

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

COUNCIL MINUTES

04 January 2005

Abstract

The Council of the Society met at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2005, in the Marquis Ballroom, Salon 4, of the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel, 265 Peachtree Center Ave., Atlanta, GA 30303.

These are the minutes of the meeting. Although several items were treated in Executive Sessions, all actions taken are reported in these minutes.

I. MINUTES

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening of the Meeting and Introductions

The meeting began at 1:40 p.m. President David Eisenbud, who presided throughout, called on the members and guests to introduce themselves, to comment on how they came to specialize in mathematics, and to mention any family connections that influenced their decisions to make mathematics a career. The members present were Colin C. Adams, James G. Arthur, William Beckner, Eric Bedford, Sylvia T. Bozeman, John L. Bryant, James W. Cannon, Sylvain E. Cappell, Walter L. Craig, Robert J. Daverman, Beverly E. J. Diamond, David Eisenbud, Susan J. Friedlander, John M. Franks, Mark Goresky, Michel Lapidus, Brian H. Marcus, John E. McCarthy, Donald E. McClure, David R. Morrison, Paul J. Sally, Chi-Wang Shu, B.A. Taylor, Alejandro Uribe, Karen Vogtmann and Paul Zorn. The voting Associate Secretary was John L. Bryant. Michael Loss served as a delegate in place of Peter Landweber. Among the guests present were Annalisa Crannell (AMS Nominating Committee Chair), John Ewing (AMS Executive Director), Eric M. Friedlander (AMS Board of Trustees), Sandy Golden (Admin. Asst., AMS Secretary), Carolyn S. Gordon (AMS Council-Elect), Allyn Jackson (AMS staff), Sheldon H. Katz (AMS Council-Elect), Linda Keen (AMS Board of Trustees), Lee Lorch, James W. Maxwell (AMS Associate Executive Director), William McCallum (AMS Committee on Education Chair), Diane Saxe (AMS Meetings Department Director), Samuel Shen (CMS Representative), Michael F. Singer (AMS Council-Elect), Raquel Storti (AMS staff), Jean E. Taylor (AMS Board of Trustees), Carol S. Wood (AMS Board of Trustees) and Catherine H. Yan (AMS Council-Elect).

Members elect who were in attendance were given privileges of the floor.

1.2. 2004 Council Elections

The Society conducted its annual elections in the fall of 2004. Except for the new members of the Nominating Committee, those elected will take office on February 1, 2005. The newly elected members of the Council, the Editorial Boards Committee, the Nominating Committee and the Board of Trustees are listed under Item 4.1.

1.3. Retiring Members

The terms of David Eisenbud as President, of Hugo Rossi as Vice President, of John L. Bryant as Associate Secretary, of Colin C. Adams, Sylvia T. Bozeman, Irene M. Gamba, Henri A. Gillet and David R. Morrison as Members at Large of the Council, of William Beckner as chair of the *Transactions and Memoirs* Editorial Committee, of Peter S. Landweber as chair of the Mathematical Surveys and Monographs Editorial Committee, and of David R. Morrison on the Executive Committee will end on 31 January 2005. This will be their final Council meeting in their current positions. The Council approved the Secretary's request to send thanks to each of them for sharing their wisdom with the Society and with the Council and for their service to the mathematical community.

1.4. Council Members

Lists of Council members can be found in **Attachment A**, for the 2004 Council, and **Attachment B**, for the 2005 Council.

2. Minutes

2.1. Minutes of the April 2004 Council

The minutes of the 03 April 2004 Council were approved as distributed. These are available on the web at <http://www.ams.org/secretary/council-minutes/council-minutes0404.pdf>.

2.2. Correction to the Minutes of the January 2004 Council

The minutes of the 06 January 2004 Council Meeting, pages 9-12, present what is claimed to be the Ethical Guidelines of the American Mathematical Society as amended and adopted at the meeting. However, those minutes do not accurately reflect all of the amendments. A corrected version of the erroneous material, which is confined entirely to Section I entitled “Mathematical Research and its Presentation”, is spelled out below; a full statement of the current Ethical Guidelines of the American Mathematical Society can be found in **Attachment C**.

I. MATHEMATICAL RESEARCH AND ITS PRESENTATION

The public reputation for honesty and integrity of the mathematical community and of the Society is its collective treasure and its publication record is its legacy.

The knowing presentation of another person’s mathematical discovery as one’s own constitutes plagiarism and is a serious violation of professional ethics. Plagiarism may occur for any type of work, whether written or oral and whether published or not.

The correct attribution of mathematical results is essential, both because it encourages creativity, by benefitting the creator whose career may depend on the recognition of the work; and because it informs the community of when, where, and sometimes how original ideas entered into the chain of mathematical thought. To that end, mathematicians have certain responsibilities, which include the following:

- **To endeavor to be knowledgeable in their field, especially about work related to their research;**
- **To give appropriate credit, even to unpublished material or announced results (because the knowledge that something is true or false is valuable, however it is obtained);**
- **To publish full details of results that are announced without unreasonable delay, because claiming a result in advance of its having been achieved with reasonable certainty injures the community by restraining those working toward the same goal,**
- **To use no language that suppresses or improperly detracts from the work of others;**
- **To correct in a timely way or to withdraw work that is erroneous.**

A claim of independence may not be based on ignorance of widely disseminated-results. On appropriate occasions, it may be desirable to offer or accept joint authorship when independent researchers find that they have produced identical results. All the authors listed for a paper, however, must have made a significant contribution to its content, and all who have made such a contribution must be offered the opportunity to be listed as an author. Because the free exchange of ideas necessary to promote research is possible only when every individual's contribution is properly recognized, the Society will not knowingly publish anything that violates this principle, and it will seek to expose egregious violations anywhere in the mathematical community.

2.3. The 05/2004 and 11/2004 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT) Meetings

The ECBT met in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in May 2004 and in Providence, Rhode Island, in November 2004. The minutes of those meetings, which were distributed earlier, are considered part of the minutes of the Council.

3. Consent Agenda

The item below was approved by consent. (Items in the Consent Agenda are considered approved, unless brought to the floor for discussion, in which case they must be treated in the usual manner and reported in the relevant section of these Minutes.)

3.1. Joint AMS-MAA Committee on Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education.

This committee recommended that it be disbanded in order to operate as an MAA Special Interest Group (SIGMAA). The MAA and AMS Secretaries concurred, as did the Executive Directors. The sense of the leadership was that the committee never fulfilled the full range of its original charge. In recent years the committee has been relatively inactive. The proposal to the Council was that this committee be discharged with thanks.

4. Reports of Boards and Standing Committees

4.1. Tellers' Report on the 2004 AMS Elections [Executive Session]

The Society conducted its annual elections in the fall of 2004. The tellers reported that the following individuals were elected.

4.1.1. Tellers' Report on the Elections of Officers

Those elected will take office on 01 February 2005. Terms of the newly elected Vice President and the Members at Large of the Council are three years. The term of the Trustee is five years. The newly elected officers are:

Vice President	Haim Brezis, Université Paris VI and Institut Universitaire de France
Members at Large	Sara C. Billey, University of Washington Carolyn S. Gordon, Dartmouth College Sheldon H. Katz, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Michael F. Singer, North Carolina State University Catherine H. Yan, Texas A & M University
Trustee	Eric M. Friedlander, Northwestern University

4.1.2. Tellers' Report on Elections to the Nominating Committee

The following people were elected to the AMS Nominating Committee. Their terms of office are 01 January 2005 - 31 December 2007.

Phillip A. Griffith	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
David Jerison	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Linda Keen	Lehman College and Graduate Center, CUNY

4.1.3. Tellers' Report on Elections to the Editorial Boards Committee

The following people were elected to the Editorial Boards Committee. Their terms of office are 01 February 2005 - 31 January 2008.

Margaret Cheney	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Abigail A. Thompson	University of California at Davis

The Council approved the Tellers' Report, which appears as **Attachment D**.

