

Dear Prof. Horner,

The MAA has asked the Ia Academy on several occasions to consider

- a) that members of either sponsoring organizations be considered "members" for the purposes of the meeting registration
- b) we expect, as in any joint meeting to share the expenses of running the meeting (as we have in the past)
- c) we wish to be consulted on the certain aspects of the planning of the meeting
 - i) time and place of the meeting
 - ii) facilities for our section meeting
 - iii) scheduling of section meeting

In working out agreements, we have other constraints.

- a) We have as a high priority, meeting jointly with SIAM, ASA, and members of ICTM.
- b) We deem it important to avoid meeting times that conflict with regional AMS meetings.
- c) We want flexibility to meet for longer meetings than the Ia Acad would like us to have.

We do not expect that IAS can or should accede to all our wishes but it seems some compromise should be reached. In the past, the officers of MAA have felt the IAS to be intractable, non-understanding, and paternalistic. This leaves us no way to reach a mutual agreement. We have been voicing our concerns for at least ten years now, and our section is in fact strong enough to go it alone.

The following are some comments which reflect our discussions over the years.

In the past, the small schools wanted to have the meetings jointly with Ia Acad because of transportation sharing possibilities. At the last 2 meetings, I took a poll. No mathematician came with a non-mathematician to the Academy meeting. The reason is that almost all the small schools now have mathematics staffs that fill a car.

A second reason, is the possibility of attending other section meetings. By my own observation this is more of a benefit to MAA when the Acad. More mathematicians have tended to go to Acad functions than Acad members have come to ours. Historically, mathematicians have interacted mostly with engineers, physicists and physical chemists in scientific matters. These are three areas in which the Academy has essentially no program. Thus

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attending other sections is mostly of a low level scientific interest, which of course does not make it less desirable.

The math section of MAA is also skewed very largely toward non-research mathematicians. Small Schools tend to be understaffed in physics and mathematics to such an extent that professors have no energy to give to research and they lack the possibilities of using undergraduate assistants. Consequently, they value highly the opportunity to visit and talk mathematics for extending lengths of time.

Those of us at the two major universities value these contacts with the small school mathematician highly also. We do not value so much the possibility of attending other section meetings because most of us do those kind of things on a regular basis at our own universities.