

**MAA MD-VA-DC Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Salisbury University**  
**Conway Hall, Room 184<sup>1</sup>**  
**November 5, 2021**

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathryn Linehan (Chair), Minah Oh (Past Chair), Bonita Saunders (Section Representative to MAA Congress), Ryan Shifler (Program Chair), Tom Wears (Secretary), Phillip Poplin (Treasurer), Jeb Collins (Newsletter Editor), Emily Meehan (Director of Member Communications), Jeff Ledford (Student Activities Coordinator), Jathan Austin (New Faculty Coordinator), Kevin Sinclair (At Large Member), Blain Patterson (At Large Member), Brian Heinhold (Webmaster)

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2021

Minutes approved.

II. REPORT OF THE TREASURER: PHILLIP POPLIN

Treasurer Phillip Poplin reported that receipts from spring conference were down in comparison to prior spring meetings. (Receipt of \$740 from registration fees for Spring 2021 Meeting.) This was largely attributed to continued disruptions and uncertainty related to the Corona virus and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Treasurer Poplin also mentioned fees associated with registrations conducted via PayPal. The associated fees (\$50 total) are well worth the service and conveniences provided by allowing members to register online or on-site and the ability to submit and fulfill payment requests electronically.

Treasurer Poplin reported that a \$2500 check mailed to the MAA for Project NExT donation was lost. (Note: the donation of \$2500 brought the Project NExT fund balance to zero. The donation stemmed from an original balance of \$255.00, contributions totaling \$210.00, and \$2035.00 transferred from the Section NExT fund.) Payment on the original check was stopped and a new check was sent. Stoppage of payment on the original check resulted in a \$35 fee.

An additional transfer of \$296 to the Section NExT fund brought the total reported expenses to \$381. The remaining balance in the general fund was \$5774.51.

Treasurer Poplin then discussed the Student Achievement Fund (balance of \$975.95, with receipts of \$235.24 stemming from \$0.24 in interest and \$235.00 in contributions, and \$380 in expenses for awards) and the Section NExT fund (balance of \$668.75, with receipts of \$296.00, and expenses of \$291.50 (books) and \$2035.00 (transfer to Project NExT fund)). Money from the Section NExT fund was transferred to make the regular Project NExT donation.

Treasurer Poplin also reported on the Inquiry Based Learning (IBL) Consortium Fund, indicating that the name of the fund had changed, but that there was no change in balance (\$1754.06, with no activity).

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<sup>1</sup>Several members of the executive committee joined via Zoom.

Minah Oh inquired about the \$35 fee for stopping payment on a check. Minah indicated that this has happened in the past and suggested that future payments to the MAA always be made online so that we do not have to worry about this going forward. Treasurer Poplin indicated that he was not aware that this type of payment to the MAA could be made online and that he would look to do this in the future.

### III. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MAA CONGRESS: BONITA SAUNDERS

Representative to the MAA Congress Bonita Saunders was late to arrive and the report was temporarily skipped. See item X., Open Discussion.

### IV. REPORT OF THE NEW FACULTY COORDINATOR: JATHAN AUSTIN

Jathan Austin reported that there were not any new participants in Section NExT. Jathan indicated that this was promoted via messages in MAA Connect and there was some speculation as to reasons for lack of new participants.

Blain Patterson (At Large Executive Committee Member) inquired about other ways that this has been promoted and advertised in the past. Jathan indicated that advertisement and promotion has largely been “word of mouth” in the past and that “we are open to new ideas.” Emily Meehan (Director of Member Communications) inquired as to whether we are able to get a list of individuals in the section and also Project NExT Fellows to encourage their participation.

### V. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM CHAIR: RYAN SHIFLER

Ryan reported that Friday night’s banquet address was to be given by Dan Kalman, the Saturday morning invited address would be presented via Zoom by Dawn Lott, and the Saturday afternoon invited address would be given by Minah Oh.

Ryan additionally reported that there were 24 talks scheduled, with 22 of them being submitted prior to the deadline. (Due to low registration numbers initially, Ryan was somewhat lenient with the deadline, preferring to work people in as he was able.)

Minah Oh’s invited address and Dan Kalman’s banquet presentation were to be recorded and made available to all members of the section. Ryan requested patience on the matter and indicated that there was not currently a timeline for this to happen.