4.2. Editorial Boards Committee [Executive Session]

The Editorial Boards Committee (EBC) made recommendations about six key appointments.

4.2.1. Appointment to the Bulletin of the AMS Editorial Committee

Upon the recommendation of the EBC, the Council appointed **SUSAN J. FRIEDLANDER** as Chief Editor, *Bulletin of the AMS*, for a three+ year term, 01 July 2005 - 31 January 2009.

4.2.2. Appointment to the Colloquium Editorial Committee

Upon the recommendation of the EBC, the Council appointed **PAUL J. SALLY, JR.** as Chair of the Colloquium Editorial Committee for a three year term, 01 February 2005 - 31 January 2008.

4.2.3. Reappointment to the Mathematics of Computation Editorial Committee

Upon the recommendation of the EBC, the Council reappointed **CHI-WANG SHU** as Managing Editor, *Mathematics of Computation*, for a three year term, 01 February 2005 - 31 January 2008.

4.2.4. Appointment to the Mathematical Surveys and Monographs Editorial Committee

Upon the recommendation of the EBC, the Council appointed **J. T. STAFFORD** as Chair of the Mathematical Surveys and Monographs Editorial Committee for a three year term, 01 February 2005 - 31 January 2008.

4.2.5. Reappointment to the Proceedings of the AMS Editorial Committee

Upon the recommendation of the EBC, the Council reappointed **ERIC BEDFORD** as Managing Editor, *Proceedings of the AMS*, for a one year term, 01 February 2005 - 31 January 2006.

4.2.6. Appointment to the Transactions and Memoirs of the AMS Editorial Committee

Upon the recommendation of the EBC, the Council appointed **ROBERT GURALNICK** as Managing Editor, *Transactions and Memoirs of the AMS*, for a four year term, 01 February 2005 - 31 January 2009.

4.3. Executive Committee and Board of Trustees

Officers of the Society other than the President Elect, President, Immediate Past President, Vice Presidents and Trustees are appointed by the Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees (ECBT). The ECBT recommended reappointments of two Associate Secretaries.

4.3.1. Reappointment of the Associate Secretary for the Central Section

The Council appointed **SUSAN J FRIEDLANDER** to a sixth term as Associate Secretary of the Central Section (01 February 2006 - 31 January 2008).

4.3.2. Reappointment of the Associate Secretary for the Western Section

The Council appointed **MICHEL LAPIDUS** to a third term as Associate Secretary of the Western Section (01 February 2006 - 31 January 2008).

4.3.3. Modification in Dues Categories

The report of the Focused Planning on Membership effort in 2003 recommended the establishment of a "Retired" dues category set at one-half of the Ordinary Low Dues amount. Individuals claiming this dues category would sign a statement indicating that they have retired. The Board of Trustees gave this plan its approval, pending action of the Council, and the Executive Committee recommended its passage by the Council. The first year of implementation would be the 2006 membership year. The Council unanimously approved this plan.

4.3.4. New Procedure for Setting Dues

In May 2004, the Board of Trustees approved, and the Executive Committee recommended to the Council, a new process for setting individual dues. The proposed process is described in **Attachment E**. This proposal originated from the Focused Planning for Membership that took place in 2003. A central feature is to replace the "automatic" process for setting dues with a process based on three principles in order to make the dues-setting process more thoughtful (but at the same time to make small, regular increases relatively easy). That attachment also provides staff's recommendations on the amount of individual dues for 2006 and certain economic information identified in the principles as factors to be considered when setting those dues amounts. Council voted to adopt the new procedure.

It as moved and seconded that the ECBT be asked to consider the feasibility, desirability and value of reducing dues. The motion failed. It was also moved and seconded that the ECBT be asked to consider the feasibility, desirability and value of reducing conference registration fees. That motion also failed.

4.3.5. Dues Levels for the 2006 Membership Year

Using the principles set forth in item 4.3.4, the ECBT recommended that there no be no increase in dues rates for 2006. The Council approved this recommendation.

4.3.6. Focused Planning on Meetings

Beginning in 2003, the Society embarked on a five-year effort to carry out planning in specific areas. The planning focused first on membership, and the report from the planning effort was discussed at the April 2004 Council meeting. That report led to several recommendations for changes, some of which will be considered at this meeting.

The second year of planning focused on meetings. A final report from this year-long effort was presented to the November 2004 meeting of the ECBT and can be found on the web at <http://www.ams.org/secretary/focused-planning-mtgs.pdf>.

While the report provides much useful information about AMS meetings, there are few recommendations. One of the findings of the report explains why: the Society has an effective governance structure for meetings -- including the Secretariat, the Committee on Meetings and Conferences, and the Meetings Department itself -- which guides our meetings and makes continual improvements.

AMS Associate Executive Director James Maxwell outlined the report-building process and its highlights, following which the Council discussed the matter briefly. No actions were taken.

4.3.7. Composition of the Editorial Boards Committee

At its recent meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee recommended a change to the structure of the Editorial Boards Committee (EBC) that was meant to help it deal with some recurring problems it faced in the preceding year. The recommended change is to add two *ex officio* non-voting members -- the Secretary and the Publisher -- to the EBC, in order to connect its work to the rest of the Society. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the ECBT at its November 2004 meeting and circulated to the current EBC for informal comments; the EBC had some reservations but was largely supportive. It was moved and seconded to amend by adding that the effectiveness of this change be reviewed after three years. The Council voted to approve both the amendment and the amended motion.

4.3.8. David P. Robbins Prize

In September 2003, David P. Robbins died of cancer at the age of 61. He spent most of his career at the Institute for Defense Analysis Center for Communications Research in Princeton and was a prolific mathematician (although most of his work was classified). Earlier this year, his sister, Marjorie Friedlander, contacted the Society about establishing a prize in his honor. Discussions have continued from April until the present involving the AMS, the MAA, Robbins' sister, and his colleagues. Those discussions have largely concerned the exact nature of the prize, whether it was to be joint with the MAA, and a possible dual prize given by the MAA.

Discussions settled on a specific description of an AMS prize, which would be funded by a future gift to the Society. In November 2004 the ECBT recommended that the David P. Robbins Prize be established in his honor, contingent upon receipt and acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the required endowment funds. The prize is to be awarded for a paper with the following characteristics: (1) The paper selected shall report on novel research in algebra, combinatorics or discrete mathematics and shall have a significant experimental component. (2) It shall be on a topic which is broadly accessible and shall provide a simple statement of the problem and clear exposition of the work. The prize will be offered every three years and the prize amount will be the standard amount for AMS research prizes (currently \$5000).

The Council approved the establishment of the David P. Robbins Prize, to be awarded according to the terms specified in the previous paragraph.

4.4. Committee on Education

The Committee on Education met in Washington, D.C. on 22-23 October 2004. Among other things, it conducted a review of the AMS activities on Graduate Mathematics Education. That review was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041102-016. The Committee's annual report also was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041102-017. The committee chair, William McCallum, delivered an oral report on committee activities, which was followed by a brief discussion period.

4.5. Committee on Meetings and Conferences

The Committee on Meetings and Conferences (CoMC) met in Providence RI on 24 April 2004. Its annual report was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 040504-003.

4.6. Committee on the Profession

The Committee on the Profession (CoProf) met in Chicago IL on 02-03 October 2004. Its annual report is was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041101-006. The committee chair, Carol S. Wood, delivered an oral report on committee activities, which was followed by a brief discussion period.

Prompted by recent member inquiries received by the Executive Director and the Secretary, CoProf discussed the issues surrounding the evaluation of the professional accomplishment of mathematicians. Of special interest is the evaluation outside the math community by deans, provosts, university promotion and tenure committees and the confusion that can result from the difference between mathematical practice and that in most sciences. CoProf agreed to inform the Council of its intention to develop a series of "information statements" on the culture of research and scholarship in mathematics, statements that would be readily available on the AMS website and backed by relevant data that the Society can accurately obtain. Two examples that CoProf saw as useful and uncontroversial were a) the practice in mathematics of listing

authors, including the predominance of alphabetical order in most subfields, and b) the (low) number of PhD students supervised by non-tenured mathematicians and the role of PhD students in a mathematician's research program.

