

# **Seaway Section of the Mathematical Association of America Minutes 2017 Spring Meeting**

The Spring 2017 Meeting of the Seaway Section was held at SUNY at Oswego, March 31-April 1.

## **Executive Committee Meeting**

Present: Jonathan Cox, Ryan Gantner, Jim Conklin, Steven Kilner, Cheryl Chute-Miller, Jeff Johannes, Gary Raduns. Gary Towsley joined late.

### **Discussion Items:**

***HRUMC Partnership:*** The Executive Committee discussed at some length the possibilities of partnering with the Hudson River Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (HRUMC). While there is interest in further consideration, perhaps for Spring 2019, three considerations were raised:

- a. The Section is not willing to give up the Friday banquet with speaker and student contest. Costs of this (beyond amounts charged for the meal) are borne by the host institution.
- b. Impact on our practice of student lunches paid for by the Section will need to be considered.
- c. Would negotiate a registration fee for all faculty participating whether primarily in the HRUMC program or in the Section program.

***Seaway Section Distinguished Lecturer:*** A committee consisting of Charlie Jacobson, Olympia Nicodemi, Jeff Johannes and Elizabeth Wilcox was established to develop a proposal. They see a potential to start in one year with an estimated cost of \$4000 per year to fund travel and honoraria for two talks per semester by one lecturer. The chair suggested the proposal be circulated among the Executive Committee to seek approval between now and fall with recruiting of the speaker to occur in fall and spring of 2017-18.

### **Old Business**

The Section again declined to provide \$2500 to the Association to support a Project NExT Fellow.

### **New Business**

***Section Officers Meeting Invitation:*** Jim Conklin and Ryan Gantner were invited to present at the Section Officers meeting at MathFest regarding our brainstorming session.

***Credit card payments:*** Credit card payments seemed to work well at this meeting. The Executive Committee recommends increasing the registration fee for future meetings to \$22.00, in part to cover credit card payment fees.

***Seaway Section Distinguished Lecturer:*** See Discussion item above.

## **Extended Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee was joined by Blaire Madore, Elizabeth Wilcox, Jane Cushman.

Corrections to the Minutes of Fall 2016: Correct to *Manuela* Campanelli, and Jonathan Cox office from 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair to Chair Elect.

## **Discussion Items and Reports:**

***Section Representative:*** Section Representative Jim Conklin reported on the adoption of new By-Laws of the Association including the formation of an Executive Committee with fiduciary responsibility for the Association. Rather than a Board of Governors, there is now a Congress of Section Representatives who will meet twice a year with travel support from the Association. Additional information is contained in his written report.

***Program Committee:*** The program committee chair highlighted the speakers for this meeting: Fred Rickey, Manuella Campanelli, Tara Holme, and Brett Stevens. She also noted that due to space limitations there will be two lunch sessions with a parallel social “Math Magic Show” coordinated by Blaire Madore or “Rubik’s Cube Rewind” coordinated by Kenny Roffo. The meeting will conclude with a celebration of Clarence Stephens’ 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Plans for speakers are well underway for the Fall Meeting, October 20-21, 2017 at SUNY Broome. The closing talk will be given by Gary Gordon and Elizabeth McMahon. Local organizers have a Friday evening speaker in mind. The committee has invited Patti Frazer Locke. The Randolph Lecture committee is still working, but is pursuing a possibility.

***Student Program:*** Students will be giving 23 presentations at this meeting. Thanks to Blaire for organizing the student game show competition for this evening.

***Randolph Lecture:*** The Randolph Lecture committee is working to recruit the Randolph lecturer for Fall 2017. The group discussed the expectation of a closing discussion time for the Randolph lecture. The consensus of the group was to inform the speaker we have thought about closing discussion, perhaps with planted questions, distributing index cards for listeners to write questions to be addressed at the conclusion, but to leave closing and discussion to the speaker’s discretion. A further possibility mentioned during discussion was having follow-up discussion during the parallel paper sessions.

***Gehman Lecture:*** The Gehman lecture committee is actively recruiting a speaker for the Gehman Lecturer for Spring 2018. The Gehman Lecturer for this meeting is Manuela Campanelli of RIT.

