

Minutes
Executive Committee Meeting
Wisconsin Section of the MAA
September 28, 2012
UW-Baraboo

Present: James Swenson, Ken Jewell, Clare Hemenway, Andy Matchett, Jonathan Kane, Laura Schmidt, Ken Price, Steve Szydluk, Jennifer Kosiak, Kirthi Premadasa, Ben Collins

James Swenson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

The minutes of the January 13, 2012 Executive Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Szydluk/Schmidt. The minutes of the April 14, 2012 Executive Committee meeting were approved on a motion by Schmidt/Jewell.

Jonathan Kane reported that a new MAA Wisconsin Section bank account has been opened in Madison, and the funds from the old account run by Mark Snaveley have been transferred. The details of the Treasurer's Report will be published shortly, but there were some transactions that occurred between April 14, 2012 and July 15, 2012 yet to enter.

Ken Jewell reported that for the April 2013 section meeting, the section will get both a section visitor and an MAA Editor lecturer paid for by the MAA. The invited speakers will be Diane Benjamin from Edgewood College, Bob Delany from Boston University, and Walter Stromquist, the current editor of Mathematics Magazine. The meeting will be at UW-Marshfield April 5-6, 2013. Ken will check with the site coordinator to see how arrangements are going. Jon will set up an MAA Wisconsin Section PayPal account and work with Ben to get the MAA/Wisconsin web site to allow meeting participants to both register and pay for the meeting online. This year there will be no price change for the meeting which has a \$20 preregistration fee, a \$25 on site registration fee, and a banquet price about \$20 which will depend on the local food service arrangements. Registration for students will be free, and students can attend the banquet for \$5. The tentative location for the 2014 meeting is UW-Whitewater. Ripon College has offered to host the 2015 meeting, although it may be time to hold the meeting farther west in the state, so Ripon may be asked to wait until 2016.

Andy Matchett reported on the MAA Board of Governors meeting and the Section Officers meeting both held a MathFest in Madison in August. Tina Straley recently stepped down as Executive Director of the MAA and has been replaced by Michael Pearson. Michael noted that the MAA has been operating on a deficit for eight years and has a plan to turn this around. The goal is to have a surplus of \$350,000 per year for 10 years to build a reserve of 4 Million by:

- Offering course ancillaries for text books using WebWork
- Increase AMC contest participation by 20%
- Host e-textbooks licensed to students, an investment of \$150,000 would be required to develop the needed technology
- Revamp the MAA web site for \$200,000 for making ordering easier
- Institute a \$150,000 per year fundraising campaign for 3 years

Other revenue increasing ideas include:

- Prepare a database of AMC contest problems and show how each connects to a topic in the Common Core Curriculum, and then sell this information to high schools.
- Increase cross marketing where the MAA advertises for other organizations that push our contests.

The Board voted to institute double blind reviewing for all MAA journals. This was a contentious issue, and the policy had been opposed by many of the journal editors.

The MAA has a new policy of paying the meeting registration for the section representative to Section Officers meeting at MathFest (currently \$250). Each year the section subvention payment will be increased by this payment. The reimbursement will continue as long as the section has a representative at the Section Officers meeting the previous year. The MAA encourages each section to provide help paying for transportation for the Section Officers meeting representative. The Wisconsin Section traditionally asks the Chair-Elect to represent the section at that meeting.

Laura Schmidt reported on the state of student contests and submitted her report. Problems that caused some time delays associated with the Wisconsin MAA Contest last year have been resolved. This year's Wisconsin MAA Contest will take place on December 6.

Ben Collins has asked that all newsletter reports be submitted by October 5. This fall's *Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician* article will feature Jeganathan "Sri" Sriskandarajah. Suggestions were offered for future featured mathematicians.

Jonathan Kane will collect applications for the Distinguished Teaching Award. Clare, Jonathan, and Andy will serve on the committee to select the distinguished teacher. Applications are due in early March 2013. One application has been received.

Ken Price and Steve Szydluk have submitted a Student Activities report. In particular, Michael Dorff of the MAA has received an NSF grant to help encourage undergraduate students to attend section meetings by paying for travel or food. We could E-mail the MAA a proposal to obtain some of these funds. If we receive funds, we could pay for the banquet for students and offer them a partial travel reimbursement. We would need to compare the number of presentations by students before and after the funding. This discussion will continue electronically.

Kirithi Premadasa reported that the Wisconsin Project NExT has seven new members obtained by sending letters to heads to departments. The Spring Workshop had eight participants, one of the best attended. The Fall Workshop will be October 12-13 at UW-Baraboo where the facilities are free. There will be six participants, but unfortunately, the workshop will occur during the UW-Platteville fall break, so some potential participants were lost. Erick Hofacker of UW-River Falls will speak. In the future, if conflicts can be avoided, it is hoped that the Fall Workshop can attract a dozen participants. Participants could be encouraged to make presentations to share their own ideas at the Fall Workshops. Ken says that at Edgewood College tenure would be helped if a NExT participant made such a presentation. A combination of having an experienced speaker and participants both making presentations might be best. The NExT budget is doing fine because there are no speakers from outside the state. There is about \$1000 in Project NExT fund. There is precedence for allowing an ABD to join the Wisconsin Project NExT.

Jennifer Kosiak presented a Wisconsin Mathematics Council (WMC) report. The Fall and Winter conference will be in Oconomowoc December 6-7 and in Wausau January 24-25. The annual conference

will again be in Green Lake in May. All the meetings will focus on the Common Core Curriculum. WMC is discussing evaluation tests used for students including the ACT and the Smarter Balanced assessment systems.

A couple of names were suggested for the next Section chair-elect, and these people will be queried about running for the office. Current officers Ken, Clare, and James will be the nominating committee.

Jon will compile and maintain a list of Executive Committee positions and when their current terms expire.

Jonathan Kane thanks the Executive Committee for their nomination which has resulted in his receiving the MAA Service Award at the next Joint Mathematics Meetings in San Diego in January.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held January 18 at 4 PM at UW-Baraboo.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM on a motion by Hemenway /Szydluk.

For the record:

- Laura is in her fourth year as contest coordinator (through spring 2015)
- Steve and Ken are in their eighth year as Student Activities Coordinators (through spring 2014)
- Kirthi is in his first year as WI-NExT coordinator (through spring 2015)
- Ben is in his seventh year as Newsletter Editor/PR Officer (through spring 2016)
- Jon is in his first year as Secretary/Treasurer (through spring 2015)

All offices are on three-year terms, except for Newsletter Editor/PR Officer which is on a five-year term.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jonathan Kane
Secretary/Treasurer