The committee also has made two specific recommendations requiring Council action, which appear below.

4.6.1. AMS Statement on the Employment of Young Mathematicians

Based on a brief inspection, CoProf observed that the AMS Policy Statement on Supportive Practices and Ethics in the Employment of Young Mathematicians could benefit from reconsideration and updating. The Committee agreed that, if charged by the Council, it would appoint a subcommittee to review the statement and recommend changes in wording where appropriate. The Council endorsed CoProf's plan/offer to review this policy statement.

4.6.2. Keeping Underrepresented Minorities in the Pipeline

In August 2003, the National Science Board Committee on Education and Human Resources hosted a workshop entitled "Broadening Participation in Science and Engineering Research and Education". As noted in the Board report (NSB-04-41, May 4, 2004), one of the objectives of the workshop was "...to identify strategies for further increasing the diversity of the nation's science and engineering workforce". At the request of President Eisenbud, the Committee on the Profession invited Bob Megginson, University of Michigan, to discuss a possible AMS project growing out of the findings and recommendations in the NSB report.

The discussion resulted in the Committee's recommendation to the Council that the AMS compile and publish a series of profiles of programs that:

- 1) aim to bring more persons from under-represented minority backgrounds into some portion of the pipeline beginning at the undergraduate level and leading to advanced degrees in mathematics and professional success, or retain them once in the pipeline;
- 2) have achieved documentable success in doing so; and
- 3) are replicable models.

If approved, the CoProf chair and the Secretary of the AMS would appoint a subcommittee charged with the selection of two programs per year to highlight. The subcommittee's recommended programs would be submitted annually to the full committee for their review and approval.

The Council unanimously approved the plans for publishing a series of profiles according to these procedures.

4.7. Committee on Publications

The Committee on Publications (CPub) met in Chicago on 01-02 October 2004. Among other agenda items it conducted a review of the AMS Member Journals (*BAMS* and *Notices*). The committee chair, Jonathan Wahl, was invited to provide an oral report. Since Wahl could not attend, John Ewing, in his role as AMS Publisher, delivered a report, which was followed by a brief discussion period. The annual report of the CSP was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041107-018. Two items requiring Council action appear below.

4.7.1. Guidelines for Editors

At its October 2003 meeting, CPub recommended a set of editorial guidelines in order to provide direction to new journal editors, and the guidelines came to the January 2004 Council. They were tabled, however, to give managing editors of the journals adequate time to consider the proposal. At its October 2004 meeting,

the Committee on Publications reconsidered the guidelines jointly with representatives from the journals, and produced revised guidelines which are less specific and provide more flexibility for the journals to specify precise times for each part of the process appropriate for each journal.

These revised guidelines came to the Council as recommended by CoProf. It was moved to amend by adding, as a new item immediately following item 4, the statement that every referee's report will be acknowledged. The amendment carried, as did the amended motion. The guidelines, as amended and approved by the Council, read:

GUIDELINES FOR JOURNAL EDITORS *To guide the decision-making process*

The journals of the American Mathematical Society are managed by editors who are appointed by the Society, but who carry out their responsibilities with much independence. The Society values the editorial independence of its journals and their editors. Nonetheless, the Society has endorsed these guidelines for editors to ensure that all authors feel respected and that the Society's journals maintain a high reputation.

- 1. Every submission will be acknowledged within a short period of time. The acknowledgement will provide the author with an expected time for an update on the paper's status. Editors usually will make arrangements for acknowledgement when they are traveling or unable to send acknowledgement themselves.**
- 2. Submissions that are judged unsuitable for publication without being refereed will be declined in a timely fashion.**
- 3. Each referee who agrees to review a manuscript will be asked to agree also to a target date for completion of a report.**
- 4. An editor will write to the referee near the target date for a report in order to ask for a new target date.**
- 5. Every referee's report will be acknowledged.**
- 6. An editor (or group of editors) will have a specific procedure to decide when to choose an alternative referee in order to restart the refereeing process. An editor will write to the author when the refereeing process is restarted, providing a new expected time for an update on the paper's status.**
- 7. Even with best efforts, decisions will occasionally require long periods of time. In all cases, if a decision has not been made 12 months after submission, the editor will write to the author to explain the reasons for delay and to offer the option of withdrawing the paper from the journal.**

The goal of these guidelines is to ensure that the editorial process for AMS journals is carried out as efficiently as possible and that editors maintain regular contact with authors during this time.

It was moved and seconded that the following statement adopted at the August 1996 Council meeting be appended to these Editorial Guidelines, wherever they appear.

Editors for journals of the American Mathematical Society are expected to follow the Society's ethical guidelines, treating all potential authors with reasonable professional courtesy, responding promptly to submissions and making decisions based on the merit of the paper as well as its suitability to the journal. Editors are not obliged, however, to provide a rationale for not accepting a paper, nor are editors obliged to provide an author with a detailed list of errors and corrections. When information is available to help an author improve a paper, whether it is accepted or not, the editor should communicate that information to the author if appropriate.

The motion carried.

4.7.2. Collected Works

CPub also discussed the nature of collected works and recommended an addition to the charge of the AMS Committee on Collected Works. The addition, which is intended to clarify the purpose of collected works in order to guide the work of the committee in the future, reads:

Publishing the collected works (or selecta) of an eminent scholar honors that individual, while at the same time making that person's work conveniently available in printed form. In this sense, a collected works constitutes a prize, but a prize that has value to the community at large in addition to the honoree - a prize that may last for centuries rather than just for a few years.

The Council unanimously approved the proposed addition to the committee charge.

4.8. Committee on Science Policy

The Committee on Science Policy (CSP) met in Washington, D.C., on 02-03 April 2004. The annual report of the CSP was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 040504-004.

4.9. Joint Policy Board for Mathematics

The annual report of the committee was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041129-009.

4.10. Liaison Committee with AAAS

The annual report of the committee was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041130-010.

4.11. Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee

The annual report of the committee was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041101-019.

4.12. Joint AMS-MAA Archives Committee

The annual report of the committee was filed with the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041130-011.

5. Old Business

5.1. AMS Council Subcommittee on Fellows

Organized in 2003, the Council Subcommittee on an AMS Fellows Program was charged with exploring the feasibility of establishing a “Fellows of the AMS” program similar to those of numerous other professional societies. It developed a web-based survey, the aim of which was to gather members’ reactions to this idea. A random sample of 1300+ ordinary and life members of the AMS living in the USA and Canada were invited in September 2004 to complete the survey; 244 people did so (a 19% response rate). Results of the survey are attached (**Attachment F**).

A concern often raised in discussions of this topic has been how to phase in such a program. At the Fall 2004 Committee on the Profession meeting, one member made the unusual suggestion that, in order to simplify the transition, one could declare at the outset that the Fellows program would be limited to mathematicians who earned a Ph.D. after a given recent year (such as 2000) and then gradually build up the set of Fellows. The Committee on the Profession found that to be an appealing idea, and passed it along to the Fellows Subcommittee.

In late December 2004 the Fellows Subcommittee put together a report which was distributed at the Council meeting. It can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 050103-020. In short it declared that there could be no Subcommittee consensus on recommending that the AMS initiate a Fellows program. After an extensive discussion, Council decided to accept the Subcommittee’s report, to discharge the Subcommittee with thanks, and to construct a new (small) subcommittee which would be charged with preparing one concrete proposal and with presenting that proposal to the Committee on the Profession for its reaction prior to any further consideration by the Council.

6. New Business

6.1. Adoption of Statement of Ethical Guidelines “so as to speak in the name of the Society”

Modifications to the AMS Ethical Guidelines were approved at the January 2004 Council Meeting. When the original AMS Statement on Ethical Guidelines was approved, it was adopted “so as to speak in the name of the Society.” This is an action described in Article IV, Section 8 of the AMS Bylaws, the restrictions for which are designed to lend weight and prominence to the statement. However, the revisions were not adopted in this same special way. At the urging of the Secretary, the Executive Committee recommended that the Ethical Guidelines, as approved in January 2004 and presented in **Attachment C**, be adopted in this fashion. The Council unanimously concurred, and thereby it adopted these principles “so as to speak in the name of the Society.”

