



## Committee on Publications (CPub)

### 2022 Annual Meeting SUMMARY REPORT

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A meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications (CPub) was held on Friday and Saturday, September 16-17, 2022 at AMS Headquarters in Providence, RI and via Zoom web conference. Kiran Kedlaya, Co-chair, presided. Discussion and action items included the following:

- **Minutes of Business by Technical Means**

CPub conducted business by Email since its last meeting. The action was to affirm approval for the following items:

- The minutes of the September 2021 CPub meeting were approved with the following revisions:

- 3.2.1 - The discussion, as recorded in these minutes, moved in the direction of approving changes to the Bylaws. At the time these minutes were drafted, CPub acted (via email) on specific change proposals drafted by Secretary Hasselblatt for recommendation to Council.

- 4.4 - In response to a question raised during the meeting, Executive Editor Dunne sent information on article page growth to the committee after the meeting.

- 5.2 - In December, 2021, the report was finalized and submitted to CPub via technical means for review and acceptance. CPub voted to accept the subcommittee's report with thanks.

- CPub acted on specific change proposals drafted by Secretary Hasselblatt for recommendation to Council - changes to the AMS bylaws that will add *Communications of the AMS* to the list of primary journals, clarify that regardless of the possibility of co-editors in chief, there will be one Council representative for each primary journal, and to define "member journal" and "primary journal" (see CPub Agenda item 3.2.1 in the 2021 Minutes).

- The Charge Statement for CPub subcommittees reviewing the AMS Book Program (see Agenda item 5.2).

- **Open Access Mandates**

CPub discussed the current situation with Open Access (OA) policies and how recent policy announcements from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) may affect AMS publications. The recent mandate (released on August 25) with implementation required in 2025 for 2026 grants, potentially affects all publishers of scientific research including the AMS.

*Following the meeting, Associate Executive Director Harington updated the March 2019 AMS Primer on Open Access to reflect the recent mandate by OSTP. A proprietary version of the updated Primer will be included in the agenda for discussion at the November 2022 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT) meeting. A public version will be posted on the AMS website and distributed to Congressional and NSF offices by Karen Saxe.*

- **CPub Subcommittee Review of the AMS Book Program**

After reviewing the subcommittee report, CPub recommended the following action items:

- Standardize/update AMS book series descriptions.  
*2023 CPub Chair Steven Bradlow will form an ad hoc subcommittee consisting of AMS Publishing staff charged with uniformizing the AMS book series descriptions listed on the AMS Bookstore: <https://bookstore.ams.org/book-series>.*
- The Committee on Education (COE), which is reviewing AMS programs for K-16 students, requested a copy of the subcommittee's Book Program Review report.  
*CPub approved COE's request and will also make the report available to other AMS policy committees and Council upon request. Publishing Division staff subsequently provided the report to COE and will provide it to other AMS policy committees and Council as requested.*
- Editorial oversight of "Miscellaneous" non-series books.  
*CPub Co-chairs Bradlow and Kedlaya will formulate a proposal for a subcommittee to consider editorial oversight for "Miscellaneous" books, which are published out-of-series. The subcommittee will include CPub members Matthew Ando (representing the Board of Trustees), Charles Epstein (representing the Editorial Boards Committee), and Sergei Gelfand.*

- **Submission Statements for AMS Research Journals**

Submission statements for AMS research journals contain the statement:

*"The author should suggest an appropriate Editor to review the paper."*

CPub was asked to suggest and consider an alternative statement to clarify that editor consideration is, in itself, peer review, and desk rejects are thus appropriate.

*CPub voted to approve the following revised statement: "All articles appearing in this journal are peer-reviewed. Editors may reject papers without external review."*

- **Modifying the Journal Overviews to Reflect Quick Reject**

Most AMS journal overviews start with the statement, *"All articles submitted to this journal are peer-reviewed."* CPub was asked to consider changing the journal overview statements to reflect the practice of quick reject and the future incorporation of double-anonymous review.

*CPub voted to approve the following revision to the journal overview statements: The first sentence "All articles submitted to journals published by the AMS are peer-reviewed." should be replaced by "All articles appearing in this journal are peer reviewed. Editors may reject papers without external review."*

- **Transitioning Print Journals to Electronic-Only**

The demand for print journal subscriptions is declining. Several of our research journals are already offered as electronic-only (e.g., *Communications of the AMS, Conformal Geometry and Dynamics, Representation Theory, Transactions of the AMS, Series B*, and *Proceedings of the AMS, Series B*). *Bulletin of the AMS* and *Notices of the AMS* now require an opt-in to receive print copies. CPub agreed that the world is moving away from print, but the consensus was that print subscribers are not ready to subscribe to e-only (which means subscriber and revenue loss).

*No action was taken by CPub, but the Committee agreed to having an update on this topic at future meetings.*

- **CPub Sponsored Panel on Double Anonymous Refereeing at the Joint Mathematics Meeting**

A panel planning subcommittee consisting of David Futer (chair of the [Doubly Anonymous Refereeing Committee](#) [DARC]) and Judy Walker was formed. A proposal for the [panel](#) was formally submitted and accepted by the 2023 JMM Program Committee. Panelists will include Henry Cohn, Microsoft Research; additional panelists to be announced.

- **Notices of the AMS Editorial Board Charge**

Since a change in Chief Editor coincides with a complete change in the editorial board, it was suggested that the General Description in the Notices charge be modified to be more flexible.

The following statements:

*Term of the Chief Editor is three years, January 1 through December 31.*

*Terms of the Associate Editors are concurrent with that of the Chief Editor.*

Should be replaced with:

*Terms are three years, January 1 through December 31.*

The purpose is to allow for the possibility that some associate editors might serve terms that are staggered with respect to the chief editor, providing some continuity at points of transition, but without precluding the current practice.

*CPub voted to recommend to Council the above modification to the General Description of the Notices editorial board charge. This proposal will be included in the January 2023 Council agenda.*

- **Reducing the Size of the Colloquium Editorial Committee**

The Chair of the Editorial Boards Committee, Professor Charlie Epstein, reported that several members of the Editorial Board of the *Colloquium* book series have said that, for a while, there have been very few submissions, and wondered if it might make sense to reduce the size of the Board. The Editorial Board Committee (EBC) asked that CPub consider decreasing the size of the Colloquium Editorial Board.

*CPub took no action on decreasing the size of the Colloquium editorial committee and indicated the status quo should be maintained. This will be communicated to the board by the EBC. CPub also suggested that AMS Acquisitions staff should undertake an initiative to encourage Colloquium lecturers to pen their lectures for submission to the series for publication.*

- **Next Meeting**

The next CPub meeting will be held *September 23-24, 2023* (Friday-Saturday) at the AMS headquarters in Providence, RI.

In keeping with the CPub review cycle, a subcommittee will be formed to conduct a review of the AMS Primary Journals in 2023. The primary journal managing editors will also be invited as guests of CPub's meeting and will conduct their own meeting

*Robert M. Harington  
Associate Executive Director, Publishing  
October, 2022*