

MAA MD-VA-DC Executive Committee
Norfolk State University
November 8, 2019
2:15pm, room 314

In attendance:

Minah Oh, Cheryl Adams (MAA rep), Deveny Brown (MAA rep, MAA-Connect), Ryan Shifler, Lisa Schneider, Jason Rosenhouse, Phillip Poplin, David Taylor, Jeb Collins, Tom Wears, Margaret Rahmoeller, Bob Sachs, Brian Heinhold, Alex Meadows, Bonita Saunders

Treasurers report:

Phillip Poplin: The current balance is about 10k, the section is doing well financially. The balance is up relative to the past few years, but up by more than the increase in fees.

Preregistered last fall: faculty 104 and students 20.

Preregistered this fall: faculty 57 and students 3

Phillip will run again as treasurer for a full new term in Spring 2020. (Update: he won!)

Meeting report

Jason Rosenhouse: promoted the banquet talk for that evening, by David Clark about Sangaku, Japanese Geometry puzzles. Promote the talk the next day by Bonita Saunders, which was partly mathematical, partly about finding a career at NIST. Promoted the final invited talk by Kenan Ince from Westminster College about Knot Theory.

Jason mentioned that he has been trying to invite speakers that don't need airfares, since \$750 is the reimbursement max.

The next banquet speaker, i.e. for Spring 2020, will be Dan Kalman. (Update: this didn't happen!)

The number of regular contributed talks is a bit lower than usual. Last fall we had 24 talks, but here initially there were 16. But Minah will have a discussion section that is like two talks (two time periods) Ann Fernando will also do a double discussion section, so that's like two talks, so if you add that it's 20 (i.e. 20 timeslots filled).

Jason emailed each speaker personally to confirm talk (there had been in the past some confusion by some speakers as to whether the did/should have received an automatic confirmation that their talk had been accepted).

Jason mentioned in particular one talk by Christina Pospisil, who is a student from University of Massachusetts, Boston, who traveled to Norfolk State to give a talk.

MAA info

Cheryl Adams and Deveny Brown: They plugged MAA-Connect, an MAA online member platform. We can now enroll as section officers, and should have received an invitation to join that. You can login and ask for different kinds of communication (weekly digest email, no email, etc.). In January it should go live for everyone. You can create discussion threads, etc., and then the digest of that is what's emailed to you.

Sigmas will also be part of MAA-Connect. Each group is defined as a "community." So Sigmas are a community, and section officers are a community, and the section is a community.

Cheryl: one more question, would you like some sort of Sigma poster/banner/something to display? To promote interest and knowledge about Sigmas.

Some interest, but we don't really want to need to keep track of different banners for different sigmas (e.g. IBL, Math and Sports, etc.), or have to "check it out" from the MAA and return it. Cheryl mentioned that a banner is probably better than a poster. Consensus seems to be to make one poster/banner that advertises all sigmas, and lists them, with a QR code.

Section NExT

Alex Meadows: There are four new NExT-ers in the class 2021:

Emelie Curl, Christopher Newport University
Prabhashi Withana Gamage, James Madison University
Tom Narock, Goucher College
Michael Strayer, Hampden-Sydney College

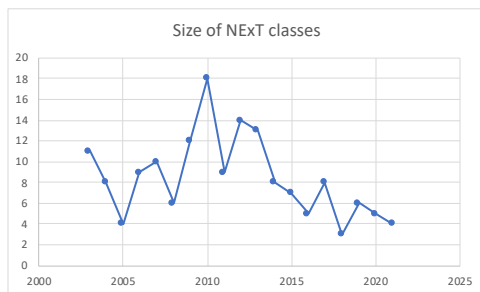
Alex: There will be a panel discussion tomorrow morning for section next.

Audience Suggestion: make the discussions/talk not at the same time as the poster session.

Alex: There's been a decline in numbers of NExT-ers.

Question: how long has the decline in numbers been going on?

Answer: Look at webpage. (Update: below is a graph using data from the webpage.)



Audience Suggestion: create carpool and room-share opportunities. Maybe post these opportunities on the webpage, maybe on MAA-connect.

Section Chair

Minah Oh: The Spring 2020 will be at Salisbury, then Fall 2020 at Longwood University, and Spring 2021 James Madison University.

We will be forming a nominating committee. For Spring 2020, we need to get a new at-large to replace Bob, and replace Alex, and Phillip needs to re-up for his own term.

Committee: Brian Heinhold will be on the nominating committee, also Jessica Oshanashee, and David Taylor. (Update: Phillip ran and won, new faculty coordinator is Jathan Austin, and new at-large member is Kevin Sinclair.)

We are working with MAA headquarters to include deaf and hard of hearing in spring meeting again. We will get it for spring 2020 and spring 2021.

My discussion session is open. One topic is on ways to increase collaboration within the section. we do so many great things within the meeting and in the spring there are so many student activities and could we collaborate on teaching or undergraduate research or projects or . . .

Jeb: I want to the section officers meeting at Mathfest. There's this thing "Tondeur" fund that can help you bring in guests, talks, to focus on "big" things. (Follow up: the link to the MAA Tondeur Career Initiatives: <https://www.maa.org/programs-and-communities/professional-development/tondeur-career-initiatives>.)

Other business

Ryan Shifler: expressed concern about how the local coordinator is asked to reserve blocks of rooms, and how they could be in a bad position if the meeting is canceled and people have paid for those rooms. Care should be taken to make sure that this person is not on the hook for reserved rooms. (In follow up emails between Ryan, Ethan Duckworth and Minah Oh there was consensus that the local coordinator should not be asked to do something they are not comfortable with. Ryan suggested that the web page should state what the hotel cancelation policies are, and Minah suggested that if the local coordinator is not comfortable that someone else from the section can sign the agreements.)

3:55 meeting adjourned.