7. Announcements, Information and Record

7.1. Budget

The Board of Trustees (BT) adopted the budget for 2005 as presented at the BT meeting of 20 November 2004.

7.2. Status Report on Life Membership

A report showing the number of members taking advantage of the new criteria for Life Membership in the AMS is provided in **Attachment G**.

7.3. A Change in Title for the “Ordinary” Dues Category

One of the suggestions made in the 2003 Focused Planning on Membership Report was that the use of the term “ordinary” in the names of various dues rates is awkward and confusing and should be changed.

It was explained that the term “ordinary” is used in two ways in connection with dues: the AMS Bylaws refer to two classes of individual members: *ordinary* and *contributing*. Within that broad class of *ordinary* members described in the Bylaws, many dues categories exist; e.g., Ordinary-High, Ordinary-Low, Ordinary-Entry, Reciprocity, Life, Emeritus, Category S, Student.

No change in the use of the word *ordinary* in the Bylaws as the name for the class of almost all individual members was suggested. Instead, it was suggested that the word *ordinary* be eliminated from the description of any particular dues category.

At its May 2004 Meeting the ECBT voted to replace the word *ordinary* in the description of any dues category with *regular*. It was also decided to change the name of the *Category S* level to *Affiliate*. This new terminology will be introduced with the 2006 dues renewals.

7.4. Next Council Meeting

The next AMS Council Meeting will be held Saturday, 09 April 2005, in Washington, D.C., starting 1:30 p.m. It is worth noting that the AMS Committee on Science Policy will be meeting in the same hotel 7-9 April 2005, beginning with dinner and discussion on Thursday night and ending with lunch on Saturday, just before the Council meeting begins. Council members are invited to attend the Science Policy Committee meeting and/or the lunch preceding the Council Meeting. As usual, a significant component of the Council Meeting will be the actual nomination of candidates for election to AMS offices, as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Continuing a tradition of the past several years, there will be a Council discussion period about possible changes in the composition of the Council. Previous discussion topics were the role of the AMS in graduate and post-doctoral mathematics education (2002, 2003) and membership, specifically, retention of nominee members and providing access to the *Notices* at certain periods as a members-only benefit (2004).

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

2004 AMS GOVERNANCE

2004 COUNCIL

Officers

President	David Eisenbud	MSRI/Univ. California, Berkeley	2004
President Elect	James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	2004
Vice Presidents	Vaughan F.R. Jones	University of California, Berkeley	2006
	Hugo Rossi	University of Utah	2004
	Karen Vogtmann	Cornell University	2005
Secretary	Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	2006
Associate Secretaries	John L. Bryant	Florida State University	2004
	Michel L. Lapidus	University of California, Riverside	2005
	Susan Friedlander	University of Illinois at Chicago	2005
	Lesley Sibner	Polytechnic Institute of NY	2006
Treasurer	John M. Franks	Northwestern University	2006
Associate Treasurer	Donald E. McClure	Brown University	2006

Representatives of Committees

Bulletin Editorial	Donald G. Saari, Chair	Univ. of California, Irvine	2004
Colloquium Editorial	Susan Friedlander, Chair	Univ. of Illinois at Chicago	2004
Executive Committee	Walter Craig	McMaster University	2006
Executive Committee	David R. Morrison	Duke University	2004
Executive Committee	Hugo Rossi	University of Utah	2005
Journal of the AMS	Ingrid Daubechies, Chair	Princeton University	2006
Math Reviews Editorial	B. A. Taylor, Chair	University of Michigan	2005
Math Surveys & Monographs	Peter S. Landweber, Chair	Rutgers University.	2004
Mathematics of Computation	Chi-Wang Shu, Chair	Brown University	2004
Proceedings Editorial	Eric Bedford, Chair	Indiana University	2004
Transactions and Memoirs	William Beckner, Chair	University of Texas at Austin	2004

Members at Large

Colin C. Adams	Williams College	2004
Sylvia T. Bozeman	Spelman College	2004
James W. Cannon	Brigham Young University	2006
Sylvain E. Cappell	Courant Institute, NYU	2006
Beverly E. J. Diamond	College of Charleston	2006
Irene M. Gamba	University of Texas at Austin	2004
Henri A. Gillet	University of Illinois at Chicago	2004
Mark Goresky	Institute for Advanced Study	2006
Susan M. Hermiller	University of Nebraska	2005
Brian H. Marcus	University of British Columbia	2005
John E. McCarthy	Washington University	2005
David R. Morrison	Duke University	2004
Paul J. Sally, Jr.	University of Chicago	2005
Alejandro Uribe	University of Michigan	2006
Paul Zorn	St. Olaf College	2005

2004 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	ex officio
Walter Craig	McMaster University	2006
Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	ex officio
David Eisenbud	MSRI/Univ. California, Berkeley	ex officio
David R. Morrison	Duke University	2004
Hugo Rossi	University of Utah	2005
Paul J. Sally, Jr.	University of Chicago	2007

2004 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John B. Conway	National Science Foundation	2005
David Eisenbud	MSRI/Univ. California, Berkeley	ex officio
John M. Franks	Northwestern University	ex officio
Eric M. Friedlander	Northwestern University	2004
Linda Keen	CUNY	2008
Donald E. McClure	Brown University	ex officio
Jean E. Taylor	Rutgers University	2007
Carol S. Wood	Wesleyan University	2006

2005 AMS GOVERNANCE

2005 COUNCIL

Officers

President	James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	2006
Immediate Past President	David Eisenbud	MSRI/Univ. of California, Berkeley	2005
Vice Presidents	Haim Brezis	Université Paris VI	2007
	Vaughan F.R. Jones	Univ. of California, Berkeley	2006
	Karen Vogtmann	Cornell University	2005
	Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	2006
Secretary	Matthew Miller	University of South Carolina	2006
Associate Secretaries	Michel Lapidus	Univ. of California, Riverside	2007
	Susan Friedlander	Univ. of Illinois at Chicago	2007
	Lesley Sibner	Polytechnic Inst of NY	2006
	John M. Franks	Northwestern University	2006
	Donald E. McClure	Brown University	2006

Representatives of Committees

Bulletin Editorial	Donald G. Saari, Chair	University of California, Irvine	2004
Colloquium Editorial	Paul J. Sally, Jr., Chair	University of Chicago	2007
Executive Committee	Walter L. Craig	McMaster University	2006
Executive Committee	Hugo Rossi	University of Utah/MSRI	2005
Journal of the AMS	Ingrid Daubechies	Princeton University	2006
Math Reviews Editorial	B. A. Taylor, Chair	University of Michigan	2005
Math Surveys & Monographs	J. T. Stafford, Chair	University of Michigan	2007
Mathematics of Computation	Chi-Wang Shu, Chair	Brown University	2007
Proceedings Editorial	Eric Bedford, Chair	Indiana University	2005
Transactions and Memoirs	Robert Guralnick, Chair	University of Southern California	2008

Members at Large

Sarah C. Billey	University of Washington	2007
James W. Cannon	Brigham Young University	2006
Sylvain E. Cappell	Courant Institute	2006
Beverly E. J. Diamond	College of Charleston	2006
Carolyn S. Gordon	Dartmouth College	2007
Mark Goresky	Institute for Advanced Study	2006
Susan M. Hermiller	University of Nebraska	2005
Sheldon H. Katz	University of Illinois, Urbana	2007
Brian H. Marcus	University of British Columbia	2005
John E. McCarthy	Washington University	2005
Paul J. Sally, Jr.	University of Chicago	2005
Michael F. Singer	North Carolina State	2007
Alejandro Uribe	University of Michigan	2006
Catherine H. Yan	Texas A&M University	2007
Paul Zorn	St. Olaf College	2005

