

MAA Wisconsin Section

Executive Committee Meeting

UW-Baraboo/Sauk County
January 29, 2016

Present: Kavita Bhatia, Jennifer Szydluk, Mark Snavelly, Tom Drucker, Jonathan Kane, McKenzie Lamb, Eric Eager, Ben Collins

Kavita Bhatia, Section Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

The minutes of the September 11, 2015 Executive Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

Jonathan Kane, Secretary/Treasurer delivered the Treasurer's Report. The group discussed methods of helping to encourage Project NExT participation by Wisconsin faculty by sponsoring part of a Project NExT Fellow from Wisconsin. It appears that Wisconsin has between 3 and 7 fellows in a typical year. What is not known is whether it would be better to contribute directly to Project NExT or to contribute to one or more institution in Wisconsin to supplement their support of one of their faculty fellows. Jon will contact Project NExT to see which option might be best.

Also discussed was the possibility that the section offer travel reimbursement for Executive Committee members attending Executive Committee meetings. The topic will be placed on the agenda of the business meeting in April. Jennifer Szydluk will write a resolution to consider.

It is section policy to give a \$300 honorarium to any invited speaker at our spring meeting who is not being sponsored by the national MAA. It was noted that Ben Collins gave the after-dinner talk at the 2015 meeting without receiving such an honorarium. Ben then declined the Executive Committee's offer of a \$300 honorarium.

Jen Szydluk discussed the upcoming spring meeting. William Dunham will be the Polya lecturer and will give a talk on Saturday. John Beam, last year's teaching award winner, will deliver the after-dinner talk. Betty Mayfield will be the MAA representative at our meeting and will deliver a Friday afternoon talk.

Mark Snavelly delivered the Governor's Report. At the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Seattle earlier in January, the Board of Governors voted to make a major change in the governance of the organization. The Board of Governors will be changed to a body of section representatives, perhaps called the Assembly. This Assembly will be in charge of MAA policy. The responsibility for the financial health of the organization will be placed in a Board of Directors which will include representation by MAA personnel, financial experts, and some representation from the Assembly. This change is prompted partly by the changing roles of professional organizations. At one time, the MAA existed to provide journals to its membership. Today, with online delivery of journals, the MAA will be migrating more to an organization providing services to its membership.

Ben Collins attended the Section Officers' Meeting at the Joint Mathematics Meetings. One suggestion at the meeting was to help get the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) more involved in section activities. As a result, the section will seek an AWM member to start attending Executive Committee meetings with the possibility that in the next few years there could be an AWM position on the committee similar to the current Wisconsin Mathematics Council position. Also, the MAA is dropping their department liaisons program although Ben feels that it is important to keep the liaisons in place to help with communications from the Wisconsin Section to institutions.

Ben also says that the section spring newsletter will be ready to send out once all the reports are in. The preregistration deadline for the spring meeting is April 1, and the registration website is ready to go. Jon will write a letter of thanks to Sobitha Samaranayake for his support of that website. Candidates for *Know Your Wisconsin Mathematician* interviews were discussed.

Thomas Drucker said there was one applicant for the section Distinguished Teaching Award. If the applicant is deemed qualified, the award winner will be determined.

Laura Schmidt was not able to attend the Executive Committee meeting but did submit the Student Contest Report. In particular, the Wisconsin Mathematics Contest was given in December using an online delivery system which resulted in lower registration costs and much lower administrative costs. The new system seems to have worked very well without any complaints.

McKenzie Lamb delivered the Student Activities report. The spring meeting will feature a Student Retreat Room and a possible panel about topics of interest to undergraduates such as "What do mathematicians do?" There will also be a traditional FaceOff competition.

UW-Milwaukee has offered to host the spring 2017 meeting. An announcement will be placed in the spring newsletter soliciting suggestions for a host for the 2018 meeting.

Eric Eager delivered the Wisconsin Project NExT report. The fall workshop had only 8 participants in 2014, but this rose to 13 in 2015. The cost of the workshop was lowered from \$75 per participant to \$35 per participant by not offering meals as part of the workshop. The workshop began with a Skype address by Francis Su about how to get involved with the MAA. Tom Drucker talked about including history topics in mathematics courses. Theron Hitchman spoke about assessment. Many workshop attendees gave short talks. There were many positive responses to the workshop. Institutions are encouraged to advertise the Wisconsin NExT workshops to all faculty in their first through 5th year of teaching. SOTL will be discussed at the NExT session at the spring meeting.

Possible nominees for the next Chair-Elect were discussed.

Executive Committee member had been asked to complete a job description of their position on the committee. Electronic copies of these descriptions should be sent to Jon who will compile the descriptions which will then be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in September.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Kane

Secretary/Treasurer