

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

15 April 1989

The Council of the American Mathematical Society met in the Sturbridge Room of the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge in Worcester, Massachusetts, at 7:00 pm on 15 April 1989. Members present were Jonathan Alperin, Steve Armentrout, M. Salah Baouendi, W. Wistar Comfort, Lawrence Corwin, Ronald Douglas, Robert M. Fossum, Richard Guy, Roger Howe, Rhonda Hughes, Irwin Kra, Albert Marden, M. Susan Montgomery, G.D. Mostow, Linda Ness, Franklin Peterson, Marc Rieffel, Hugo Rossi, and William Thurston. Others attending with privileges of the floor were Robert Bartle, Jane Gilman, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, William H. Jaco, and James Maxwell. Ex-President Mostow presided.

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1 MINUTES

1.1 January 89 Council.

The Minutes of the January 89 Council were distributed by mail. The Secretary requested that it be noted that Marion Pour-El was present and had privileges of the floor. With this correction, the minutes were approved.

1.2 Minutes of Business by Mail.

1.2.1 Election of Representative to the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics.

The minute of Business by Mail of 19 December 1988 showing that William Veech was elected by the Council as an AMS representative to the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics is attached (see A.1) and was approved.

1.2.2 Election to the Executive Committee.

The minute of Business by Mail of 18 January 1989 showing that Hugo Rossi was elected by the Council to a four year term on the Executive Committee was distributed by mail, is attached (see A.1), and was approved.

2 INFORMATION AND RECORD

2.1 Mathematics Subject Classification (MSC). Revision of the classification scheme (Bartle).

Beginning in late 1986 efforts were made by Mathematical Reviews (MR) and Zentralblatt fuer Mathematik (Zbl) to obtain input from a large number of mathematicians and editors of mathematical journals. These suggestions were used in preparing a revision of the Mathematics Subject Classification (MSC), which is the classification system used by both reviewing journals.

On February 22, 1988, both a paper and an electronic copy of the MR proposals were sent to the Zbl editors. On May 17, 1988, MR received the initial Zbl proposals. Although many of the Zbl proposals were in response to the MR suggestions, a few were quite different in nature. Since then there has been a slow exchange of opinion about the proposed revisions for each of the 61 areas that are used. As of March 15, 1989, agreement has been reached on 35 of these areas, and agreement appears to be near on a number of other areas. However, there remain a half-dozen areas on which the two parties do not seem to be close to an agreement.

Originally it had been hoped that the revised system would be ready for implementation in the 1990 issue year of MR. Unless a number of agreements fall into place in the very near future, that seems quite unlikely. Since the prospect of the two reviewing journals using different systems seems less attractive than the possible necessity of delaying the implementation of a new system, MR continues to negotiate in good faith with the Zbl editors.

For information.

2.2 1990 Dues (Fossum).

2.2.1 Individual Dues for 1990.

The dues for 1990 have been set as follows (pending receipt of the AAUP *Bulletin*):

Membership Class	1990 Dues	1989 Dues
Ordinary Membership (Higher level)	\$92	\$88

The Council is reminded that the dues were frozen in 1989 and that it considered the option of freezing them again in 1990. See the attachment (A.2).

[Subsequent to the meeting of the Council, the Secretary received the report of Committee Z of the AAUP in which the increase in faculty salaries is listed and on which the increase in dues is based. The average increase in all salaries of current faculty members from academic year 1987/1988 to 1988/1989 is 6.8%. When applied to the base of \$88.00, this yields a new base of \$93.98. The dues at the higher level must be a multiple of 4. Applying this algorithm yields dues for 1990 as follows:

Membership Class	1990 Dues	1989 Dues
Ordinary Membership (Higher level)	\$96	\$88

The Council has stated that the percentage of ordinary members paying dues at the higher level should be about 40% and the percentage paying the lower level (which is $3/4^{\text{th}}$ of the higher level) should be about 60%. In this past year, with the break point at \$38,000, the percentages were almost reversed. So the break point must be raised in order to come closer to the desired percentages. The break point for 1990 will be \$45,000.]

2.3 JPBM/OGPA

As the attached letter signifies, Kenneth Hoffman has accepted the position as Executive Director of Mathematical Sciences Education Board (MSEB) effective 01 September 1989 and thereby has resigned as Head, Office of Governmental and Public Affairs (HOGPA) (see A.3).

