

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

COUNCIL MINUTES

Chicago, IL

21 April 2007 at noon

Prepared 08 May 2007

Abstract

The Council of the Society met at noon on Saturday, 21 April 2007, in Board Room 2033 of the Chicago O'Hare Hilton Hotel, O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, IL, 60666. These are the minutes of the meeting. Although several items were discussed in Executive Session, all actions taken are reported in these minutes.

I. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

1.1. Opening of the Meeting and Introductions

AMS President James G. Glimm called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. CDT and presided throughout. He asked those present to introduce themselves. Other Council members present were: James G. Arthur, Robert L. Bryant, Ruth M. Charney, Robert J. Daverman, Robert L. Devaney, John M. Franks, Susan Friedlander, Carolyn S. Gordon, William M. Goldman, Robert Guralnick, Jonathan I. Hall, Craig L. Huneke, Judy A. Kennedy, Robert Lazarsfeld, Ken Ono, Frank S. Quinn, Paul J. Sally, Jr., Majorie Senechal, Michael F. Singer, J. T. Stafford, Katherine St John, Chi-Wang Shu and Francis Edward Su. Other interested parties and guests were: Sandy Golden (Administrative Assistant, AMS Secretary), John Ewing (AMS Executive Director), Ellen Maycock (AMS Associate Executive Director), William McCallum (AMS Committee on Education), Susan Montgomery (AMS Nominating Committee representative) and Samuel Rankin, III (AMS Associate Executive Director).

1.2. 2006 Elections and More

Newly elected or appointed members of the Council took office on 01 February 2007, and they are:

President	James G. Glimm
Vice President:	Robert L. Bryant
Members at Large	Robert L. Devaney Frank S. Quinn Marjorie Senechal Katherine St. John Francis Edward Su
<i>Journal of the AMS</i> Editorial Committee	Robert Lazarsfeld

1.3. List of Council Members

A list of current Council members can be found in **Attachment A**.

2. Minutes

2.1. Minutes of the January 2007 Council

The minutes of the January 2007 Council were distributed by mail prior to the meeting. Two corrections were noted. (1) In Item 4.8.1, after the sentence "The second part ... rather than an absolute rule," it should read

simply that “Council approved the policy as recommended by CPub.” (2) In Item 4.16 the word “Economic” should be replaced with “Employment”. The Council approved the minutes, as corrected.

2.2. Minutes of Business by Mail

The Council conducted business by mail since its January 2007 meeting. Minutes for this business are attached (**Attachment B**). The actions taken were (1) to elect Ruth Charney to the Executive Committee of the Council for a four-year term 01 Feb 2007 - 31 Jan 2011 and (2) to approve the Statement of Supportive Practices and Ethics in the Employment of Young People in the Mathematical Sciences “so as to speak in the name of the Society.” Council approved these minutes.

3. Consent Agenda

There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

4. Reports of Boards and Standing Committees

4.1. Nominating Committee [Executive Session]

The AMS Nominating Committee made its recommendations to the AMS Council for the Society’s 2007 election. Susan Montgomery presented the Nominating Committee report.

4.1.1. Vice President

The Nominating Committee recommended the appointment of **HAROLD M. STARK** (University of California, San Diego) and **BERND STURMFELS** (University of California, Berkeley) as candidates for election to one post as Vice President for a term of three years, beginning 01 February 2008 and ending 31 January 2011.

4.1.2. Members at Large of the Council

The Nominating Committee recommended the appointment of **ROBERT W. GHRIST** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), **REBECCA GOLDIN** (George Mason University), **HELEN G. GRUNDMAN** (Bryn Mawr College), **BRYNA KRA** (Northwestern University), **FANG-HUA LIN** (Courant Institute), **RAMMURTY** (Queens University, Canada), **IRENA PEEVA** (Cornell University), **JOSE ANTONIO DE LA PEÑA** (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México - Mexico City), **JOSEPH H. SILVERMAN** (Brown University) and **SARAH J. WITHERSPOON** (Texas A&M University) as candidates for election to positions as Member at Large of the Council. Five people are to be elected. The term is three years, beginning 01 February 2008 and ending 31 January 2011.