2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	<i>ex officio</i>
Walter L. Craig	McMaster University	2006
Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	<i>ex officio</i>
David Eisenbud	MSRI/University of California, Berkeley	<i>ex officio</i>
Hugo Rossi	University of Utah/MSRI	2005
Paul J. Sally, Jr.	University of Chicago	2007
		2008

2005 TRUSTEES

James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	<i>ex officio</i>
John B. Conway	University of Tennessee	2005
John M. Franks	Northwestern University	<i>ex officio</i>
Eric M. Friedlander	Northwestern University	2009
Linda Keen	CUNY	2008
Donald E. McClure	Brown University	<i>ex officio</i>
Jean E. Taylor	Rutgers University	2007
Carol S. Wood	Wesleyan University	2006

ETHICAL GUIDELINES OF THE AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

To assist in its chartered goal, "...the furtherance of the interests of mathematical scholarship and research...", and to help in the preservation of that atmosphere of mutual trust and ethical behavior required for science to prosper, the Council of the American Mathematical Society, sets forth the following ethical guidelines. These guidelines reflect its expectations of behavior both for AMS members, as well as for all individuals and institutions in the wider mathematical community, including those engaged in the education or employment of mathematicians or in the publication of mathematics. These guidelines are not a complete expression of the principles that underlie them. The guidelines are not meant to be a complete list of all ethical issues. They will be modified and amplified by events and experience. These are guidelines, not a collection of rigid rules.

The American Mathematical Society, through its Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE), may provide an avenue of redress for individual members injured in their capacity as mathematicians by violations of these ethical principles. In each case, COPE will determine the appropriate ways in which it can be helpful (including making recommendations to the Council of the Society). The AMS cannot enforce these guidelines, however, and it cannot substitute for individual responsibility or for the responsibility of the mathematical community at large.

I. MATHEMATICAL RESEARCH AND ITS PRESENTATION

The public reputation for honesty and integrity of the mathematical community and of the Society is its collective treasure and its publication record is its legacy.

The knowing presentation of another person's mathematical discovery as one's own constitutes plagiarism and is a serious violation of professional ethics. Plagiarism may occur for any type of work, whether written or oral and whether published or not.

The correct attribution of mathematical results is essential, both because it encourages creativity, by benefitting the creator whose career may depend on the recognition of the work; and because it informs the community of when, where, and sometimes how original ideas entered into the chain of mathematical thought. To that end, mathematicians have certain responsibilities, which include the following:

- * To endeavor to be knowledgeable in their field, especially about work related to their research;
- * To give appropriate credit, even to unpublished material or announced results (because the knowledge that something is true or false is valuable, however it is obtained);
- * To publish full details of results that are announced without unreasonable delay, because claiming a result in advance of its having been achieved with reasonable certainty injures the community by restraining those working toward the same goal,
- * To use no language that suppresses or improperly detracts from the work of others;
- * To correct in a timely way or to withdraw work that is erroneous.

A claim of independence may not be based on ignorance of widely disseminated results. On appropriate occasions, it may be desirable to offer or accept joint authorship when independent researchers find that they have produced identical results. All the authors listed for a paper, however, must have made a significant contribution to its content, and all who have made such a contribution must be offered the opportunity to be listed as an author. Because the free exchange of ideas necessary to promote research is possible only when every individual's contribution is properly recognized, the Society will not knowingly publish anything that violates this principle, and it will seek to expose egregious violations anywhere in the mathematical community.

II. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF MATHEMATICIANS

The Society promotes mathematical research together with its unrestricted dissemination, and to that end encourages all to engage in this endeavor. Mathematical ability must be respected wherever it is found, without regard to race, gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief, or disability.

The growing importance of mathematics in society at large and of public funding of mathematics may increasingly place members of the mathematical community in conflicts of interest. The appearance of bias in reviewing, refereeing, or in funding decisions must be scrupulously avoided, particularly where decisions may affect one's own research, that of colleagues, or of one's students. When conflicts of interest occur, one should withdraw from the decision-making process.

A recommendation accurately reflecting the writer's views is often given only on the understanding that it be kept confidential; therefore, a request for a recommendation must be assumed to carry an implicit promise of confidentiality, unless there is a statement to the contrary. Similarly, a referee's report is normally provided with the understanding that the name of the writer be withheld from certain interested parties and the referee must be anonymous unless otherwise indicated in advance. The writer of the recommendation or report must respond fairly, and keep confidential any privileged information, personal or mathematical, that the writer receives. If the requesting individual, institution, agency or company becomes aware that confidentiality or anonymity can not be maintained, that should be immediately be communicated.

Where choices must be made and conflicts are unavoidable, as with editors or those who decide on appointments or promotions, it is essential to keep careful records that would demonstrate the process was, indeed, fair when inspected at a later time.

Freedom to publish must sometimes yield to security concerns, but mathematicians should resist excessive secrecy demands whether by government or private institutions.

When mathematical work may affect the public health, safety or general welfare, it is the responsibility of mathematicians to disclose the implications of their work to their employers and to the public, if necessary. Should this bring retaliation, the Society will examine the ways in which it may want to help the "whistle-blower", particularly when the disclosure has been made to the Society.

No one should be exploited by the offer of a temporary position at an unreasonably low salary and/or an unreasonably heavy work load.

III. EDUCATION AND GRANTING OF DEGREES

Holding a Ph.D. degree is virtually indispensable to an academic career in mathematics and is becoming increasingly important as a certificate of competence in the wider job market. An institution granting a degree in mathematics is certifying that competence and must take full responsibility for it by insuring the high level and originality of the Ph.D. dissertation work, and sufficient knowledge by the recipient of important branches of mathematics outside the scope of the thesis. When there is evidence of plagiarism it must be carefully investigated, even if it comes to light after granting the degree, and, if proven, the degree should be revoked. Mathematicians and organizations involved in advising graduate students should fully inform them about the employment prospects they may face upon completion of their degrees.

IV. PUBLICATIONS

Editors are responsible for the timely refereeing of articles and must judge articles by the state of knowledge at the time of submission. Editors should accept a paper for publication only if they are reasonably certain the paper is correct.

The contents of a submitted manuscript should be regarded by a journal as privileged information. If the contents of a paper become known in advance of publication solely as a result of its submission to or handling by a journal, and if a later paper based on knowledge of the privileged information is received anywhere (by the same or another journal), then any editor aware of the facts must refuse or delay publication of the later paper until after publication of the first---unless the first author agrees to earlier publication of the later paper.

At the time a manuscript is submitted, editors should notify authors whenever a large backlog of accepted papers may produce inordinate delay in publication. A journal may not delay publication of a paper for reasons of an editor's self interest or of any interest other than the author's. The published article should bear the date on which the manuscript was originally submitted to the journal for publication, together with the dates of any revisions. Editors must be given and accept full scientific responsibility for their journals; when a demand is made by an outside agency for prior review or censorship of articles, that demand must be resisted and, in any event, knowledge of the demand must be made public.

Both editors and referees must respect the confidentiality of materials submitted to them unless these materials have previously been made public, and above all may not appropriate to themselves ideas in work submitted to them or do anything that would impair the rights of authors to the fruits of their labors. Editors must preserve the anonymity of referees unless there is a credible allegation of misuse.

All mathematical publishers, particularly those who draw without charge on the resources of the mathematical community through the use of unpaid editors and referees, must recognize that they have made a compact with the community to disseminate information, and that compact must be weighed in their business decisions.

The Society will not take part in the publishing, printing or promoting of any research journal where there is some acceptance criterion, stated or unstated, that conflicts with the principles of these guidelines. It will promote the quick refereeing and timely publication of articles accepted to its journals.



AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005
OFFICIAL RESULTS

**Vice President (Three Years)
(Vote for One)**

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Haim Brezis	2,224	50.8% *
Fan Chung Graham	2,134	48.8%
Write In	16	0.4%
Valid Votes	4,374	
No Vote	183	
Invalid	1	
Total Votes	4,558	

**Trustee (Five Years)
(Vote for One)**

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Eric M. Friedlander	2,858	67.1% *
Philippe M. Tondeur	1,394	32.7%
Write In	8	0.2%
Valid Votes	4,260	
No Vote	297	
Invalid	1	
Total Votes	4,558	



AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005
OFFICIAL RESULTS

Member at Large of the Council (Three Years)
(Vote for no more than Five)

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Sara C. Billey	2,652	61.2% *
Christian H. Borgs	1,497	34.5%
Carolyn S. Gordon	2,186	50.4% *
Sheldon H. Katz	2,071	47.8% *
Felix Lazebnik	1,154	26.6%
Rafe Mazzeo	1,629	37.6%
Henri Moscovici	1,512	34.9%
Michael F. Singer	2,169	50.0% *
Catherine H. Yan	2,033	46.9% *
Write In	24	0.6%
Write In	6	0.1%
Write In	5	0.1%
Write In	3	0.1%
Write In	1	0.0%
Valid Votes	4,334	
No Vote	224	
Invalid	0	
Total Votes	4,558	



AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2005
OFFICIAL RESULTS

**Editorial Boards Committee (Three Years)
(Two to be elected)**

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Margaret Cheney	2,111	54.9% *
Fritz Gesztesy	1,848	48.1%
Kailash C. Misra	1,571	40.9%
Abigail A. Thompson	2,821	73.4% *
Valid Votes	3,844	
No Vote	714	
Invalid	0	
Total Votes	4,558	

**Nominating Committee (Three Years)
(Three to be elected)**

	<u>Votes</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Karen L. Collins	2,008	49.0%
Robin Forman	1,816	44.3%
Phillip A. Griffith	2,600	63.4% *
David Jenson	2,188	53.4% *
Linda Keen	2,618	63.9% *
Robert E. Megginson	1,666	40.6%
Valid Votes	4,099	
No Vote	459	
Invalid	0	
Total Votes	4,558	

Determining the 2006 Individual Member Dues

From 1982 until last year, individual dues for AMS members were set using a formula, which was applied automatically each year (with just two exceptions). The goal was to simplify setting dues, making it easy to make small adjustments on a regular basis. It was a routine process that was seldom questioned.

Of course, automatic (mindless) procedures have some drawbacks, and last year the Board of Trustees approved, and the Executive Committee recommended to the January 2005 Council, a new procedure for determining dues that is based on a set of principles rather than an automatic formula. The underlying goal is the same -- to allow the Society to make routine small adjustments to dues -- but the new procedure allows the Society to make thoughtful decisions based on current circumstances.

Proposed Process for Determining Individual Dues

The new procedure requires beginning the process of setting dues slightly earlier than before. To change the dues rate for year $X+2$, the discussions must begin in year X .

In November of year X , staff makes a recommendation about dues, following the principles described below. The ECBT recommends a dues rate for year $X+2$ to the Council.

In January of year $X+1$, the Council reviews the ECBT recommendation and sets the dues rate for year $X+2$.

In May of year $X+1$, the Board of Trustees approves the dues set by Council.

The three principles that are meant to guide the decision are the following.

Principle 1: The total revenue from individual dues should exceed the total net direct costs of the following membership related areas: privilege journals, members-only services, membership development, membership administration and governance, as reported to the Board of Trustees.

Principle 2: When an increase in dues rates is deemed to be appropriate, the following factors should guide the Council and the Board of Trustees in establishing the new dues rates:

The current rate of inflation.

The recent rate of growth in faculty salaries.

The rate of growth in the net direct costs of the membership related areas listed in Principle 1.

Principle 3: A single increase in dues rates substantially beyond the level of the factors listed in Principle 2 should be avoided in favor of several successive moderate annual increases.

Of course, each of these principles allows some latitude in its application. That's what makes the new procedure thoughtful rather than automatic.

Recommendation for 2006 Dues

If the proposed process is adopted, the Council should consider the case *X=2004* at its January 2005 meeting, in which the 2006 dues are set, with consent of the Board of Trustees (to be given at its May 2005 meeting).

The dues rate for 2005 is \$152/\$114 (high/low).

Staff recommends that dues be kept at the same level for 2006. The ECBT voted unanimously at its November 2004 meeting to recommend this level to the Council.

The rationale for this recommendation is organized around the three principles in the proposal.

Principle 1

The first principle sets a necessary condition for increasing dues -- when revenue is expected to fall below a certain set of expenses. The table below shows that in the budget presented for 2005, budgeted revenue from individual dues exceeds the total budgeted net direct cost of the membership activities (listed in Principle 1) by \$284,000. A similar favorable balance (perhaps a little smaller) is expected in 2006 without an increase in the 2005 rates.

Year	Dues Revenue	Net Direct Costs of Membership	Net
2001	\$1,413	\$844	\$569
2002	1,387	960	427
2003	1,367	1,042	325
2004 Projection	1,390	1,155	235
2005 Budget	1,392	1,108	284

While the table indicates there is no requirement to increase dues in 2006 in order to meet the requirement of Principle 1, it also points to a trend that bears watching. It is important to consider these numbers in the context of the overall finances of the Society: We have experienced several years of moderately large operating income.

Principle 2

Principle 2 suggests the financial and economic data that should be taken into account when setting the dues -- cost of living, growth in faculty salaries, and growth of member expenses.

The table on the next page shows recent data for changes in the cost of living, along with comparative data for AMS dues.

Year	CPI	Cumulative CPI	Dues	Cumulative Dues	High/Low Cut	Dues Rev
1997	1.7%	1.7%	124	3.3%	45,000	\$1,414
1998	1.6%	3.3%	128	6.7%	45,000	1,437
1999	2.7%	6.1%	132	10.0%	55,000	1,380
2000	3.4%	9.7%	132	10.0%	65,000	1,384
2001	1.6%	11.4%	136	13.3%	75,000	1,413
2002	2.4%	14.1%	140	16.7%	75,000	1,388
2003	1.9%	16.2%	144	20.0%	75,000	1,369
2004 Prj	3.0%	19.7%	148	23.3%	80,000	1389(P)
2005 Est	3.0%	23.3%	152	26.7%	80,000	1392(B)
2006 Est	3.0%	27.0%	152	26.7%	80,000	1392(E)

The data show that dues increases and the growth in the cost of living have kept pace remarkably well over the years, although dues have always increased slightly ahead. Holding dues constant in 2006 will allow the two figures to coalesce (as it did in 2000, when dues were held constant as well.) It should be noted that the revenue generated from individual dues has remained essentially constant throughout this period, which means that dues have become a steadily smaller fraction of revenue for the Society.

Dues increases have similarly kept pace with faculty salaries, although salaries have increased slightly ahead (which is certainly desirable, since people pay dues a year in advance). The table below shows increases in faculty salaries as reported by the American Association of University Professors and by the AMS for Group I, II, and III mathematics departments, which represent the doctoral departments, excluding statistics and applied mathematics.

Year	AAUP rpt	Cumulative AAUP	AMS Group I-III	Cumulative AMS
1997	3.3%	3.3%	2.7%	2.7%
1998	3.6%	7.0%	3.8%	6.6%
1999	3.7%	11.0%	3.8%	10.7%
2000	3.5%	14.9%	5.0%	16.2%
2001	3.8%	19.2%	4.2%	21.1%
2002	3.0%	22.8%	3.3%	25.1%
2003	2.1%	25.4%	2.0%	27.6%

Finally, as noted above, the direct costs of membership activities have increased substantially in the past few years, while dues revenue has remained relatively constant. Some of this increase has occurred because of deliberate actions to enhance member publications and membership development. The increases are expected to moderate in the immediate future.

Principle 3

The third principle asserts that small, regular increases are preferable to large, sporadic ones. This is a sound idea that has governed the Society's dues-setting policy for the past 20 years (and that was entirely absent from its policy before 1982). In many ways, it is the most important of the three principles.

