi, David Saltman, Wilfried Schmid, B.A. Taylor, Steve Weintraub, and Ruth Williams.

Also attending were Spud Bradley, Tim Goggins, Allyn Jackson, William Jaco, Gerald Janusz, H. Kisilevsky (representing Société Mathématique du Canada), James Maxwell, Samuel Rankin, Jeremy Soldevilla, Lisa Thompson, Donovan Van Osdol, William Woolf, and Kelly Young.

It should be noted that the minutes follow the order of the agenda and not the chronological order in which they fell during the meeting.

Contents

1	MINUTES	4
1.1	March 91 Council.	4
1.2	05/91 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT) Meeting.	4
1.3	July 91 Business by Mail.	4
2	INFORMATION AND RECORD	4
2.1	Future Meetings	4
2.2	1988 Referendum Report	4
2.3	Report of the Ex-President on meetings of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP).	5
2.4	Order of Business.	5
2.5	Business Meetings.	5
2.6	Supplementary Agendas.	6
2.7	Eastern European Mathematicians	6
2.8	Comm.-Comm	7
2.9	Short Course Subcommittee.	7
2.10	Report from the President of the Mathematical Association of America.	7
3	CONSENT AGENDA.	7
3.1	Resolution: Founding of the European Mathematical Society.	7
3.2	Resolution for African Mathematical Union.	8
3.3	Colloquium Editorial Committee.	8
3.4	<i>MATHEMATICAL WORLD</i>	8
4	BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.	9
4.1	EBC	9
4.1.1	Information for Authors.	9
4.1.2	Proceedings Editorial Committee.	9
4.1.3	Recommendations from the EBC.	10
4.2	Nominating Committee.	10
4.2.1	Appointments to the Committee to Monitor Problems in Communications.	10
4.3	SPTF	10
4.3.1	SPTF Report.	11
4.3.2	Mission Statement.	11
5	Reports of Special (<i>ad hoc</i>) Committees.	12
5.1	AMS-MAA-SIAM PCT	13
6	UNFINISHED BUSINESS.	13
6.1	“Working” Officers of the Society.	13
6.2	Nominating Committee.	14

9 NEW BUSINESS	14
9.1 Petition Table at Sectional Meetings.	14
9.2 Human Rights Committee.	14
A Attachments	16
A.1 1988 Referendum	16
A.2 Report from the Editorial Boards Committee (EBC).	19

1 MINUTES

1.1 March 91 Council.

The Minutes of the March 91 Council were distributed by mail. They were approved.

1.2 05/91 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT) Meeting.

The ECBT met in Washington, DC in mid May 1991. The minutes from this meeting, having been distributed, are considered a part of the minutes of the Council.

1.3 July 91 Business by Mail.

The Council conducted Business by Mail in July 1991. The result of the ballot was not known before the agenda was mailed. The result was announced at the meeting and a minute distributed. A minute is attached to the executive session minutes that will be distributed only to members of the Council.

2 INFORMATION AND RECORD

2.1 Future meetings of the Council, Agenda and Budget Committee (ABC), and Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT).

Deadlines for receipt of material for the Council agenda are approximately five (5) weeks before the date of the meeting. Agenda items should be submitted to the Secretary.

ABC		4-5	October	1991	Providence,	RI
ECBT		21-24	November	1991	Providence,	RI
Council	2:00 pm	7	January	1992	Baltimore,	MD
Council	7:00 pm	19	March	1992	Springfield,	MO

NOTE THE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ABC		27-28	March	1992	Providence,	RI
ECBT		14-17	May	1992	Ann Arbor,	MI
ABC		2-3	October	1992	West Greenwich,	RI
ECBT		19-22	November	1992	Washington,	DC
					or Providence,	RI

(site to be determined at 11/91 ECBT meeting)

There will be no summer joint meeting in 1992 due to the International Congress of Mathematical Education to be held in Quebec in August 1992. It may be necessary to hold a Council meeting in late summer or early fall of 1992. Suggestions for dates and sites are welcome.

2.2 Report of the Executive Director on the 1988 Referendum.

The March 91 Council requested a report from the Executive Director on the implementation of the policies decided by the membership in the January 1988 referendum. This report is found in Attachment A.1. Ex-President Browder has also reported on these implementations. His report can be found in this same section of attachments.