4.1.3. Trustee

The Nominating Committee recommended the appointment of **JEAN E. TAYLOR** (Courant Institute) and **KAREN VOGTMANN** (Cornell University) as candidates for election to one post as Trustee for a term of five years, beginning 01 February 2008 and ending 31 January 2013.

The Council named all of the above to stand for election.

4.2. Notices Editorial Committee [Executive Session]

Andy Magid, Editor-in-Chief of the *AMS Notices*, recommended that **DANIEL BISS** (University of Chicago), **JOHN SWALLOW** (Davidson College), **PETER SARNAK** (Princeton University) and **LISETTE DE PILLIS** (Harvey Mudd College) be appointed as Associate Editors of the *AMS Notices* for an approximately 3 year term, effective immediately and running through 31 December 2009. The Council appointed all four as Associate Editors.

5. Old Business

There were no items of Old Business on this agenda.

6. New Business

6.1. AMS Public Policy Award

At its January 2007 meeting the Council decided that instead of participating in an AAS-AMS-APS Joint Public Service Award (with the American Astronomical and American Physical Societies) the Society would make such an award on its own. The Secretary recommended that, to prevent confusion with the AMS Distinguished Public Service Award, the name be changed to the AMS Public Policy Award and it be given the following general description and charge.

AMS Public Policy Award Selection Committee

General Description

- **Committee is standing**
- **Three members, consisting of the President, either the President Elect or the Immediate Past President, and the chair of the Science Policy Committee.**

Principal Activities (= Charge)

The prize is awarded to a public figure in recognition of sustained and exceptional contributions to public policies that foster support for research, education, and innovation. The selection committee discusses candidates, identifies the awardee, and reports its choice to the Executive Committee.

Other Information

Awards will be given annually in Washington, DC, with the specific site and time dependent on the awardee(s). A trophy or plaque will be presented at a reception honoring the winner(s). No more than four awards will be given each year.

Rationale:

Science and mathematics research and education contribute to our knowledge base, our scientific infrastructure, and our understanding of the world around us. Future innovation and new technologies depend on continued federal investments in science and mathematics. Even so, few government leaders devote significant efforts to developing public policies that recognize the importance of science and mathematics research and education. For this reason, and to encourage public leaders to devote a portion of their public policy efforts to the support of science and mathematics research and education, the AMS establishes this Policy Award to Public Officials.

The Council approved these changes in name, committee membership and charge.

6.2. Discussion

As a repeat of an agenda item first scheduled in April 2002, the Council devoted a portion of this meeting to a topic of one of the items in its purview. At its meeting in November, 2006, the Executive Committee of the Council decided that the discussion should address what the AMS is doing and might be doing in mathematics education, broadly considered. Reading materials were supplied indicating the scope of AMS activities related to education as well as the endeavors undertaken by some other mathematics societies. In addition, annual reports of the AMS Committee on Education from the past several years were included, to show the range of activities considered in that forum. Interwoven in the general discussion on education was a discussion of Items 6.3 and 6.4 below. No action was taken on matters related to Item 6.2 itself.

6.3. Working Group on Preparation for Technical Careers

Council member Frank Quinn proposed the establishment of an AMS Task Force on Preparation for Technical Careers. Its primary aim would be to develop annotated problem sets illustrating what college teachers would like the top 5-10% of high school graduates to be capable of solving in order to be ready for vigorous training for technical careers. The proposer's idea is to start small, to seek out the available resources, and to see what develops. The hope is that the annotated problem lists will be a useful resource, not that they will serve as official standards. A more extensive proposal outline is provided in **Attachment C**. It was moved and seconded to establish a Working Group for this general purpose. The motion carried.

