



Committee on Publications (CPub)

2021 Annual Meeting

SUMMARY REPORT

A meeting of the AMS Committee on Publications (CPub) was held on Friday and Saturday, September 24-25, 2021 at AMS Headquarters in Providence, RI and via Zoom web conference. Steven Bradlow, chair, presided.

Actions taken by CPub:

- **Minutes of Business by Email**

The December 29, 2020 minutes of business by email were approved. The business conducted was to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2020 CPub meeting.

- **AMS Compliance with the Committee on Publication Ethics ([COPE](#))**

The AMS is applying for membership to COPE with the goal of providing enhanced guidance and support to journal editors handling infringements of publication ethics. To become a COPE member, certain criteria for transparency and best practices in publishing must be met. Toward this end, Associate Executive Director for Publishing, Robert Harington presented the following draft policies for authors, editors and reviewers and requested CPub's endorsement for adoption:

1. Author Name Changes
2. Authorial Integrity Policy
3. Authorship Policy
4. Process for Filing, Investigating, Communicating Results, & Appealing Claims
5. Removal of Offensive Material Policy
6. AMS Reviewer Rights & Responsibilities

CPub endorsed implementing these publishing policies (with revisions) for recommendation to Council.

- **Action Required for *Communications of the AMS* (CAMS)**

The AMS bylaws state that the chairs of AMS primary journal editorial committees are automatically appointed to Council as voting members. Since CAMS will be considered a new AMS primary journal, CPub was asked to consider if the journal's two co-chairs (co-editors-in-chief) should both be made Council members.

Since CAMS will be considered a primary journal, the required action is to change the AMS Bylaws accordingly in several places. The discussion moved in the direction of approving changes to the Bylaws. Subsequently, CPub acted (via email) on specific change proposals drafted by Secretary Hasselblatt for recommendation to Council.

- **CPub Sponsored Panel at the Joint Mathematics Meeting (JMM)**

CPub approved sponsoring a panel on Doubly Anonymous Refereeing at the 2023 JMM.

- **Modifying the *Journal of the AMS (JAMS) Statement of Scope***

Stemming from the 2019 Report of the CPub Subcommittee Reviewing the Primary Journals (CPub Agenda 2020 item 3.4.3), former CPub Chair Douglas Arnold (2020-2021) consulted with JAMS Managing Editor Pavel Etingof regarding CPub's recommendation to modify the JAMS statement of scope. In response, the JAMS Editorial Board prepared and submitted a recommendation to CPub to modify the statement of scope by replacing "...all areas of pure and applied mathematics" with just "mathematics," such that the statement will read, "This journal is devoted to research articles of the highest quality in mathematics."

CPub approved the editorial board's suggested change to the JAMS statement of scope and moved to recommend the revised statement to Council for approval.

- **Increasing the Editorial Board Size of *Transactions of the AMS (TAMS)***

CPub was asked to consider a proposal from TAMS Managing Editor Dan Abramovich to increase the number of TAMS/MEMO editorial board members from 21 to 30 editors, reorganize its sections, and redistribute allotted pages.

CPub endorsed the proposal to increase the size of the TAMS/MEMO editorial board from 21 to 30 editors for approval by Council, provided that the entire TAMS/MEMO editorial board approves of the increase. Subsequently, all 21 TAMS/MEMO board members approved of the increase.

- **Submission Statements for AMS Research Journals (Agenda Item 5.1.2)**

Submission statements for AMS research journals contain the statement:

"The author should suggest an appropriate Editor to review the paper."

CPub was asked to suggest and consider an alternative statement to clarify that editor consideration is, in itself, peer review, and desk rejects are thus appropriate.

- **Modifying the Journal Overviews to Reflect Quick Reject (Agenda Item 5.1.3)**

Most AMS journal overviews start with the statement, "All articles submitted to this journal are peer-reviewed," and the following statement is also displayed on the main journal page <https://www.ams.org/journals>:

All articles submitted to journals published by the AMS are peer-reviewed.

CPub was asked to consider changing these journal overview statements to reflect the practice of quick reject and the future incorporation of doubly anonymous review.

Notes for Agenda items 5.1.2 and 5.1.3: CPub did not take any action on these two agenda items and after discussion, moved to form a subcommittee tasked to consider if these statements should be changed, and if so, why.

- **Review of AMS Member Journals**

This year, the AMS members journals, *Abstracts of the AMS*, *Bulletin of the AMS*, and *Notices of the AMS* were reviewed. Review subcommittee members indicated that groundwork on the review was completed and provided a brief overview to the committee. Since the subcommittee chair had not yet had an opportunity to comment on it, the subcommittee's report was not submitted for inclusion in the agenda.

Subsequent to the meeting, subcommittee work continued with the expectation that the finalized report would be circulated via email to CPub by January 2022 for review and

consideration of any recommendations. In December, 2021, the report was finalized and submitted to C Pub via technical means for review and acceptance. C Pub voted to accept the subcommittee's report with thanks.

Discussion items and informational reports provided by staff:

- **Overview of AMS Policies:**
 1. [AMS Conflict of Interest Policy for Officers and Committee Members](#)
 2. [AMS Statement on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion](#)
 3. [AMS Policy on a Welcoming Environment](#)
 4. Society Governance
 5. The Role of the Committee on Publications and its [Charge](#)
- Report from the AMS Executive Director
- Report from the Task Force Co-chair, Kasso Okoudjou
- Report from the AMS Publisher
- Report from the AMS Executive Editor for Mathematical Reviews/MathSciNet®
- Open Access updates from the Associate Executive Director for Publishing
- Establishing a Data Repository for Code and other Files Associated with AMS Journal Papers
- **Additional Topics for Immediate or Future Consideration**
 1. Could C Pub consider its ambit to include video for publication, e.g. video abstracts for journal articles and videos of lecture series or courses.
 2. Robert Guralnick (Committee member, University Lecture Series) suggested that an expedited screening process be implemented for the *University Lecture Series*.

Other Business:

- **2022 Annual Review**

C Pub's charge calls for reviews according to the following schedule:

 - Year 1: AMS Book Program
 - Year 2: Primary Journals (JAMS, MCOM, PAMS, TAMS)
 - Year 3: Member Journals (*Bulletin, Notices, Abstracts*) and All Other Journals (electronic only, translation, and distributed journals)

In accordance with the C Pub review schedule, a review of the AMS Book Program will take place in 2022.
- **Next Meeting**

The next C Pub meeting will be held *September 16-17, 2022* at the AMS Headquarters in Providence, RI.

Steven Bradlow
Chair, Committee on Publications

Robert M. Harington
Associate Executive Director, AMS Publishing
December 1, 2021