

MAA MD-VA-DC Executive Committee Meeting
Montgomery College, Germantown Campus
Bioscience Education Center, Room 165¹
April 22, 2022

IN ATTENDANCE: Kathryn Linehan (Chair), Minah Oh (Past Chair), Bonita Saunders (Section Representative to MAA Congress), Ryan Shifler (Program Chair), Tom Wears (Secretary), Phillip Poplin (Treasurer), Jeb Collins (Newsletter Editor), Emily Meehan (Director of Member Communications), Jathan Austin (New Faculty Coordinator), Jeff Ledford (Student Activities Coordinator), Kevin Sinclair (At Large Member), Blain Patterson (At Large Member), Brian Heinhold (Webmaster)

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2021

Minutes approved.

II. REPORT OF THE TREASURER: PHILLIP POPLIN

Treasurer Phillip Poplin reported that, “by and large, things look good” on the financial front. Treasurer Poplin noted that the subvention check for \$1782 from the national MAA came in but was not on the current report provided to members of the section in the newsletter.

III. REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MAA CONGRESS: BONITA SAUNDERS

Representative to the MAA Congress Bonita Saunders reported to the executive committee on a number of issues and opportunities being discussed and/or promoted by the national MAA. Issues/opportunities include: the lecture and speaker series and the return of the Distinguished Lecture Series; advertising in *Focus*; MathFest; MAA Membership benefits and categories; Special Interest Groups of the MAA (SIGMAAs); and the continued use of MAA Connect.

IV. REPORT OF THE NEW FACULTY COORDINATOR: JATHAN AUSTIN

Jathan will be unable to attend the general meeting and announced that Jenn Bergner will run activities for new faculty.

Jathan indicated that he followed up on Emily Meehan’s prior suggestion of using Project NExT fellows to encourage participation in Section NExT as well recruit participants from recent lists of Project NExT fellows.

Jathan then brought up the issue of the transition to new officers and the hand-off of responsibilities and duties for officers during the transition. An off-agenda discussion then followed with comments and suggestions pertaining to how to improve the transition process. General consensus seemed to suggest that online meetings have hampered the transition process and that in-person meetings were naturally more helpful. A discussion related to creating a more centralized location or repository to store working guidelines and list of responsibilities for incoming section officers. Conversation then turned to the role of the bylaws in helping ensure an orderly transition between outgoing and incoming

¹Several members of the executive committee joined via Zoom.

officers. Section Chair Kathryn Linehan then indicated that should would look for volunteers to help address the issue.

V. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM CHAIR: RYAN SHIFLER

Program Chair Ryan Shifler reported on the upcoming meeting, including the number of different adjustments that were required to ensure that the meeting was even able to happen at all. Program Chair Shifler made special efforts to commend all local site coordinators.² Program Chair Shifler outlined the speakers for the meeting. He indicated that he reached out to the MAA to find a speaker, but no speakers were available.

In addition to the invited addresses, Program Chair Shifler indicated that here will be 24 contributed talks (with six student presenters) and 8 or 9 student poster presentations. Lastly, Program Chair Shifler expressed thanks to Brian Heinhold for having the schedule automated online.

VI. REPORT OF THE SECTION CHAIR: KATHRYN LINEHAN

Section Chair Kathryn Linehan began by echoing Program Chair Shifler’s commentary related to the work performed by local site coordinators and managing last minute changes. Chair Linehan then outlined dates and locations for future meetings.³

Lastly, Chair Linehan announced that she was planning to make an announcement to encourage the use of MAA Connect by section members, while also trying to see what other sections are doing to handle complaints.⁴

VII. REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE, REPRESENTED BY TOM WEARS

Secretary Tom Wears indicated that the teaching award will be awarded, but that there would not be a recipient of the Sister Helen Christensen Award due to lack of nominations.

VIII. POTENTIAL REPORTS FROM OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

a. VICE PROGRAM CHAIR

There was no report from the Vice Program Chair.

b. WEBMASTER

Webmaster Brian Heinhold indicated that there were no updates.

²The meeting was organized three separate times, twice at Virginia State University and once at Montgomery College. The altered scheduling was the result of disruptions caused locally and nationally by the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and the surge related to the Omicron variant during the winter of 2021–2022.

³The Fall 2022 meeting will be held at Shenandoah University November 4–5. The Spring 2023 meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at Virginia State University.

⁴Chair Linehan expressed a preference for complaint related items to be directed somewhere other than a public forum. The section officers appeared to be in agreement.

c. SECRETARY

Secretary Tom Wears indicated that there were no updates.

d. NEWSLETTER

Newsletter Editor Jeb Collins indicated that there was lots of information in the current newsletter and that he was considering changing the setup of the newsletter in an effort to modernize the responsibilities.

e. DIRECTOR OF MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Director of Member Communications Emily Meehan reinforced the need for clarification of roles of officers in order to adapt to changes resulting from the adoption of MAA Connect.⁵

f. STUDENT ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Student activities coordinator Jeff Ledford expressed thanks for Brian Heinhold for his continued efforts and contributions to the section.

g. MEMBERS AT LARGE

Members at Large Kevin Sinclair and Blain Patterson indicated that they had nothing to report.

IX. NEW OFFICER ELECTIONS

Thanks were expressed to all outgoing officers for their work. Jathan Austin's time as the new faculty coordinator is complete, while Brian Heinhold (Webmaster) and Ryan Shiffler (Program Chair) are running opposed into new terms. Kevin Sinclair is finishing his term as member at large.

Special thanks offered to outgoing chair Minah Oh and member at large Kevin Sinclair.

Emily Meehan will be leaving the section and a new Director of Member Communications will be elected at the general meeting.

Maggie Rahmoeller was appointed as the new section representative to the MAA congress.

X. BOOK SALE

A brief discussion of the book sale and its relevance was held. Questions centered around whether the book sale should continue and how/if the process can be clarified.

⁵Of particular concern are the responsibilities for the Director of Member Communications, as many of the current responsibilities are seemingly superfluous in the shadow of the development of MAA Connect.

XI. BYLAWS

The discussion of the bylaws was held when discussing the need to clarify roles of officers.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION

A brief discussion related to registration fees for the Friday afternoon workshops at section meetings was initiated by Treasurer Phillip Poplin.⁶ A back and forth discussion ensued, with Minah Oh raising the issue of whether this would need to be voted on by members at the general meeting. Jeb Collins indicated that he believed this was a “Commit” decision and that “Commit” funds need to be handled differently.

XIII. Meeting adjourned at 4:25PM.

⁶The purpose of the fee would be to prevent people from registering but not showing up to attend the workshop.