6.4. Task Force on the First Year Mathematics Experience

The 1999 AMS report, *Towards Excellence*, argues: To ensure their institution's commitment to excellence in mathematics research, doctoral departments must pursue excellence in their instructional programs. Of special importance is the teaching and learning in freshman-level mathematics courses, and not merely because they account for the bulk of the mathematics enrollments. For most college students, the lack of success in freshman level courses serves as a barrier to attractive, mathematically based careers in

engineering, finance, etc. With the critical and growing role of mathematics in society, mathematics departments need to be continually looking for ways to enhance the effectiveness of their freshman-level mathematics instruction

Mathematics departments whose mission places heavy emphasis on research and graduate education often face unique challenges in ensuring the quality of freshman mathematics instruction, especially in large state universities. In order to provide follow-up to the *Towards Excellence* report and to survey the current situation, AMS President Glimm recommended that there be a Task Force on the First Year Mathematics Experience, the charge for which is:

- **Identify the most significant challenges departments face as they pursue excellence in freshman mathematics instruction;**
- **Determine what the AMS and other organizations and groups are doing to address this issue; and**
- **Formulate recommendations to the AMS.**

It was moved and seconded to endorse the proposal for a Task Force. The motion carried.

6.5. Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Director, John H. Ewing, gave his annual report to the Council. This year he discussed publishing aspects of the society, which is the largest component of the Society's staff-related activity: about 3/4 of the AMS staff devote all their work efforts to publishing. The AMS published more than 100 books in 2006, and it runs 12 journals, plus the *Mathematical Reviews*. Ewing's report has been filed in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 070421-001. .

7. Announcements, Information and Record

7.1. Centennial Fellowships

The AMS Centennial Fellowship Committee has announced that Martin Kassabov (Cornell University) is the winner of the 2007 Fellowship competition. Kassabov has accepted the award. The amount of this fellowship for 2007-8 will be \$66,000, with an additional expense allowance of \$3,500.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Attachment A

2007 AMS GOVERNANCE

2007 COUNCIL

Officers

President	James G. Glimm	SUNY at Stony Brook	2009
Immed. Past President	James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	2008
Vice Presidents	Haim Brezis	Université Paris VI	2007
	Robert L. Bryant	Duke University	2009
	Ruth M. Charney	Brandeis University	2008
	Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	2008
	Secretary	Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee
Associate Secretaries	Michel Lapidus	Univ. of California, Riverside	2009
	Matthew Miller	University of South Carolina	2008
	Susan Friedlander	University of Illinois at Chicago	2009
	Lesley Sibner	Polytechnic Inst of NY	2008
	Treasurer	John M. Franks	Northwestern University
Associate Treasurer	Donald E. McClure	Brown University	2008

Representatives of Committees

Bulletin Editorial	Susan J. Friedlander, Chair	University of Illinois, Chicago	2008
Colloquium Editorial	Paul J. Sally, Jr., Chair	University of Chicago	2007
Executive Committee	Sylvain E. Cappell	Courant Institute	2009
Journal of the AMS	Robert Lazarsfeld, Chair	University of Michigan	2009
Math Reviews Editorial	Jonathan I. Hall, Chair	Michigan State University	2008
Math Surveys & Monographs	J. T. Stafford, Chair	University of Michigan	2007
Mathematics of Computation	Chi-Wang Shu, Chair	Brown University	2007
Proceedings Editorial	Ronald A. Fintushel, Chair	Michigan State University	2009
Transactions and Memoirs	Robert Guralnick, Chair	University of Southern California	2008

Members at Large

Sarah C. Billey	University of Washington	2007
Robert L. Devaney	Boston University	2009
Carolyn S. Gordon	Dartmouth College	2007
William M. Goldman	University of Maryland	2008
Craig L. Huneke	University of Kansas	2008
Sheldon H. Katz	University of Illinois, Urbana	2007
Judy A. Kennedy	University of Delaware	2008
Ken Ono	University of Wisconsin	2008
Frank S. Quinn	Virginia Tech	2009
Marjorie Senechal	Smith College	2009
Michael F. Singer	North Carolina State	2007
Katherine St. John	City University of New York	2009
Francis Edward Su	Harvey Mudd College	2009
Judy L. Walker	University of Wisconsin	2008
Catherine H. Yan	Texas A&M University	2007