For this reason, "freezing dues" for 2006 makes some people nervous. It should be emphasized, however, that the recommendation is *not* so much to freeze dues as it is to apply the three principles with thoughtful deliberation. Holding dues steady for 2006 makes sense now, as it did in 2000. We fully expect to increase dues in the subsequent year, and indeed the third principle suggests that it would be wise to do so, even if other factors do not compel us to do so.

In addition to the above principles, staff looked at the overall financial health of the Society to determine if there was any foreseeable financial need to raise dues in 2006. While overall revenue has remained somewhat flat in recent years, the Society has been able to maintain positive net operating income for the past 12 years. Staff concluded that the financial health of the Society is strong and that a dues increase in 2006 is not required to maintain that financial health.

Jim Maxwell
Associate Executive Director
November 2004

Report on Fellows Survey

At the request of the Council Subcommittee on Fellows, Subcommittee Chair Gillet developed a web-based survey whose aim was to gather members' reactions to the idea of a "Fellows of the AMS" program similar to those of numerous other professional societies. A random sample of just over 1,300 ordinary and life members in the U.S. and Canada were sent email on September 13 inviting them to complete the survey via the web. As of the close of the survey on September 21, 244 individuals has responded, a 19% response rate.

The automatic tabulation of the responses to the questions, a selection of comments received and a summary of reactions to the survey results from members of the Subcommittee on Fellows follow in the order listed.

Jim Maxwell
October 27, 2004

Results Summary [Show All Pages and Questions](#) [Export...](#) [View Detail >>](#)

Filter Results

To analyze a subset of your data, you can create one or more filters.

[Add Filter...](#) **Total:** 244
Visible: 244

Share Results

Your results can be shared with others, without giving access to your account.

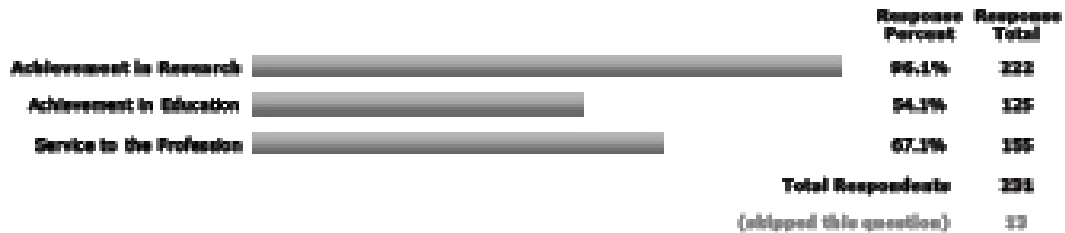
[Configure...](#) **Status:** Enabled
Reporter: Summary and Detail

7. American Mathematical Society

1. Are you generally in favour of the creation of a Fellows program by the AMS?



2. If the AMS were to institute a Fellows program, which of the following do you think should be among the criteria that should be considered in selecting fellows? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)



8. The American Mathematical Society, ctd

3. If the society were to institute a Fellows program, what percentage of the eligible membership would you prefer that the total number of fellows be limited to?



7.5%		14.5%	33
10%		19.4%	44
12.5%		24.2%	55
		Total Respondents	227
		(skipped this question)	17

9. Initial Implementation

4. Would you be in favour of such a transition period, during which greater numbers of fellows would be elected?

		Response Percent	Response Total
Yes		78.4%	178
No		21.6%	49
		Total Respondents	227
		(skipped this question)	17

5. If there were to be a transition period, what is your preference for its length?

		Response Percent	Response Total
3 years		21.5%	49
5 years		39.4%	88
7 years		13.8%	30
10 years		24.7%	53
		Total Respondents	228
		(skipped this question)	26

10. Length of Membership

6. For approximately how many years have you been a member of the AMS?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1-5 years		10.3%	25
6-10 years		19%	46
11-20 years		29%	63
21-30 years		23.6%	57
more than 30 years		21.1%	51
		Total Respondents	242
		(skipped this question)	2

11. Thank You

The following are a representative selection of the 85 comments received with the survey.

Please feel free to send a short comment for the subcommittee's consideration.

3. I am wary of this sort of self-celebration, in particular, the tendency I've seen in other organizations to engage in group celebration among various internal cliques. On the other hand, I think the profession has suffered by being too conservative in such matters. I would hope this can be done with some care if it is done at all.

4. If we do it we should do it in a way that gains the most advantage for our profession. One reason for doing it is that it might help mathematicians compete for things like university chairs and deanships. In some universities (big state research institutions under severe budgetary pressure, for example) this could really make a difference. Another reason is that it could help lift the morale of the profession by providing an honor less inaccessible than ones currently available. Both of these reasons support the argument for a large percentage (although I thought 12.5% was going a little too far). I wasn't convinced by the objection that the honor would hurt people who didn't get one, except that I thought this might be a possibility if there was an initial land-rush for these things, which is why I opposed the idea of a rapid phase-in period.

5. I fear that a Fellows Program would become political, recognizing some areas that are currently hot while ignoring too many others. Well known mathematicians who are already recognized would likely head a list of Fellows. Young mathematicians are facing terrible difficulties today trying to secure research and travel funding. I would much rather see the AMS put more resources at their disposal.

8. I do not think a Fellows program is a good idea. It is yet another "rich get richer" scheme that labels some mathematicians as good and the rest as bad, based on who already has things like grants and prizes. Having a small number of prizes to single out especially notable contributions to mathematics is one thing, which I support; making a division between large parts of the mathematical community is another, which I deplore.

16. I love the distinguishing democracy of mathematics and would be sorry to see it change to accommodate Fellows.

21. This is a TERRIBLE! idea. I am a member of another society, the American Academy of Mechanics, that elects "Fellows" and I know (but am not a member of) many of those elected (and not elected) by the ASME. Friends get elected, others get overlooked. (I am not considering myself.) The AMS should support MATHEMATICS, rather than individual Mathematicians. There is already too much "personality cult" in all of the professional communities.

22. I feel this would be an excellent way to honor outstanding members of the mathematical profession. My only concern is that the deciding criteria not be limited to just excellence in a narrow field of research [Fields medals and other awards exist for recognizing such achievements] but should include broadbased research, exposition of mathematical topics, and service and education achievements. If I may be so bold, two of the professors at my mathematical alma mater [Univ. Wisc., Madison] certainly would meet any appropriate criteria: Professors Walter and Mary Ellen Rudin.

27. I think it's good for mathematics, as seen by people outside of mathematics, to have more awards and formal recognition of excellence in the profession than we do currently. In the same way, I think the best plan is to give awards to many mathematicians, rather than to recognize the excellence of a few, with

more than one award. Also, the Fellows program is an opportunity to give recognition to mathematicians who are good at all three aspects of the job—research, teaching, and collegueship—like an all-around award.

28. I'm a Fellow of the Institute for Mathematical Statistics, but find that their Fellowship program is **very** capricious. Many extremely deserving members don't have Fellowships because nobody has thought/bothered to nominate them, whereas some other members are very active in producing nominations so that there is a definite clustering of Fellowships in certain departments and sub-fields. My guess is that an AMS Fellowship will result in a mix of the "usual suspects" plus somewhat undistinguished mathematicians with active colleagues that are willing to put the time in to boost their careers and their department's cachet.

30. I haven't answered any of the detailed questions because I think that they make no difference. This seems like a bad idea to me, in any form. It invites political favoritism (already evident in the question of whether teaching should be a relevant criterion, for example), and, most of all, if enacted it will require a large investment of time and energy by the AMS and its member, for purely ceremonial outcome, without direct impact on the actual goals of the AMS. A bad idea.

32. Being a fellow of the AMS should mean that one has done something significant in mathematics, but it should not be extremely exclusive. Hence having 10 percent of the membership as fellows seems about right to me.

33. I am very against the idea of having Fellows for the AMS. The AMS should be as open and welcoming as possible. Having Fellows would only encourage even more of a caste system.

36. The value of this program would consist in honoring not the great, who in most cases already have many honors, but the very good.