2.3 *Report of the Ex-President on meetings of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP).*5

2.3 Report of the Ex-President on meetings of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP).

Ex-President Browder will report on recent meetings of the CSSP. His report and other material from CSSP are to be found in the American Mathematical Society Committee Report Book, Report Number 910911-02

2.4 Order of Business.

Beginning with the January 92 Council, the Secretary will adopt a slightly different numbering system for the agenda (and minutes). He proposes to use the following system:

0. Call to Order and Introductions
1. Minutes
2. Consent Agenda
3. Reports of Boards and Standing Committees
4. Reports of *ad hoc* Committees
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Announcements and Information
8. Adjournment

As mentioned above, the reports of Boards, Standing Committees, and *ad hoc* Committee will be included in the agenda but will be filed in a book of committee reports rather than included in the minutes. This book will be distributed as needed and will be available at meetings of the Council and Executive Committee.

2.5 Business Meetings.

The Bylaws state:

Article X Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held between the fifteenth of December and the tenth of February next following. Notice of the time and place of this meeting shall be mailed by the secretary or an associate secretary to the last known post office address of each member of the Society. The times and places of the annual and other meetings of the Society shall be designated by the Council. There shall be a business meeting of the Society at the annual meeting and at the summer meeting. A business meeting of the Society shall take final action only on business accepted by unanimous consent, or business notified to the full membership of the Society in the call

for the meeting, except that the business meetings held at either the annual meeting or the summer meeting may take final action on business which has been recommended for consideration by the Council and has been accepted by the vote of four-fifths of the Society present and voting at such a meeting. Such notification shall be made only when so directed by a previous business meeting of the Society or by the Council.

In the past ratification of amendments to the Bylaws have been considered at business meetings. Also Business Meetings have provided the membership with the opportunity to express opinions of various sorts. Most recently there has been precious little business conducted at these meetings. The only item on the agenda for the last two meetings held at the Annual Meeting has been the report of the Secretary. There are restrictions on conducting business at business meetings so that items cannot be placed before a meeting without due notice to the members.

Jonathan Alperin, a member-at-large of the Council, has requested consideration of a proposal to abolish business meetings. This proposal was sent to the ECBT in May 1991. However it took no official action on the proposal.

2.6 Supplementary Agendas.

Steven H. Weintraub, a member of the Council, has written to the Secretary concerning the timeliness of the COUNCIL Supplementary Agenda. In this letter he suggests that the Council adopt a deadline for receipt of Supplementary Agenda items.

The Executive Committee agreed with the sentiment expressed in Weintraub's letter, but was reluctant to recommend instituting an absolute deadline after which submission of items for consideration by the Council would not be permitted, since such a deadline might be too restrictive. It urged the Secretary to get the supplementary agenda to members of the Council in a timely fashion and stressed that the Secretary should be diligent in distributing the agenda and supplement.

2.7 Committee on Assistance to Eastern European and Soviet Mathematical Sciences Communities.

The 5/90 ECBT (item 6.14) reviewed the following recommendation from the Committee on Science Policy and raised no objection to the appointment of such a Committee:

CSP recommends that the President of the Society appoint an ad-hoc committee to investigate issues associated with needed assistance in the Eastern European and Soviet Union mathematical sciences community. This committee should be prepared to make recommendations of possible Society actions by fall 1990.

Appointment of this Committee was delayed until the report of the ad-hoc Committee on Relations with Russian Mathematicians was delivered. This report was presented to the March 1991 Council. The following recommendation was approved by the Council and requires action by the EC:

The Council accepts in principle the recommendation to establish an AMS Library/Resource Room in the Soviet Union and asks the Executive Committee to recommend to the Council when and where, with the understanding that AMS cooperation with this activity shall continue only as long as access to and use of the facility is provided on a completely non-discriminatory basis.

The ECBT asked the Executive Director to bring such a recommendation to the ECBT “when the time is right.”

2.8 Appointments to the Committee to Monitor Problems in Communication.

The following is quoted from the 05/91 ECBT Agenda.

At its January 1991 meeting, the Committee to Monitor Problems in Communication (Comm.-Comm.) agreed to recommend to the Council that the President of the Society make appointments to this Committee, that the President appoint its Chair (who would serve a three-year term), and that its Chair continue to sit on the Council. Currently members of Comm.-Comm. are appointed by the Council upon recommendation from the Nominating Committee, and Comm.-Comm. elects its own Chair who then becomes a member of the Council. Implementation of the above recommendation would require a change in the Bylaws.

For possible discussion.

The EC referred this item to the Council’s Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees is currently undertaking a study of the Society’s committee structure and it would be appropriate for it to study this particular aspect.

