

**Mathematical Association of America**  
**Maryland-DC-Virginia Section**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Stevenson University**  
**Stevenson, VA<sup>1</sup>**  
**October 10, 2023**

IN ATTENDANCE: David Taylor (Chair), Dina Yagodich (Program Chair), Blain Patterson (Vice Program Chair), Tom Wears (Secretary), Phillip Poplin (Treasurer), Jeff Ledford (Student Activities Coordinator), Ray Cheng (At Large Member), Molly Lynch (Newsletter Editor), Kathryn Linehan (Past Chair), Kristen Boyle (At Large Member), Brian Heinhold (Webmaster)

Presiding Officer: Dr. David Taylor, Section Chair

Meeting called to order at 10:04AM followed by a round of brief introductions and exchange of pleasantries.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2023

Minutes approved at 10:05AM.

II. REPORT OF THE TREASURER: PHILLIP POPLIN

Treasurer Phillip Poplin reported that the subvention check of \$1700 was received in the spring and that it provided a “good boost.” Treasurer Poplin indicated that Section NExT was ”doing well” and then brought up the issue of COMMIT money/funds. Treasurer Poplin’s primary concern was related to how COMMIT money is used and feared that unused COMMIT funds should be returned. Treasurer Poplin indicated that he would look into the details and provide a full report in the spring.

Section Chair David Taylor then helped establish some context for the COMMIT funds, indicating that he believes the IBL (Inquire Based Learning) consortium had money with no real place to put it and they gave it to the section to be used for IBL related activities with no commitment from the section on a a report or use of the money.

Treasurer Poplin then brought up Project NExT and the section’s typical donation of \$2500 in support of Project NExT and its fellows. Treasurer Poplin indicated that that donation to Project NExT was in a holding pattern due to potential charges required to host the conference at Stevenson University. Treasurer Poplin noted that Stevenson was going to initially charge \$4000 for the conference, but the total was negotiated down to \$2000 with Stevenson University and the mathematics department agreeing to pay \$1000. After final terms were agreed to, “ we then felt comfortable” writing the check to Project NExT as usual.

A brief discussion of historical financial standings then followed. The increased costs required to host meetings and the future of Project NExT donation were also discussed. No one felt that changes were

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<sup>1</sup>The meeting of the executive committee was held via Zoom in advance of the sectional meeting.

required but that the costs associated to host meetings should continue to be monitored.

Treasurer Poplin then noted the registration numbers at the time of the meeting and expressed gratitude to Brian Heinhold for changes made to the online registration. A brief discussion related to historical registration numbers then followed.

### III. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MAA CONGRESS: MAGGIE RAHMOELLER

Representative Maggie Rahmoeller was on sabbatical and not present for the meeting. No report was given. Chair Taylor indicated that Maggie could be found at the upcoming meeting of the general membership on Saturday for discussions if needed/desired.

### IV. REPORT OF THE NEW FACULTY COORDINATOR: JILL TYSEE

There was no report from New Faculty Coordinator Jill Tysee.

### V. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM CHAIR: DINA YAGODICH

Program Chair Dina Yagodich expressed excitement about the program and noted that there were 21 confirmed speakers. Program Chair Yagodich also noted that three invited speakers had already been confirmed for the spring 2024 meeting and that they were “looking to get a head start on next year for Blain” in order to confirm MAA speakers that would help limit expenses and help ensure solid/good talks.<sup>2</sup>

Chair Taylor then brought a question/point of discussion forward from Dan Kalman. The discussion related to the length of talks “more generally” and the scheduling of talks. Chair Taylor encouraged the executive committee to think about the topic for the future, indicating that he is generally in favor/support of slightly longer talks with more crossover time between in order to allow for additional Q&A. Program Chair Yagodich noted the difficulties with scheduling the contributed talks due in part to how late talks come in.

### VI. POTENTIAL REPORTS FROM OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### a. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MAA CONGRESS: MARGARET (MAGGIE) RAHMOELLER

See above.

#### b. NEW FACULTY COORDINATOR (SECTION NEXT): JILL TYSSE

See above.

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<sup>2</sup>Program Chair Yagodich noted that the section has the potential for three paid speakers in the upcoming year that this is a “+1” for the section from the MAA’s schedule/cycle on most years.

c. PAST CHAIR: KATHRYN LINEHAN

No report.

d. VICE PROGRAM CHAIR: BLAIN PATTERSON.