Ryan was asked whether all talks were being recored/taped and he indicated that only the invited talks and not the contributed talks would be recorded. (There is too much work in trying to record all contributed talks.)

Ryan was then asked about registration numbers for the banquet and the workshop. Ryan indicated that at the current moment 44 individuals were registered for the banquet and 12 for the workshop.

## VI. REPORT OF THE SECTION CHAIR: KATHRYN LINEHAN

Chair Kathryn Linehan expressed thanks and gratitude to outgoing chair, Minah Oh, and program chair, Ryan Shifler, for all of their work during the ongoing pandemic.

Chair Linehan indicated that participants would be asked to sign Covid protocols and waivers and that the MAA requested everyone sign the indicated forms. Chair Linehan also indicated that everyone should count on this for the Spring 2022 meeting as well. Chair Linehan reiterated that the goal is to continue with face-to-face/in-person meetings going forward.

Chair Linehan reported that the current Director of Member of Communications, Emily Meehan, would be leaving at the end of the year and that we would need to find a new Director of Member Communications in the spring to replace Emily. Additionally, Chair Linehan indicated that we need to find a new program chair to shadow Ryan and that they will need to be in place by the spring in order for that to happen.

Chair Linehan asked Minah Oh if she (Minah) would be okay spearheading a group to find a program chair elect. Minah indicated that she was open to this.

Lastly, Chair Linehan indicated that Virginia State University was scheduled to host the Spring 2022 meeting. A member of the executive committee then inquired about the host for the Fall of 2022, from which a short discussion followed.

## VII. REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE, REPRESENTED BY TOM WEARS

Secretary Tom Wears indicated that there were not any nominees for the Sister Helen Christensen Service Award. Secretary Wears then inquired about the possibility of moving the deadline for nominations for the indicated award. A short discussion followed.

## VIII. POTENTIAL REPORTS FROM OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### a. SECRETARY

Secretary Tom Wears indicated that there was no report from the secretary.

### b. NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor Jeb Collins requested that members take the current newsletter back to their campuses and solicit information for the spring.

c. DIRECTOR OF MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Director of Member Communications Emily Meehan indicated that there was no report or update.

d. MEMBER AT LARGE

Member at Large Blain Patterson introduced himself to other members of the Executive Committee.

IX. REMINDER OF ELECTIONS

A reminder was issued that elections would need to be held in the spring of 2022 for the next chair of the section, a new faculty coordinator, one at-large member, a webmaster, and a new director of member communications.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

Chair Linehan had one item of discussion brought to her by Bonita Saunders. The item of discussion was related to recognizing long-time members of the MAA who have passed away. Chair Linehan was asked whether the national level does anything for long-time members who have passed away. Chair Linehan indicated that she was not sure that she would have to send an email to inquire. A comment indicated that this depends on the status of the mathematician who passed way.

A question/comment (summarized by Ryan): Registrations at the last minute and low advance registration numbers tend to put quite a bit of stress on the local coordinator who tends to need “hard numbers” to finalize plans, but often don’t have them. Is it possible to move the registration deadline one week earlier? This was supported by Chair Linehan.

Emily Meehan inquired as to whether we accept registrations on site (Yes) and was informed that onsite registrations will now be conducted online and that late registrations are left open online, but registration for banquet is disabled. Emily then asked whether moving the registration deadline would help with numbers. Phillip indicated that the influx of registrations happens right before the deadline at the last minute and that some of the issues are alleviated by ordering a couple of extra meals for the banquet. Bonita (has arrived) and commented that the discussion is “brining back her nightmares as treasurer before everything moved online.”

Chair Linehan indicated a desire to bring this to a vote. Bonita commented that moving the deadline back helps with hotels. Minah commented that we need “lots of reminders and moving the deadline back helps with everything.” Jathan Austin indicated that it (moving the deadline back) also helps with student activities in the spring. After some additional discussion, the vote passed.

Chair Linehan inquired about other items to discuss. With Bonita in attendance, item III was revisited. Bonita indicated that she did not have anything to report as representative to the MAA Congress.

Bonita followed with a question about the reports.

Chair Linehan inquired about additional discussion points. Ryan responded to questions about the mask policy and it was pointed out that the photo on the front of the newsletter represented the wrong university. Jeb responded by indicating that the photo will be fixed.

Lastly, Jathan indicated that Sarah Loeb will be doing a Section NExT session on mastery based grading.

XI. Meeting adjourned at 3:44PM.