2.9 Short Course Subcommittee.

When the Council agreed to discharge the Committee on Employment and Educational Policy (CEEP) the subcommittee called the Short Course Subcommittee was left without a parent. This committee is charged with the generation and sponsorship of short courses that are held at annual and summer meetings of the Society. Since this appears to be part of the scientific program of these meetings, it was suggested that this committee be made a subcommittee of the Program Committee for National Meetings. The EC approved this recommendation on an interim basis. A final resolution of the status of the Short Course Subcommittee will be brought to the Council at the appropriate time (for example when a stable state is reached).

2.10 Report from the President of the Mathematical Association of America.

Professor Deborah Haimo, President of the Mathematical Association of America, reported to the Council on activities of MAA and joint activities that were of interest to the Council.

3 CONSENT AGENDA.

3.1 Resolution: Founding of the European Mathematical Society.

The European Mathematical Society was founded in October 1990. Its membership base consists of European mathematical societies and individual members. The Council approved the resolution below congratulating the European Mathematical Society on the occasion of its founding.

The Council of the American Mathematical Society sends congratulations to the European Mathematical Society on the occasion of its founding on 29

October 1990. The Council is pleased to note that the aims of the European Mathematical Society are very close to those of the AMS. It looks forward to cooperation with the EMS in activities within the mathematical sciences that will further these aims.

3.2 Resolution for African Mathematical Union.

The African Mathematical Union sponsored the Third Pan-African Congress of Mathematicians that took place from 20 to 28 August 1991 in Nairobi. Vice-President Blum represented the Society at the Congress. The Council sent the following resolution of congratulations to the Congress.

The Council of the American Mathematical Society sends congratulations to the Third Pan-African Congress of the African Mathematical Union to be held in Nairobi in August 1991. The Council is pleased that an officer of the Society can deliver these greetings personally. It looks forward to future cooperation with the Union in furthering the mathematical sciences.

3.3 Colloquium Editorial Committee.

For many years, the only duty assumed by the Colloquium Editorial Committee was to choose Colloquium Speakers for the Annual and Summer Meetings of the Society. Because this did not appear to be a true editorial committee, the Editorial Boards Committee (EBC) believed that recommending members for appointment by the Council was not in its charge. Most recently, the editorial function of this Committee has been resumed. Now there are two duties, the one being the editorial function for the COLLOQUIUM PUBLICATIONS Series; the other being the selection (or recommendation) of Colloquium Speakers. Traditionally the first follows from the second; that is, a speaker who is selected then submits a manuscript for publication. This tradition has not been followed for many years in that the Colloquium Speaker has not been routinely submitting the lectures for publication.

Recently the Colloquium series has been revived. One volume has been published and another is in production, both resulting from Colloquium Lectures. Thus the editorial function of this Committee has been revived. So it would seem appropriate that appointments to this Committee would be made by the Council upon recommendation by the EBC.

Upon recommendation by the Secretary and concurrence by the Executive Committee, the Council assigned to the Editorial Boards Committee the task of recommending appointments to the Colloquium Editorial Committee. Also the Colloquium Editorial Committee is re-charged with the tasks of recommending Colloquium Speakers for Colloquium Lectures who might deliver a manuscript for consideration for the Colloquium Series and of soliciting suitable manuscripts for this series. It should perform other duties associated with this editorial Committee.

3.4 Series of Expository Books Co-Published with Mathematical Association of America titled MATHEMATICAL WORLD.

The Council agreed, upon recommendation by the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, to the establishment of a series called MATHEMATICAL WORLD to be co-published with MAA. While the series is being dominated by translations from Russian, the subcommittee of the Russian

Translation Committee will remain as editors, representing AMS. MAA will select two editors to make a total editorial committee of four.

4 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.

4.1 Editorial Boards Committee (EBC).

A report from the EBC can be found in Attachment A.2. In it are several requests for Council action one of which concerns the backlog of papers for Transactions for the AMS. David Saltman, chair of the TAMS, recommended, on behalf of the Transactions and Memoirs Editorial Committee, that a six month moratorium be established for acceptance of papers for the *Transactions* in order to catch up on the backlog.

Both the EBC and the Saltman proposal were withdrawn. It was agreed that further discussion would be held, with staff input, before any definitive action would be taken.

In fact, the Council received the following communication:

The chair of the EBC and the chair of the Transactions Editorial Committee request that Council defer from taking action at this time regarding the current TAMS backlog. The EBC and the Transactions Editorial Committee will work with AMS staff to achieve a solution to the backlog problem over the next few weeks that is effective and sustaining. A report will be given to the ECBT by October 1 (1991) in which any needed authority will be requested. A full report will be made to Council in January 1992. The EBC and the TAMS Editorial Committee welcomes Council discussion and advice concerning backlog of AMS journals.