3 BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

3.1 Committee on Fellowship Policy (Montgomery).

The Committee on Fellowship Policy reported to the January 89 Council. A report from the AMS Fellowship Selection Committee was also distributed at the Council. These two reports are attached (see A.4 and A.4). The Committee submitted an addendum to the report which is also attached (see A.4). The chair of the committee, M. Susan Montgomery, reported. After discussion, the Council agreed to three changes to be implemented for the 1990/91 AMS Centennial Fellowships.

1. The age group was changed to "from seven (7) to twelve (12) years past Ph.D. or equivalent degree."
2. The competition was opened up to all ranks.
3. The wording in the charge to the selection committee was changed so that it now reads: "The selection committee **will** give preference to applicants who have not had extensive postdoctoral fellowship support."

3.2 Bulletin Editorial Committee (BEC) (Howe).

3.2.1 Research Announcements.

The January 89 Council approved a revision of the editorial policy for the Research Announcements section of the *Bulletin*. The chair of the BEC, Roger Howe, requested and the Council approved the attached (see A.5) draft announcement.

3.2.2 Associate Editors

The term of one Editor for Research Announcements, Spencer Bloch, has expired. Roger Howe, chair of the BEC, requested, in the attached letter (see A.6), and the Council, while meeting in Executive Session, approved the appointment of Robert Lazarsfeld, UCLA, and Joseph Bernstein, Harvard, as replacements.

3.3 Agenda and Budget Committee (ABC) (Fossum).

3.3.1 New Book Series.

The ABC has approved, subject to Council approval, the establishment of a new book series, "Advances in Soviet Mathematics". The Council passed the motion

The April 89 Council of the American Mathematical Society hereby establishes a book series entitled "Advances in Soviet Mathematics".

3.3.2 Cooperation with Pi Mu Epsilon (PME) (Fossum).

William H. Jaco, Executive Director, in an item for the 05/89 Executive Committee and Board of Trustees Agenda (05/89 ECBT) proposed increased cooperation with the national mathematics honorary society Pi Mu Epsilon in the attachment A.7. The Council discussed this item while sitting as a Committee of the Whole. It asked that a committee be appointed to concern itself with the items raised.

3.4 Election Scheduling.

3.4.1 Nominating Committee (Fossum).

At the April 88, August 88, and January 89 Councils, the number and terms of office of members of the Nominating Committee were changed to nine and three years respectively. The Phase-in suggested in the report of the Committee does not appear to work. The Council asked the Committee on Election Scheduling and the Secretary jointly to come to the August 1989 Council with a concrete proposal that will work.

3.4.2 Report of the Committee on Election Scheduling.

The remainder of the report of the Committee on Election Scheduling was discussed while the Council was sitting as a Committee of the Whole.

3.5 Nominating Committee (Gilman).

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Roger C. Alperin, Joan S. Birman, Ronald DeVore, Jane P. Gilman (chair), James E. Humphreys, Victor L. Klee, Jr., Leonard L. Scott, and Alan D. Weinstein, submitted its report which is attached (see A.8). It made the following suggestions for nominations for the indicated offices.

- President-Elect. (One candidate for one opening)
 - Michael Artin, MIT
- Vice-President. (Four candidates for two openings)
 - James Arthur, University of Toronto
 - Phillip Griffiths, Duke University
 - James Serrin, University of Minnesota
 - Dennis Sullivan, CUNY Graduate Center
- Associate Secretary. (Two candidates for two openings)
 - Andy Roy Magid, University of Oklahoma
 - Lance Small, University of California, San Diego
- Member at Large. (Seven Candidates for five openings)
 - Joan Birman, Columbia University
 - Frank Clarke, Université de Montréal
 - Herb Clemens, University of Utah
 - Ed Floyd, University of Virginia
 - Amassa Fauntleroy, North Carolina State University
 - Carl Pomerance, University of Georgia
 - S.-T. Yau, Harvard
- Board of Trustees. (Two candidates for one opening)
 - Ramesh Gangolli, University of Washington
 - John Polking, Rice University

The Committee also included an ordered list of six (6) additional names it suggests for nomination for election to the position of Member at Large in case there are not sufficient Nominations by Petition to bring the number of candidates up to ten. This list is not included in the report that is attached.