38. The long term benefits of a personal nature and to the Society in general far outweigh any of the negative points indicated earlier. I support strongly the creation of a Fellows status within the Society. I do have one concern, and it has to do with the delicate selection process. My past experience with the Society is that certain minority groups(e.g., hispanics) at best get token representation on such committees. I would like to suggest that the committee's recommendations, if the Fellows program were to materialize, address the issue of "Fair Selection"

39. I would prefer that this be elitist so that being a fellow would be truly distinctive. I would prefer a one year transition period (if one at all) to name the first 500 fellows of the society and then maybe a fixed maximum of 50 a year.

40. The committee may want to reread Norbert Wiener's letter of resignation from the National Academy. His arguments still apply as human vanity is certain to take over the process, however nobly motivated. Mathematica, par excellence, is a democratic calling and poorly suited to awarding of medals.

44. It is time for mathematicians to be recognized.

46. Dear Professor Gillet, I strongly oppose the creation of this new category of membership. It will create a second-class membership for the majority. The arguments which are put forward for this innovation seem to be to be contrary to the spirit of the American Mathematical Society. I believe that the purpose of the AMS is to foster the mathematical research, not to assist its members in gaining higher

salaries through the special chairs or to achieve positions of administrative influence such as Deans. I became a foreign member of the AMS in 1980, and it was a source of pride and a stimulus to work to be a fullfledged member of the society. With creation of the fellowship category, the membership of others will be reduced to the most convenient way to subscribe to the two main society journals, Notices and the Bulletin.

51. I don't think the number of fellows should be set by percentage, but should be given to any number of people (high or low) who qualify according to well-defined criteria. Given the importance of mathematics education in today's society, achievements in mathematics education, including math ed research, should be equally valued in the criteria for fellowship.

52. The idea of having AMS Fellows is a very good one and long overdue. Mathematicians have the smallest number of honors than any other discipline. It is time to remedy that. It will benefit everyone and to avoid unhappiness it should be done fairly. That will be the main issue. People are quite accepting of honors given to people who they believe are deserving.

61. I am totally against it because: 1) More letters of recommendation to write! 2) Elitist universities (like mine) will use it as a criterium for tenure (How come your candidate is not a fellow?). 3) There are already too many prizes, grants, memberships in Academies to say nothing of differences in salaries between departments or even, within a department. Enough is enough.

66. On balance I think the negative arguments outweigh the positive ones. Who would make the decisions and how much of their time would be absorbed by this, especially at the outset? How could one devise a rational cutoff point? (The NAS has never solved this problem, instead electing some people who are of retirement age even if their achievement was much earlier.) It would be a logistical nightmare for AMS to administer, and would only accentuate the current tendency of NSF grants to glorify winners over losers. The real world has a lot of uncertainties about which contributions will have ultimate impact, so short term decisions tend to overemphasize fashions in research.

71. Has the committee considered a joint fellowship program with MAA and/or SIAM?

72. The elitist tendencies of the AMS are why I have NOT been a member for the majority of my professional career, and this new program is likely to cause me to LEAVE the AMS once and for all.

80. One more stupid idea. Enough of medals and ribbons! If the AMS goes in this direction instead of focussing on Mathematics, I'll quit immediately.

AMS Fellows Subcommittee Summarized Remarks on Survey Results

Ron Stern:

Well, this made for interesting reading. I have always been in favor of creating an AMS Fellows program for all the obvious reasons (e.g. to point out to the academic public that our university has members of its very own mathematics department elected by their colleagues as a fellow after all physics, engineering, etc have several and math has none) More broadly, we need to find a vehicle to put a spotlight on excellence in mathematics and, I have earlier argued, the fellows program is a start.

However, there are good arguments (mentioned in the responses) that these bragging rights might come at the cost of the collegial nature of the AMS membership. After all, the goal of the AMS is to support a very broad based group of mathematicians, not just those employed at, say, Tier I research institutions. I find this to be a compelling argument against the fellows program. However, I return to the broader issue facing our profession. Most universities and colleges do not trust their own internal evaluation. They look for external validations for which our profession provides precious few. How do we reward excellence in mathematics without creating a multi-tiered profession? Absent a fellows program, how do we more broadly convincingly highlight excellence in mathematics?

Karen Vogtmann:

I think it would be premature to base a decision on the results of this survey, considering the extremely low response rate and the self-selected nature of the respondents. The only thing that is clear, from the comments, is that the people who have strong negative feelings about the idea are likely to voice their opinion. This is not surprising, on this or any other issue! I still feel that I have no idea what the majority of the membership thinks.

Sheldon Katz:

As I see it, the survey results say the following:

The majority are in favor of a Fellowship Program
This majority is far from overwhelming
Some members have strong feelings on this issue

I am generally in favor of a Fellowship Program and agree with Ron that a number of good points have been made in opposition. But I'd like to separate that for the moment from some of the emotional content we read (both pro and con). It is the norm in organizational surveys for some people opposing a change to respond by flaming, and in comparison to other organizations the criticisms we saw were rather mild. Change is scary. I know, because I'm scared (about the

administrative burden that could be placed on AMS and its members by an ill-conceived program). However, with a good program, we will attract more new members than we might lose.

The AMS has been thinking about this concept for years and every committee that has looked at this has been divided. This is in part the nature of trying to decide on whether a change should be made before a specific proposal is in place. This process, which we have followed for years, invites criticisms about visions of what the program **might** look like. Not all criticisms will apply to the final form of the proposal.

I would very much like to see a specific proposal crafted which addresses the concerns that have been expressed. It would be especially helpful to me if CoProf could give their perspectives on what the most important criticisms are that should be addressed, and what strengths should be preserved, as a proposal is being formulated.

Status Report on 2005 Life Memberships

The new eligibility criteria for life membership went into effect with membership renewals for 2005 (see below). The new criteria were featured prominently in the cover letter from President Eisenbud that accompanied the 2005 dues renewals mailed in late July. The letter was also available via link on the dues renewal website.

As of November 17, 2004, a total of 157 individuals have joined as life members with their renewal for 2005, accounting for a total of \$140,412 in dues payments. A profile of these new life members is provided in Table 1.

Table 1

Age Group	US & Canada	Outside US & Canada	Total
40-49	9	9	18
50-59	16	13	29
60 & above	82	28	110
Total	107	50	157

In the past, AMS has immediately recognized into revenue the entire amount of a life member's payment of life dues. This was acceptable under generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as the annual amount received for life dues was small and the difference between this method of accounting for the dues revenue and one that amortized the life dues payment over the expected life of the member was negligible. Under the expanded eligibility rules, this is likely to be no longer the case. This is because of the increased numbers of members expected to elect this option each year compared to the past, the related increase in life member dollars received each year and the longer time period over which services are likely to be rendered to 'average' life member as compared to the old policy. Accordingly, as noted in the proposal for the change, commencing in 2005 life membership dues will be amortized into revenue over the approximate life span (to age 70) of the new members. To keep the process simple while still adhering to GAAP, it will be assumed that life members in each category start at the youngest eligible age and their life dues payment will be recognized into revenue each year using the straight line method. For example, a new 2005 life member from the U.S. in the 40-49 age group will pay \$2280. This payment will be amortized over thirty years (age 40 to 70), resulting in dues revenue recognized in 2005 and each of the succeeding 29 years of \$79.00.

Life Membership

A person may become a life member by making a single payment of dues determined by age at the start of the membership year according to the following:

- Age 60 or above: five times ordinary high dues,*
- Age 50 through 59: ten times ordinary high dues,*
- Age 40 through 49: fifteen times ordinary dues.*

A life member is subsequently relieved of the obligation of paying dues. The status and privileges are those of ordinary members.

An exception to the above would be made for a person who is currently a member by reciprocity, has been a member by reciprocity for the previous two years and asserts the intention of continuing to be a member by reciprocity. Such a person may purchase life membership by a single payment of dues determined by the formula above but with ordinary high dues replaced with reciprocity dues.

Jim Maxwell
Associate Executive Director
November 23, 2004