4.1.1 Information for Authors.

The EBC states, in the report mentioned above, that authors and editors should be appraised regularly of the backlog situation. It proposed the following resolution

This Council recommends to the ECBT that each journal should publish in its "information to authors" page a definition of backlog and a report of the backlog as that issue went to press. In addition, the backlogs of the AMS journals should be regularly published in the Notices.

which was approved by the Council.

4.1.2 Proceedings Editorial Committee.

In the same report the EBC requests approval of the following statement of policy in order to carry out the final implementation restructuring of the Proceedings Editorial Committee.

The former editors of the Proceedings are now actually "associate editors" in that they are appointed by the EBC and not the Council. Since the only recompense they have received in the past is a listing on the masthead as editor, the EBC proposes that they continue to be so listed.

This was approved by the Council.

4.1.3 Recommendations from the EBC.

The Council considered, in Executive Session, recommendations from its Editorial Boards Committee for appointments to various editorial committees.

Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society. The EBC recommended appointment of Barbara Lee Keyfitz, Benedict Gross, and James Glimm to the Proceedings Editorial Committee. The Council agreed to these recommendations and made the appointments. [Secretary's note: Gross has declined to serve. The EBC and Proceedings Editorial Committee will have another recommendation for the next Council meeting.]

Journal of the American Mathematical Society Editorial Committee. The EBC recommended appointment of Henrik Lenstra to the Journal of the AMS Editorial Committee. It was reported to the Council that Lenstra declined to serve. President Artin and Schmid reported that Andrew Odlyzko had been contacted by the JAMS Editorial Committee, that Odlyzko had agreed to serve as editor, but that formal approval by the Editorial Boards Committee had not been received. The Council appointed Odlyzko to the JAMS Editorial Committee pending approval by the EBC.

4.2 Nominating Committee.

4.2.1 Appointments to the Committee to Monitor Problems in Communications.

The Nominating Committee submitted a report (attached to the minutes of the executive session and distributed only to members of the Council) with recommendations for appointment to the Society's Committee to Monitor Problems in Communications. This report was considered in Executive Session. Since the persons recommended in the report had not been contacted concerning willingness to serve, the committee provided alternates. It was the Secretary's wish that the Council adopt the complete report, including alternates, so that, in case one of the principal nominees did not agree to serve, then an alternate could be approached.

The Council agreed to the recommendations in the report. The report itself will be filed in the American Mathematical Society Committee Report Book 1991, report Number 910910-01. Appointments to the Committee to Monitor Problems in Communication based on the report will be recorded in the *Notices* of the American Mathematical Society.

4.3 Strategic Planning Task Force.

The Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) reported to the May 1991 ECBT. The ECBT took the following actions:

1. Voted to endorse the report, with the exception of the strategies. It was agreed that any reference to the strategies in the mission statement, vision statement, goals, and objectives should be deleted, and that the strategies themselves should be separated out and put in an Appendix at the end of the report and it should be made clear that these are POSSIBLE strategies.

2. Voted that the report (as modified by the action taken in 1. above and with the understanding that there might be changes as a result of further editing in an effort to make the document more perspicuous) be published in the July/August 1991 issue of the *NOTICES* so as to inform members and stimulate member discussion.
3. Voted to forward the report (as modified in 1. and 2. above) to the 8/91 Council for discussion. Also voted to recommend that the 8/91 Council adopt the mission statement.
4. Voted to transmit the report (as modified in 1. and 2. above) to the staff of the AMS as a document initiated and endorsed by the Executive Committee of the Council and the Board of Trustees representing the renewed purpose of the Society and the strategic direction it will take in the next three to five years.
5. Voted to charge the Executive Director to coordinate staff and volunteers to transform the report (as modified in 1. and 2. above) into Operational Plans from the point of view of feasibility and effectiveness. Such Operational Plans should be presented to the 11/91 ECBT.
6. Voted to charge the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) with the tasks of monitoring and assessing progress toward attaining the goals set forth in this report (as modified in 1 and 2 above).
7. Hugo Rossi, Chair of the SPTF was thanked by acclamation for his efforts. The SPTF was discharged with thanks.

Accordingly there were two tasks for the Council:

- Discuss the report.
- Adopt the mission statement.

Trustee Paul Sally was granted the privilege of the floor to announce that, contrary to published statements, the SPTF report was not unanimously endorsed by the ECBT but that in fact he had abstained during the vote on endorsement. Sally wished that his abstention be put on the record. By so noting in this minute, this is so recorded.