The Council, while meeting in Executive Session, accepted the report of the Nominating Committee.

9 NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Committees to Select Hour Speakers for Sectional Meetings (Fossum).

Each section of the Society had a committee called the Committee to Select Hour Speakers for `section-name` Meetings. The Secretary requested permission to change the name of each of these committees to `section-name` Program Committee. The Council approved.

9.2 AMS Centennial Fellowships (Fossum).

The Secretary proposed that the Council recommend that the stipend for the 1991 AMS Centennial Fellowship be set at \$34500 (the 1990 stipend was \$33000). This amounts to a 4.54% increase. The travel allowance would remain the same, namely \$1000.

The Secretary amended his proposal so that the recommended stipend for 1990/91 would be \$36,000. This amended proposal was adopted by the Council for recommendation to the Board of Trustees.

9.3 Headquarters Presence at Sectional Meetings (Fossum).

In the attached memorandum, the Executive Director suggested methods of enhancing sectional meetings of the Society. (See A.9). Discussion took place while the Council was sitting as a Committee of the Whole.

9.4 International Campaign—All Victims (Chile) (Browder/Schafer).

Isreal Halperin, in the attached letter (A.10), requested that the Society formally support the “Chile Campaign” and thereby be listed as a supporting organization. A motion to support the campaign failed. The Secretary was instructed by the Council to obtain more information about the campaign.

9.5 *Bulletin* Book Reviews (Rossi).

Steven Krantz had sent to some Council members material concerning, as he writes, “a recent experience [he] had with the book review editor of the *Bulletin* of the American Mathematical Society”. The attached (A.11) Letter to the Editor of the *NOTICES* outlines the sequence of events as well as Krantz’s positions. Rossi proposed that the Council refer the two manuscripts, or revisions thereof, the one by Krantz and the other by Mandelbrot, to the *NOTICES* for publication. The two manuscripts and other pertinent material are attached (A.11).

It was moved and seconded to refer the Krantz/Mandelbrot articles to the Notices Editorial Committee for publication in the *NOTICES*.

An amendment was made and seconded to change the two occurrences of the word “Notices” to the word “Bulletin” in the previous sentence.

The amendment failed and the motion as made passed.

[The Secretary informed Krantz of the Council’s action shortly after the meeting. Krantz has informed the Secretary and members of the Council that he intends to publish his review elsewhere.]

9.6 A proposal for stimulating Mathematical Education (Howe).

Roger Howe proposed the establishment of a mathematical contest with scholarships as prizes in order to stimulate interest in mathematics. Details are contained in the attached proposal (see A.12).

The Council adjourned at 11:55 pm.

Robert Fossum
Secretary

A Attachments

A.1 Attachment 1: Business by Mail.

NOTICE:

This attachment contains two short letters from Robert Fossum to the members of the Council. The contents have been summarized in subchapters 1.2.1 and 1.2.2.

For a hardcopy contact the office of

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A.2 Attachment 2: 1990 Dues.

Dues Calculation

The dues for the year $n+1$ are calculated by the Secretary in year n . The Council has approved the formula, so that the EC and the BT approve the work of the Secretary without referral to the Council. The Secretary holds a covert figure for dues in year n , calculated to the penny, at the higher and lower level of dues. The latter is three quarters of the former. The AAUP annual survey published in the AAUP Bulletin in the spring of year n compares salaries of academic year $n-2$ to $n-1$ with year $n-1$ to n . Among the many figures is the percent increase in salary levels for a combined group of all ranks and all categories of institutions (except those without academic ranks). The calculated dues figure is increased by that percent. The calculated figures are rounded up to the next even dollar to get the billed dues figure.

Dues for 1988 and 1989 were frozen by the Council at the level 88 (66) so that the covert figure is lost. The formula is to apply in 1989 in calculating the dues for 1990 and 88 (66) should be used as the covert figure in making that calculation.