2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	<i>ex officio</i>
Sylvain E. Cappell	NYU-Courant	2009
Ruth M. Charney	Brandeis University	2010
Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	<i>ex officio</i>
James G. Glimm	SUNY Stony Brook	<i>ex officio</i>
Robert M. Guralnick	University of Southern California	2008
Paul J. Sally, Jr.	University of Chicago	2007

2007 TRUSTEES

John B. Conway	George Washington University	2010
John M. Franks	Northwestern University	<i>ex officio</i>
Eric M. Friedlander	Northwestern University	2009
James G. Glimm	SUNY at Stony Brook	<i>ex officio</i>
Linda Keen	CUNY	2008
Donald E. McClure	Brown University	<i>ex officio</i>
Jean E. Taylor	Rutgers University	2007
Carol S. Wood	Wesleyan University	2011

Attachment B

**AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
BUSINESS BY MAIL
15 March 2007**

In a mail ballot dated 14 February 2007, there were 27 ballots cast, by:

James G. Arthur	Judy Anita Kennedy
Haim Brezis	Donald E. McClure
Robertt L. Bryant	Matt Miller
Ruth Charney	Ken Ono
Robert J. Daverman	Frank Quinn
Robert L. Devaney	Marjorie Senechal
Ronald Fintushel	Katherine StJohn
John M. Franks	Chi-Wang Shu
Susan Friedlander	Michael F. Singer
William M. Goldman	J. T. Stafford
Carolyn Gordon	Francis E. Su
Robert M. Guralnick	Judy L. Walker
Jonathan I. Hall	Catherine H. Yan
Craig Huneke	

In the election to the Executive Committee the result was:

Ruth Charney	17
Craig Huneke	9

Accordingly, Charney is declared elected, effective immediately, and ending when a replacement is determined in the election of February 2011.

The vote on adopting the Statement on Supportive Practices and Ethics in the Employment of Young People in the Mathematical Sciences“so as to speak in the name of the Society” was 26 in favor, 1 opposed. Passage required a favorable vote by 22 or more Council members (2/3 of the entire Council membership). Accordingly, the Statement is declared to have been adopted in “so as to speak in the name of the Society.”

Robert J. Daverman
Secretary
March 16, 2007

Attachment C

**Outline Proposal for
"AMS Task Force on Preparation for Technical Careers"
Frank Quinn, March 2007**

Design criteria:

- useful, but largely a pilot project to get our feet wet -- limited, to be doable with few resources
- designed to avoid ambiguity and controversy
- ongoing, with community involvement

Specific goal:

Develop annotated problem sets illustrating what college teachers would like the top 5-10% of high school graduates to be able to do to be ready for vigorous training for technical careers.

- intended for use by curriculum and test designers, textbook writers, teachers, not students.
- problems rather than abstract assertions because they are unambiguous and non-confrontational
- for instance, weak symbolic skills would be addressed by having lots of symbols in the problems
- problems designed so "theory" functions as organizational and computational aids
- use available problem sets as starting points and examples

Procedure:

- a web site where people can view current materials, submit comments and problems, and a moderated discussion list.
- periodic choice of focus areas advertised in a newsletter and the *Notices*
- areas of disagreement, eg on use of graphing calculators, offer good opportunities for community involvement and development of better thinking, if not consensus. Proponents could be invited to develop position statements, followed by publicity, discussion in the community and perhaps a poll.

Organization:

- amorphous, to allow evolution
- a chair (or chief editor) -- a small core recruited by the chair (since this is a working group) in consultation with the Education Committee or others as appropriate
- yearly progress reports to the Council and Education Committee
- convened for four years, during which time a detailed proposal may be submitted to Council for modified, expanded, or long-term operation.