4.3.1 SPTF Report.

The report of the SPTF (as modified in 1 above) has appeared in the *NOTICES*. It will also be on file in the American Mathematical Society Committee Report Book 1991. The Council discussed the report after hearing from the chair of SPTF, Hugo Rossi.

4.3.2 Mission Statement.

The current Mission Statement, found in the Society's Articles of Incorporation (1923), reads as follows:

The particular business and objects of the Society are the furtherance of the interests of mathematical scholarship and research.

The SPTF Report recommended a revised version of the Mission Statement. This was endorsed by the ECBT and recommended for adoption by the Council.

THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

The AMS, founded in 1888 to further the interests of mathematical research and scholarship, serves the national and international community through its publications, meetings, advocacy and other programs, which

- promote mathematical research, its communication and uses,
- encourage and promote the transmission of mathematical understanding and skills to ensure the continued vitality of the profession,
- support mathematical education at all levels,
- advance the status of the profession of mathematics, encouraging and facilitating full participation of all individuals.
- foster an awareness and appreciation of mathematics and its connections to other disciplines and everyday life,

By a vote of 8 in favor and 5 opposed, the Council amended the second bullet above by deleting the phrase “to ensure the continued vitality of the profession”.

It was then moved and seconded to adopt the following resolution:

The Council of the American Mathematical Society adopts the following statement of mission:

The AMS, founded in 1888 to further the interests of mathematical research and scholarship, serves the national and international community through its publications, meetings, advocacy and other programs, which

- promote mathematical research, its communication and uses,
- encourage and promote the transmission of mathematical understanding and skills,
- support mathematical education at all levels,
- advance the status of the profession of mathematics, encouraging and facilitating full participation of all individuals,
- foster an awareness and appreciation of mathematics and its connections to other disciplines and everyday life.

The motion was approved.

5 Reports of Special (*ad hoc*) Committees.

Reports of committees are being collected in the “American Mathematical Society Committee Report Book”, one book for each year. ¹

¹According to Sturgis, *Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure, Third Edition, New and Revised*, reports of committees are usually filed and not voted upon. Accordingly, the Secretary will maintain a special book reserved for committee reports. Committee reports will be included in agendas but not in the minutes. However the minutes will record which reports were presented, by whom, and the disposition of each report and will record the page number where the report may be found.

5.1 AMS-MAA-SIAM Committee on Preparation for College Teaching

Bettye Anne Case, chair of the Committee on Preparation for College Teaching has filed a report for information. (American Mathematical Society Committee Report Book 1991, Report Number 910725-02)

6 UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

6.1 “Working” Officers of the Society.

At the request of the Council, its EC recommended the method below for suggesting to the Council individuals for Council election to the positions of Secretary, Treasurer, Associate Secretary, and Associate Treasurer. The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees agreed to the following procedure and recommended it to the Council for adoption:

A standing committee of the EC and BT, to be called the ECBT Nominating Committee, will be created. It would consist of the fifth-year elected member of the BT, the fourth-year and second-year elected members of the EC, and the Chair of the Council’s Nominating Committee. The Executive Director would be a non-voting member of the Committee.

1. Associate Secretaries: This Committee would evaluate current Associate Secretaries and receive recommendations for this position. It would report on its recommendations to the May ECBT for forwarding to the August Council meeting in the year when the term expires. When it is expected that a sitting Associate Secretary will not serve again, this Committee should attempt to nominate a replacement at least one year in advance of the end of the term so that the replacement can serve a break-in period of about one year. This Committee should consult the Secretary concerning these appointments.

2. Associate Treasurer: When considering the Associate Treasurer position, the Committee is augmented by the Treasurer. This Committee would evaluate the current Associate Treasurer and receive recommendations for this position. It would report on its recommendations to the May ECBT for forwarding to the August Council meeting in the year when the term of office expires. When it is expected that a sitting Associate Treasurer will not serve again, this Committee should attempt to nominate a replacement at least one year in advance of the end of the term so that the replacement can serve a break-in period of about one year. This Committee should consult the Secretary concerning this appointment.

3. Secretary: When considering the Secretary, this Committee is augmented by the Treasurer. This Committee would evaluate the current Secretary and receive recommendations for this position. It would report on its recommendations to the May ECBT for forwarding to the August Council meeting. When it is expected that a sitting Secretary will not serve again, this Committee should attempt to nominate a replacement at least one year

in advance of the end of the term so that the replacement can serve a break-in period of about one year. This Committee should consult the President concerning this appointment.

