

MD-DC-VA Section of the MAA  
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes  
University of Mary Washington, VA  
November 2, 2018

**Attending:** Jennifer Bergner, Brian Heinold, Alex Meadows, Minah Oh, Phillip Poplin, Maggie Rahmoeller, Jason Rosenhouse, Bob Sachs, Lisa Schneider, David Taylor, Tom Wears

Section Chair David Taylor called the meeting to order. The minutes of the Spring 2018 Executive Committee meeting were approved.

### **Reports from committee members**

Treasurer Phillip Poplin gave a short report. He noted that some money was moved between funds to pay for the Project NExT fellow. He also checked with MAA national about the subvention check. They plan on sending it. In terms of registration, there were 125 people preregistered in total. From those 125, 19 are undergrads, 15 are Section NExT faculty, and 2 are from business/industry/government. There are no high school teachers preregistered. There are no graduate students, but it was noted that there is an AMS meeting at the same time as the section meeting.

Section Representative Jennifer Bergner gave her report. The big issue is the MAA stepping away from the JMM. Jenn said that the decision came as a surprise to the section representatives; they were not consulted on the matter. In the future, the congress will only meet at MathFest. The exact role of the section representatives seems to be changing and somewhat uncertain.

David Taylor thanked Jenn for her service.

Jenn and David thanked Maggie Rahmoeller for a nice job on the newsletter.

Alex Meadows, New Faculty Coordinator, gave a brief report on Section NExT. There are seven new members. During this meeting, the Section NExT program will start out with icebreakers and a homework assignment for the morning session. That morning session will include a question and answer discussion on teaching and professional matters.

Program Chair Jason Rosenhouse reported that there are 24 contributed talks, which is a little lower than in previous years. Most seem to be on pedagogy or modeling, with few pure math talks. There are three undergraduate talks. Because of the smaller amount of talks, the meeting will end around 4 pm.

Newsletter Editor Maggie Rahmoeller mentioned that she was thinking of doing another student essay contest in the spring newsletter.

Tom Wears, Director of Member Communication, noted that there is a turnaround time of a few weeks when sending emails to the section via the main MAA channels. People should plan ahead if they need to send something out. The current liaison list is fast and maybe could be expanded. Later in the meeting it was noted that business/industry/government (BIG) people might be added to the list.

Bob Sachs, who was at the Section Officers meeting at MathFest, noted that there was discussion about trying to get more BIG representation. There was then discussion about the spring section meeting's location in Frederick, MD being convenient for BIG folks located in the DC area. This came up again later in the meeting, when it was noted that it might be good to get a BIG person as an invited speaker.

### **Chair's Report -- Diversity**

David noted that increasing diversity is important so that the section can grow. We could also serve as a model for other sections on how to do this. Specifically, the section could bring in more people from two-year schools, from high schools with connections to higher education, and from institutions that primarily serve underrepresented students.

Emily Meehan at Gallaudet asked last spring if the section could provide money for sign language interpreters. When David asked the national MAA, they said it's not something that is currently done but it might be a good idea. A pilot will be conducted at the spring meeting. About \$2000 will be available for interpreters. Some potential difficulties for the interpreters include the fact that mathematicians tend to talk off the cuff and many (certainly not this minute taker) write their slides the night before their talks. Care will also need to be taken in developing the Math Jeopardy and Radical Dash activities. Some more long term goals of this pilot would be to apply for NSF grants and to possibly develop a subset of American Sign Language that works well with mathematics.

### **Chair's Report – Future Meetings**

David announced that the spring meeting will be at Hood and FCC on April 12-13, 2019, and the fall meeting will be at Norfolk State University November 8-9, 2019. There are several good candidates for the Spring 2020 meeting.

### **Chair's Report – Open positions**

The way Executive Committee positions are filled is that the section chair forms a nominating committee that comes up with a slate of candidates, with the slate to be completed 20 days before the spring meeting. Jenn Bergner agreed to continue to serve on the nominating committee. The chair-elect also typically serves on this committee. David has a list of potential candidates for the third member of the nominating committee. The positions open in the spring are program chair-elect, newsletter editor, webmaster, and an at-large member.

David thanked Jenn, John Hamman, and Leigh Lunsford for their work on the section representative nominating committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Heinold  
(Filling in for Secretary Ethan Duckworth)