

For the second Board of Governor's meeting in a row, the discussion was almost exclusively focused on the health of the MAA and how to adapt the association to the present environment for disciplinary associations. With a clear decline in membership (mirroring the decline in tenure track positions at college nationwide) the MAA is trying to clarify its mission. Half of the meeting was spent discussing the role of the Board of Governors in the MAA. A board of over 40 members is not a particularly good body for guiding the MAA. Its meetings are also expensive. The afternoon half of the meeting was spent brainstorming on what the MAA should be doing that it isn't, what it shouldn't be doing that it is, and what it needs to do better. The main difficulty seems to be that when it was formed the MAA served as a focus of communications for academic mathematicians. This was an essential role. In the past twenty years new technologies have made such communication much easier. So the question really becomes – What is the mission of the MAA in the present day? No answers or magic solutions were suggested. The rest of the meeting was taken up with reports and routine actions such as approving awards and committee memberships.