4. **Treasurer:** When considering the Treasurer, this Committee is augmented by the Secretary. This Committee would evaluate the current Treasurer and receive recommendations for this position. It would report on its recommendations to the May ECBT for forwarding to the August Council meeting. When it is expected that a sitting Treasurer will not serve again, this Committee should attempt to nominate a replacement at least one year in advance of the end of the term so that the replacement can serve a break-in period of about one year. This Committee should consult the Associate Treasurer concerning this appointment.

When considering the report and making further recommendations to the Council the EC and BT will consist of one Committee and voting will be by majority (i.e., the EC and BT will together form the nominating committee for these positions).

The Council adopted these procedures.

6.2 Nominating Committee.

The Council agreed that an *ad hoc* committee be appointed to study the relation between the Council and its Nominating Committee and other aspects of the nominating process.

The Council considered several other items concerning nominations while in Executive Session. These will be reported in a separate collection of minutes.

9 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Petition Table at Sectional Meetings.

The Council approved a revision in its policy regarding petition tables at sectional meetings so that:

Petition tables will be made available at sectional meetings as the need arises.

(It should be mentioned that these Petition Tables are heavily used at national meetings of the Society and they will continue to be made available.)

9.2 Human Rights Committee.

The Council gave unanimous consent to consider a resolution proposed by the Society's Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians which was represented at the Council meeting by Chandler Davis, a member of the committee. The resolution reads:

The Council of the AMS takes note of the historical fact that the universities in the West Bank and Gaza came into existence after the 1967 war under Israeli occupation as

a result of the initiatives taken by the residents of the territories. These initiatives had been ignored by former occupiers. Having in mind this history, the Council deplors the fact that the closing of the universities in the territories has hurt students and faculty in all fields, including mathematics, and impaired their ability to carry out normal educational activities.

The Council applauds the Government of Israel for permitting the reopening of four universities and all the colleges in the West Bank and Gaza and now calls upon the Government of Israel to permit the reopening of the remaining two universities, Birzeit and Al-Najah. The Council asks all sides to work actively to restore conditions which would permit a return to normal educational and research activities of the colleges and universities.

A motion to table was made by Fossum. It was seconded and passed.²

The Council adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Robert Fossum
13 September 1991

²According to Sturgis, a motion to table, which is called a “motion to postpone temporarily”, requires a majority, unless it is used to suppress a motion without further debate. In this case, the resolution, being a resolution from a committee, can certainly be presented again.

Sturgis appears not to discuss how items not on the agenda may be brought to the floor. She does write that if an organization has followed certain practices for a long time, then these practices are considered rules of the organization. “Custom and tradition can establish unwritten rules which are valid, provided they do not conflict with the bylaws.”

The Bylaws, Article IV, Section 8 state:

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.

With the exception noted in the next paragraph, a favorable vote of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Council shall be necessary to authorize any statement in the name of the Society with respect to such matters. With the exception noted in the next paragraph, such a vote may be taken only if written notice shall have been given to the secretary by the proposer of any such resolution not later than one month prior to the Council meeting at which the matter is to be presented; and the vote shall be taken not earlier than one month after the resolution has been discussed by the Council.

If, at a meeting of the Council, there are present twelve members, then the prior notification to the secretary may be waived by unanimous consent. In such a case, a unanimous favorable vote by those present shall empower the Council to speak in the name of the Society.

While this does not directly apply in the case of the report of this committee, it has been the practice of previous councils that unanimous consent is required in order to consider items not on the formal agenda.

A Attachments

A.1 1988 Referendum

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

July 5, 1991

TO: Robert Fossum, Secretary

FROM: William Jaco, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Report to Council on 1988 Referendum

The January 1988 referendum consisted of five motions. The first two contained directives addressed to the conduct of AMS affairs, and hence it addresses the actions of officers, staff, and representatives of the AMS. The last three were directed to the federal funding agencies. This reports on AMS activity related to the first two motions.

MOTION I. *Many scientists consider SDI (commonly referred to as Star Wars) incapable of achieving its stated goals and dangerously destabilizing. Participation by universities and professional organizations lends a spurious scientific legitimacy to it. Therefore the AMS will lend no support to the Star Wars program. In particular, persons representing the AMS shall make no efforts to obtain funding for Star Wars research or to mediate between agencies granting Star Wars funds and people seeking these funds.*

Since passage of this motion, no action has been taken by the AMS or persons representing the AMS, including the staff of the AMS and the staff of JPBM/OGPA, to lend support to the Star Wars program, to obtain funding for Star Wars research, or to mediate between agencies granting Star Wars funds and people seeking these funds.