The division point between lower and higher level dues is calculated by the Secretary also. There are two sources of data. The Department of Membership and Sales can tell in the Spring of year n how many of the persons paying full dues are paying at the lower and higher level, so that one can see whether one is currently on target. Second, the AAUP gives a table of salaries by deciles of salary, which gives some measure of the sensitivity of the ratio between numbers of person paying lower and higher dues to changes in the division point.

A.3 Attachment 3: JPBM/OGPA.

NOTICE:

For a copy of this letter contact the office of

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A.4 Attachment 4: Committee on Fellowship Policy.

NOTICE:

A copy of this six-page report addressing the question of whether there is still a need for an AMS fellowship and how to attract applicants who have not yet received fellowships from other sources and an addendum can be obtained from the office of

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A.5 Attachment 5: Bulletin Editorial Committee; Research Announcements.

NOTICE:

This attachment contains a letter dated January 31, 1989, and written by Roger E. Howe, editor of the Research Bulletin, to Robert Fossum, as well as the draft of a new version of the section titled ‘‘Research Announcements’’ to be found on the inside cover of the BULLETIN. The letter contains a few technical questions. The text of the draft version for the research announcements is as follows:

‘‘

DRAFT

RESEARCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The purpose of this department is to publish quickly and disseminate widely significant new mathematics. A Research Announcement should be designed to communicate its contents to a broad mathematical audience and should meet high standards for clarity as well as mathematical content. It should have a substantial introductory section addressed to non-experts describing the motivation, background and significance of the results announced. Following the statement of results, there should follow a sketch of proofs which may be addressed to experts. An author is urged to have a manuscript intended as an Announcement proofread by colleagues, including non-experts. An Announcement should normally not exceed 7 journal pages. Authors should send five (5) copies of each manuscript to Roger Howe, Department of Mathematics, Yale University, Box 2155, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520. Deadlines for submissions are: August 15 for the January issue; November 1 for April; February 1 for July; and May 1 for October. (These deadlines assume ideal conditions; difficulties in processing, including manuscript defects, will cause deviations from this schedule.)’’

A.6 Attachment 6: Bulletin Editorial Committee; Associate Editors.

NOTICE:

A copy of this letter (dated February 27, 1989) from Roger Howe to Robert Fossum can be obtained from the office of

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A.7 Attachment 7: Cooperation with Pi Mu Epsilon.

NOTICE:

The text of this attachment is the following:

“Cooperative Activity with Pi Mu Epsilon. (Jaco)

The ED met with Eileen Poiani, President of Pi Mu Epsilon (PME), at the Phoenix Meeting and discussed areas where the two organizations might find cooperative activities. A basic premise of the discussion was that PME furnishes a natural undergraduate contact point for the Society, as far as providing some organizational structure at that level. The ED will report at the ABC meeting on some of the topics discussed and where cooperation seems attractive.

The ED requests that a committee be formed to investigate areas of cooperation with PME and make specific recommendations to the Society.’’

A.8 Attachment 8: Nominating Committee.

NOTICE:

A hardcopy of this report, which is sufficiently summarized in Chapter 3.5 of these Minutes, can be obtained from the office of

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A.9 Attachment 9: Headquarters Presence at Sectional Meetings.

NOTICE:

This 8-page attachment consists of the correspondence between William Jaco, Executive Director of the AMS at that time, and Robert Fossum, Secretary of the AMS, as well as Hope Daly, Director of Meetings of the AMS. A hardcopy can be obtained from the office of

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A.10 Attachment 10: International Campaign—All Victims (Chile).

NOTICE:

This 10-page attachment contains

- 1) a letter by Israel Halperin, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Toronto and Secretary of the Canadian Committee of Scientists and Scholars (CCSS), requesting the AMS to join the list of supporting organizations for the Chile Campaign;
- 2) a list of the members of CCSS;
- 3) a copy of the Chile Campaign Bulletin of October–November 1988 documenting typical cases of human rights violations in Chile, outlining actions taken recently on behalf of the victims and listing international supporters and supporting organizations of the campaign.

For a hardcopy of the material please contact the office of

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A.11 Attachment 11: *Bulletin* Book Reviews.

NOTICE:

For a hardcopy of this 24-page attachment please contact the office of

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A.12 Attachment 12: Stimulating Mathematical Education.

NOTICE:

A hardcopy of this 4-page Proposal for a National Mathematics Competition can be obtained from the office of

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