Vice Program Chair Blain Patterson did not have an official report, noting that he had “nothing on his end,” but he did say that he was “shadowing, listening, excited to start in the spring.”

e. NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MOLLY LYNCH

Newsletter Editor Molly Lynch indicated that Representative Maggie Rahmoeller was prepared “to talk about MAA Connect” during Representative Rahmoeller’s presentation to the general membership. Molly also recommended advertising/promoting MAA Connect with the membership. Program Chair Yagodich suggested a flyer in registration materials.

Chair Taylor then initiated a brief discussion related to the newsletter and its current publication cycle. Specifically, he wondered if running the newsletter off cycle from the meetings, “say, in January and July” would be worthwhile.

f. SECRETARY: TOM WEARS

Secretary Tom Wears indicated that there were no updates.

g. DIRECTOR OF MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS: AMY VENNOS

Director of Member Communications Amy Vennos was not present and did not have an update for the executive committee.

h. STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR: JEFF LEDFORD

Student Activities Coordinator Ledford indicated that he did not have a formal report, but noted that they were working on adjusting the rubric used for judging undergraduate poster presentations and talks for the spring meeting.

i. WEBMASTER: BRIAN HEINOLD

Webmaster Brian Heinhold indicated that there were no updates.

j. MEMBERS AT LARGE: KRISTEN BOYLE AND RAY CHENG

Members at Large Kristen Boyle and Blain Patterson did not submit a report.

VII. REPORT OF THE SECTION CHAIR: DAVID TAYLOR

a. Conference Registration Fees

Chair Taylor noted that we will likely need to increase registration costs for future meetings due in large part to the likelihood of more institutions charging some version of rental fees for the use of their spaces and facilities. Chair Taylor noted that the initial charge/bill of \$4000 from Stevenson University “gave everyone pause and that this is probably going to continue” with universities looking to raise revenues. Chair Taylor the commented that we “charge the lowest or among the lowest” registration fees of all the sections and that we have room to “raise registration fees while continuing to offer an affordable conference.” A brief discussion of other sections and their meetings followed.

Treasurer Poplin then initiated a discussion related to the Project NExT donation, noting that it was a potential avenue for savings if needed. A brief discussion followed.

Treasurer Poplin then noted that \$10 of the regular registration goes to Section NExT and that there is a separate \$10 fee for workshop registration.

Secretary Wears indicated that he was in favor of “raising registration to \$30 for general membership, which keeps the cost affordable for current faculty while maintaining discounts for other categories.”

The discussion continued and other areas of increased costs (eg. food and banquet) were noted.

The discussion concluded and Chair Taylor indicated that he would “research this to see if it (raising registration fees) was something the executive committee could do or if it had to go to the general membership.”

b. Nominating Committee

Chair Taylor indicated that he was with working with Past Chair Linehan to create the nominating committee and that the following positions were set to open:

- i. Chair-Elect
- ii. Secretary
- iii. Director of Member Communication
- iv. Student Activities Coordinator
- v. New Faculty Coordinator
- vi. At-Large Committee Member (Kristen Boyle’s status)

c. Awards Committee Status

A brief discussion of the status of awards and the awards committee was led by Chair Taylor. Chair Taylor noted that there was “no need for awards for the sake of awards” and that we have had years with no teaching award in the past.

d. Future Meetings

- i. Spring 2024: Chair Taylor indicated the Spring 2024 meeting was confirmed for James Madison University and that the meeting would be held April 26–27.

- ii. Chair Taylor then inquired as to whether we have other institutions/universities who have expressed interest in hosting. It was noted that there were “no known candidates for Fall 2024 or Spring 2025.” A brief discussion followed with Program Chair Yagodich inquiring as to whether it is possible to host a meeting at MAA facilities. Chair Taylor then indicated his preference to “play the geography game” to help keep things balanced and ran down the history of recent conferences.

The discussion concluded with Chair Taylor noting that he “put names down for consideration and that Roanoke and Hollins can always be used as co-hosts if needed.”

#### VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION:

Chair Taylor initiated an open discussion related to goals and areas of focus for the section moving forward.

For historical context, Chair Taylor noted that during his prior term as chair in 2017, he had the goal of increasing diversity and that the section partially succeeded on that front before being upended by Covid. In particular, Chair Taylor noted that he would love to more schools participating in section activities and that he would like to strengthen ties/connections with individuals in industry and government.

A brief discussion then followed. The discussion ended up focusing on ways to increase participation and strengthen ties/connections with community colleges and the role of community colleges in the undergraduate education as we move forward. Discussions then centered on ways to work AMATYC or one of its subgroups to encourage participation in section activities and meetings.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT:

Member-at-large Ray Cheng motioned to adjourn.

Treasurer Poplin seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20AM.