MOTION II. *The AMS is concerned about the large proportion of military funding of mathematics research. There is a tendency to distribute this support through narrowly focused (mission oriented) programs and to circumvent peer review procedures. This situation may skew and ultimately injure mathematics in the United States. Therefore those representing the AMS are requested to direct their efforts towards increasing the fraction of non-military funding for mathematics research, as well as towards increasing total research support.³*

Most of the AMS effort of direct advocacy for mathematics research has been conducted in coordination with the Office of Governmental and Public Affairs (OGPA) of the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics (JPBM). Recently JPBM has been restructured to have, in addition to the three representatives from each of the three participating organizations, a tenth member to serve as Chair of JPBM. This structure is hoped to bring to JPBM more efficient organization and to allow for continuity and more sustained efforts on behalf of JPBM and its oversight of OGPA.

Since 1988, OGPA has undergone changes of directors, having had two directors and an acting director. Currently OGPA is without a director. However, there continue to be major efforts on behalf of the public awareness/information activity of JPBM to promote the value of mathematics research and its importance to applications of mathematics and to mathematics education. In addition, OGPA now has a full time staff person acting as a liaison with the legislative branch of government. This activity has been primarily a channel for information, both to and from the legislative branch of government. Through this activity the

³According to Providence Office records on these motions, the word "support" should replace the word "projects" in the version of this motion appearing in the March 1991 Council Agenda.

Presidents of the JPBM participating organizations have provided written testimony for support of National Science Foundation funding. The public information and legislative activities of JPBM/OGPA have been funded to continue through June 1992 and are being supervised by the Chair of JPBM. Liaison with the legislative branch of government is continuing in cooperation with the activities of OGPA.

Direct liaisons have been established with certain boards in Washington in order to keep the Society informed and to have channels for communication. The AMS has arranged with the Board on Mathematical Sciences (BMS) and the Mathematical Sciences Education Board (MSEB) to have AMS representation at the BMS and the MSEB meetings. Conversely, both of these organizations will have representatives at ECBT meetings to report to the Society. A representative of the AMS attends (and often participates at) meetings of the Advisory Board of the Division of Mathematics at the NSF. Representatives of the AMS meet with principals of the DAVID II Report to discuss possible AMS activities that could be taken to assist in attaining the recommendations of the DAVID II Report. These discussions are continuing.

The AMS, through its representatives, participates in two major groups that advocate support for mathematics research. One is the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP). This group monitors administrative actions and legislation that might effect the science community. They work with representatives from federal agencies and with legislative staff, offering advice and advocating for science. The President of the Society is the AMS representative and this contact has been valuable and in keeping with the spirit of the 1988 Referendum. The other group is the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF). This is a coalition of a number of professional organizations and other organizations that work to sustain federal support of science and engineering. They particularly advocate for support of the NSF budget and its doubling over the near term. The math community is represented on the board of directors of CNSF and the President has provided written testimony on behalf of mathematics through this group's efforts.

In addition to serving as an advocate for increased support for mathematics research, the AMS seeks federal, corporate, foundation and private funding for activities it undertakes in support of mathematics research. Federal funding is obtained for support of the AMS Summer Research Conferences, Summer Institutes, Summer Seminars, and Symposia on Mathematical Biology. In addition, federal funds have been provided for support of e-MATH, travel to international conferences, and support of mathematicians in developing countries. Through recent efforts of the new AMS Development Office, corporate and private foundation funds have been received for support of Society activities. The new Development Office is a major step in the Society's efforts to increase funding for support of mathematics research. Increased development activity is expected.

A report has recently been delivered to the Society by its Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF). This report recommends a strategic direction for the Society and a number of goals that the Society should attain over the next 3-5 years. One such goal is to "articulate and advocate an agenda that promotes the vitality and quality of mathematics and its development through mathematics research." Flowing from this goal will be various objectives and strategies that will provide the Society with an action plan designed to increase the fraction of non-military funding for mathematics research and increase total research support.

Report on the Effects of the Referenda of 1988

(W. Browder, Ex-President)

This report is in response to the request of the Council for a report on the effects of the referenda, and the actions taken by the officers of the society in response to them.

The first referendum called for inaction (with respect to solicitation for "star wars" research) and the inaction called for has been carried out. No officers of the society have been involved in soliciting funds for research on "star wars" projects.

The second referendum asserted possible deleterious effects of military funding of research and asked the officers to work toward increasing the nonmilitary fraction of mathematical research funding, as well as increasing the total funding available.

Representations have been made to increase NSF funding of mathematics in personal contacts between officers of the Society and of NSF. The AMS has joined the Coalition for National Science Funding, a broad based organization which advocates increased NSF appropriations from Congress. Lisa Thompson of the OGPA sits on the board of directors, representing JPB. Such an increase of NSF funding might tend to increase the non-DOD fraction of math research funding, unless of course, the DOD support of mathematics increased faster.

