

MAA Wisconsin Section Executive Committee Meeting

January 22, 2021

The meeting was held on the Zoom platform. Present were Kseniya Fuhrman, Ken Price, Thomas Drucker, Irfan Ul-Haq, Jonathan Kane, Laura Schmidt, Balamurugan Pandiyan, Wesley Hough, Ben Collins (Epic), and Anthony van Groningen. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 by chair, Kseniya Fuhrman.

Chair, Kseniya Fuhrman, called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM. The meeting agenda was approved.

Secretary/Treasurer, Jonathan Kane, presented the minutes of the October 2, 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee. The minutes were approved after some minor corrections were made.

Jonathan Kane presented the Treasurers Report. Outside of the Wisconsin Math Contest there were few transactions in the past year due to the pandemic. The report was approved.

Section Representative, Thomas Drucker, presented the Representatives Report. Beginning this year, each section will be on a three-year cycle for being eligible for speakers from the Polya Lecture series, the Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) series, or the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM) series. The Wisconsin Section will receive a Polya lecturer in 2021. MAA membership categories have been revised. The MAA is looking for stories of success made possible with help from the MAA. The 2021 Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM) was the last joint meetings where the MAA played a sponsorship role. The MAA will now focus all their national conference efforts on MathFest. Those who attended the 2021 JMM are encouraged to leave feedback about the meeting by completing the meeting questionnaire.

Chair-Elect, Ken Price, discussed the planning of the 2021 Section Meeting which will be conducted online in April. The planning committee consists of Ken Price, Ben Collins, Kseniya Fuhrman, Anthony van Groningen, and Jonathan Kane. The MAA Section Officers Meeting, which took place on January 21, had extensive discussions about holding online section meetings. Section NExT will hold a spring workshop, but it will be separate from the section meeting. Registration for the section meeting will be free for students and \$10 for others. To help the meeting run smoothly, audience members will be muted with cameras off, and Executive Committee members will moderate the sessions. The speakers at the sessions will be made co-hosts. The current plan is to have 2 parallel sessions for contributed papers for a maximum of 40 talks. The talk submission forms are ready to go. There will be four invited speakers: Talithia Williams, the Polya lecturer, will present a talk about Statistics on Thursday evening; Lisa Marano, the MAA visitor, will talk on Friday evening; Eric Rawdon and James Sellers will speak on Saturday, and these two will be given \$250 honoraria.

There could be contributed paper talks scheduled for Thursday evening, Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon, as needed. There was some discussion about holding the annual business meeting on a different day so that attendees would not suffer as much from the meeting fatigue often associated with online meetings, but it was decided that business meeting attendance would be better if it were held on Saturday during the spring meeting.

Student Activities Coordinator, Balamurugan Pandiyan, discussed holding a Missing Data Contest for students that would include instruction about how to use statistical software to find missing data values in 3 data sets. This would be open to any student registered for the conference. There will be a flyer sent to all the schools encouraging students to participate. Contest winners will be given Amazon gift cards, and the Executive Committee approved spending \$200 on the awards.

The MAA is ready to implement a new web platform for section websites. They can begin working with section web managers to customize the new section websites.

Public Information Officer, Ben Collins, needs reports for the spring newsletter by February 5.

Math Contest Coordinator, Laura Schmidt, delivered the Student Contest report. Participation in the 2020 Wisconsin Math Contest was lower than usual due to the pandemic. The contest, which had many perfect scores in 2019, was made more challenging this year, and there were only three perfect scores. Communications with Contest Director Kevin Haerten of UW – Platteville went better this year and did not run into the type of problems experienced in previous years.

Section NExT Director, Wesley Hough, delivered the Section NExT report. There was a fall workshop held virtually that had 15 people attending. The registration fee of \$30 more than covered the honorarium cost for speaker Jessica O'Shaughnessy who discussed mastery-based grading in the undergraduate mathematics classroom. There will be a panel at the spring 2021 workshop discussing lessons learned from COVID pandemic. This is tentatively scheduled for February 20, and there will be no registration fee. Wesley is looking for suggestions for panelists.

Ben Collins discussed the proposed changes to the Wisconsin Section By-Laws. There was a fair bit of discussion about setting the terms of appointed Executive Committee members and the allowing of multiple people sharing a single position. The By-Laws will need to be approved at the business meeting at the 2021 Section Meeting so that the changes can be forwarded to the national MAA this summer.

Both the Math Contest Coordinator and the Student Activities Coordinator positions term end this spring, so appointments (possible reappointments) need to be made for these positions.

Past-Chair, Irfan Ul-Haq, reported that there have been no nominations for the Section Teaching Award. A message encouraging nominations will be circulated to Section members, and the deadline for applications was extended from January 15 to March 15.

The section will need to decide on a host for the 2022 Section Meeting. UW – Stout had wanted to host a meeting in 2020, but that meeting was cancelled. No campus is hosting the 2021 meeting which will be held online. Perhaps UW – Stout will want to host in 2022, and UW – Whitewater has been expecting to host in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Jonathan Kane
Secretary/Treasurer