***Educational Policy Committee:*** No report.

***Distinguished Teaching Award:*** Brian Forrest of University of Waterloo is this year’s recipient of the Clarence Stephens Distinguished Teaching Award

***Nominating Committee:*** The Nominating Committee, Margaret Morrow (chair) reports the nomination of Gary Towsley for treasurer and of Steve Kilner for Second Vice Chair. Nominees are being solicited for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair for election in Spring 2018.

**Liaison Coordinator:** Jeff Johannes is the liaison coordinator. He notes coverage by liaisons is weak but the Section will continue its liaison program despite the Association discontinuing the liaison program.

**Seaway Current:** Looks great.

**Seaway NExT:** Approximately 15-20 faculty (most 'older') participated in the workshop. The demographic most likely represented the specialized topic.

**Webmaster:** Webmaster Anurag Agarwal was not present; however, there was brief mention of the need to modernize the site as it is not suitable for viewing with mobile devices.

**Bylaws:** The Extended Executive Committee had substantial discussion of necessary by-laws revisions. The Secretary was charged to post the list of suggestions to a shareable site with the Executive Committee working electronically to edit to revisit in the fall with a goal of submitting changes to the Committee on Sections by December 1.

## **Business Meeting**

The Business Meeting convened on April 1 at 11:18 am with approximately 25 members in attendance.

Minutes of the previous business meeting were approved and the agenda was approved.

**Elections:** The Nominating Committee nominated Gary Towsley for the office of Treasurer (3 year term) and Steve Kilner for the office of Second Vice Chair (two year term). With no nominations from the floor, both were elected by acclamation.

**Chair's Report:** Ryan Gantner gave a brief update to the Business meeting on the activities of the Executive and Extended Executive Committee, most notably, that we have begun decadal review of the Section by-laws and we have progressed in accepting credit card payments. He expresses his thanks to the Section and welcomes Jonathan Cox who will become chair of the Section at the conclusion of the spring meeting.

**Section Representative Report:** The Section Representative, James Conklin, updated the Section on the change in the Association by-laws—in particular the change to a Congress of Section Representatives rather than a Board of Governors. He also pointed to an app, MathFeed, developed by Francis Su to aggregate new in mathematics. Jim responded to comment from the floor regarding the increasing costs of MathFest and the Joint Mathematics Meetings. In response to a question from the floor he noted that selection of Section Representatives will be by the same process as previously used for election of Governors. In response to a question from the floor regarding the solvency of the Association he noted (1) deficits are less than anticipated, (2) Publications are losing money so the Association is looking to enter into a partnership, perhaps including print-on-demand, that will not entail loss of editorial control, (3) competitions took a one-time hit, and

**Secretary's Report:** Nothing beyond the minutes

**Treasurer's Report:** The current balance is approximately \$15,800 (3/1/2017) up from \$14,800 on 9/15/2016. The Executive Committee is exploring some innovative ways to carry out the mission of the Section outside of the semi-annual meetings.

**Program Chair:** The program chair notes that there are more student talks than faculty talks at this meeting and asks that you encourage your faculty colleagues to speak. There are approximately 200 registered to attend this meeting. The next meeting will be October 20-21, 2017 at SUNY Broome Community College.

**Student Program Committee:** The Student Program Committee reports a strong student program at this meeting and thanks Blaire Madore for organizing the trivia game.

**Randolph Lecture:** The Randolph Lecture Committee is preparing an invitation for the Fall meeting, but welcomes suggestions for future speakers in this series of fall lectures focusing on mathematics education.

**Gehman Lecture:** The Gehman Lecture Committee has not yet identified a speaker for next springs meeting.

**Educational Policies Committee:** No report.

**Distinguished Teaching Award Committee:** The committee is pleased to announce that Brian Forrest of University of Waterloo is this year's recipient of the Clarence Stephens Distinguished Teaching Award.

**Nominating Committee:** The Committee seeks suggestions of nominees for First Vice Chair and Program Chair (one position) to be elected at the spring meeting of 2018.

**Liaison Coordinator:** If you do not know who your Department Liaison with the Seaway Section is, please contact Jeff Johannes so he can make the liaison program work better.

**Seaway Current:** Elizabeth Wilcox, Seaway Current editor, thanked Anurag Agarwal, Section webmaster, for making the Seaway Current available on the website in a timely manner.

**Project NExT/PFF:** This weekend's workshop was on MathBook XML with Ben Atchinson. Thanks to those who helped to organize the workshop.

**Webmaster:** No Report

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary Raduns  
Seaway Section Secretary