In Spring 1990, an ad hoc consortium, including ACM, IEEE, APS and others was formed, to advocate the channeling of funds liberated from military projects by the end of the Cold War, into supporting scientific research, (the "peace dividend"). The AMS participated in the initial meeting of this group, and Ed Connors became a member of the steering committee. The onset of the Gulf Crisis two months later sent this project into suspended animation. However, it is not clear how the activities of this group might have agreed with the 'fraction' goal of referendum 2, if the political process had produced more funds for basic research inside the military agencies.

In fact, appropriations and funding decisions in DOD and non-DOD areas are made by different agencies and by different committees of Congress. The budget agreement in Congress in Fall 1990 stipulates that for the next few years funds saved in defense cannot be shifted to non-defense areas, funds saved in each category can only be used to reduce the deficit.

On the agency level, the mathematical research program officers work to convince their superiors of the value of mathematical research for these agencies, and to increase mathematics' share of the budget.

There is a perception that some of the program officers in the DOD agencies have felt that their jobs have been made more difficult by Referendum 2 and that their work was unappreciated and rejected by the membership of the AMS. There seemed to be a noticeable coldness in relations between AMS and many of these program officers after the referenda were adopted.

A similar unhappiness was manifested among a substantial number of AMS members, mostly members of SIAM, who felt personally offended by Referendum 2, and resigned from the AMS in protest.

Some bafflement was expressed also by high officials of NSF, that it seemed as though AMS was rejecting the military agencies' participation in carrying out the recommendations of the first David Report to increase mathematical research funding, and AMS expected NSF to carry the burden alone.

Referenda 3 - 5, being directed to the outside world, enunciating generally agreed on goals, will not be discussed here.

A.2 Report from the Editorial Boards Committee (EBC).

From LJKLC%CUNYVM.bitnet@VMD.CSO.UIUC.EDU Mon Jul 15 09:21:48 1991
Date: Fri, 12 Jul 91 16:19:17 EDT
From: Linda Keen <LJKLC%CUNYVM.bitnet@VMD.CSO.UIUC.EDU>
Subject: Re: Council agenda
To: Robert Fossum <robert@odin.math.uiuc.edu>
In-Reply-To: Your message of Fri, 12 Jul 91 13:00:08 -0500

July 12, 1991

Dear Robert,

Here is the report of the EBC for the AMS council meeting in August.

1. The EBC has found that communication with Providence has improved since Von Osdol took over, but that this is still one of the major problems facing the editorial boards of the journals. We will be forwarding a list of suggestions to Providence about dealing with various problems.
2. The EBC feels that the question of providing assistance to editors is one that needs to be addressed. The Chair will be in touch with Jaco and the Providence office to discuss more flexible methods of providing staff help.
3. We discussed various issues from Jaco's report to us. The committee felt that it worked effectively by telephone and that it would be unproductive to have a full meeting in Providence. Carlos Kenig will be in Providence in the fall and stop in and visit the AMS publishing set-up. Also, if necessary, Linda Keen can go to the ECBT meeting in the fall to discuss its concerns. Those of us at the January meeting will arrange a face-to-face meeting there.
4. The committee is very concerned with the problem of backlogs of the journals and especially of the situation of TAMS. It voted unanimously against implementing a moratorium for the TAMS to solve the backlog problem. The EBC feels that an acceptable backlog is less than 1 year. While Jaco's report indicated that within 4-5 years, under the current situation, the backlog would improve to an acceptable level, the committee felt that it should improve faster. Therefore, the EBC voted to propose to the council that it recommend to the ECBT that there be a temporary increase of 20% in the page allocation of TAMS for each of the next two years. This should bring the backlog down to within 1 year over the next 2-3 years.
5. The EBC feel that authors and editors should be apprised regularly of the state of the backlog situation. To that end, the EBC also voted to propose to the council that it recommend to the ECBT that each journal should publish in its "information to authors" page a definition of backlog and a report of the backlog as that issue went to press. In addition, the backlogs of the AMS journals should be regularly published in the Notices.

This may have the effect of cutting down on the number of papers submitted and decrease the backlog. However, since these may be precisely the papers that should be published, we feel the proposed page increase will ameliorate this effect.
6. Kra has taken stewardship of PAMS and has suggested new editors (see below). The EBC approved the principle of keeping the new associate editors listed as editors on the masthead, even though they will not go through council for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Keen, Chair