COUNCIL MINUTES

09 April 2005

Washington, D.C

Abstract

The Council of the Society met at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, 09 April 2005, in the Delegate Room of the Embassy Suites Hotel in Washington, D.C. These are the minutes of the meeting. Although several items were treated in Executive Session, all actions taken are reported in these minutes.

I. MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 1:35 p.m. AMS President James Arthur presided throughout. Other Council members present were Sara C. Billey, James W. Cannon, Sylvain Cappell, Walter L. Craig, Robert J. Daverman, Beverly E. J. Diamond, John M. Franks, Susan Friedlander, Carolyn S. Gordon, Mark Goresky, Robert M. Guralnick, Susan Hermiller, Sheldon H. Katz, Michel Lapidus, Brain Marcus, John E. McCarthy, Michael F. Singer, J. T. Stafford, Karen Vogtmann, Catherine H. Yan and Paul Zorn. Among the other interested parties and guests present were: John B. Conway (Board of Trustees), Annalisa Crannell (Chair, AMS Nominating Committee), John H. Ewing (AMS Executive Director), Sandra Golden (Administrative Assistant, AMS Secretary) and Samuel M. Rankin (AMS Associate Executive Director). Michel Lapidus was the voting Associate Secretary at this meeting.

1.1. Opening of the Meeting and Introductions

1.2. New Council Members

Newly elected or appointed members of the Council took office on 01 February 2005, and they are:

Vice President:	Haim Brezis
Members at Large	Sara C. Billey
	Carolyn S. Gordon
	Sheldon H. Katz
	Michael F. Singer
	Catherine H. Yan
Mathematics Surveys & Monographs Edit. Comm.	J. T. Stafford
Transactions/Memoirs of the AMS Edit. Comm.	Robert M. Guralnick

2. Minutes

2.1. Minutes of the January 2005 Council

The minutes of the January 2005 Council were approved, with the following corrections:
Item 4.7, end of the fourth line, "CSP" should be "CPub" and
Item 4.7.1, paragraph 2, "CoProf" in the first line should be "CPub".

2.2. Minutes of Business by Mail

The Council conducted business by mail since the last Council meeting, electing **ROBERT M. GURALNICK** to the Executive Committee of the Council for a four-year term (01 Feb 2005 - 31 Jan 2009). Minutes for this business by mail, reproduced in Attachment B, were approved.

3. Consent Agenda

The items below were approved by consent. (Items which appear in the Consent Agenda are considered approved unless brought to the floor for discussion, in which case they must be approved in the usual manner and details of which then appear in the relevant section of the Council minutes.)

3.1. David P. Robbins Prize Selection Committee

At its January 2005 meeting the Council approved a new David P. Robbins Prize for a paper in algebra, combinatorics or discrete mathematics. At this meeting the Council formally approved the establishment of the prize selection committee, subject to the following general description and charge.

Committee to Select the Winner of the
David P. Robbins Prize

General Description
- **Committee is standing**
- **Number of members is five**
- **Term is three years**

The prize was founded in memory of Dr. David P. Robbins. It is to be awarded for a paper with the following characteristics: (1) The paper selected shall report on novel research in algebra, combinatorics or discrete mathematics and shall have a significant experimental component. (2) It shall be on a topic which is broadly accessible and shall provide a simple statement of the problem and clear exposition of the work. Papers published within the six calendar years preceding the year in which the prize is awarded are eligible for consideration.

The selection committee should include at least one member whose career is primarily in industry or government.

Principal Activities
The committee selects the awardee. It should submit its semifinal short list to the Secretary by October 1 of the year prior to the award, for comment by the Executive Committee, based on which the committee then makes the final choice.

Miscellaneous Information
  The prize is awarded every third year.
  The amount is the standard AMS award for research prizes (currently $5000).
  The business of this committee can be done by mail, electronic mail or telephone, expenses for which may be reimbursed by the Society. This committee has been designated as LEVEL F.

3.2. AMS Notices Editorial Board

The general description of the editorial board was modified slightly, as follows, to reflect current practice.

Notices Editorial Board

General Description
- **Committee is standing.**
- **Number of members is approximately thirteen, one Editor and twelve Associate Editors.**
- **Term is concurrent with that of the Editor.**
- **Secretary serves** *ex-officio*

4.   Reports of Boards and Standing Committees

4.1. Nominating Committee [Executive Session]

The AMS Nominating Committee made recommendations to the AMS Council for the 2005 Elections, as spelled out in the subsequent subsections. Annalisa Crannell, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's report. It has been filed by the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 050125-021.

4.1.1. Vice President

The Council nominated **RUTH M. CHARNEY** (Brandeis University) and **CARLOS E. KENIG** (University of Chicago)as candidates for election to one post as Vice President for a term of three years, beginning 01 February 2006 and ending 31 January 2009.

4.1.2. Members at Large of the Council

The Council nominated **WILLIAM M. GOLDMAN** (University of Maryland), **CRAIG HUNEKE** (University of Kansas), **JUDY A. KENNEDY** (University of Delaware), **WILLIAM G. MCCALLUM** (University of Arizona), **KEN ONO** (University of Wisconsin), **FREYDOON SHAHIDI** (Purdue (University), **CHRISTINA SORMANI** (CUNY - Lehman), **RAVI D. VAKIL** (Stanford University), **DANIEL VOICULESCU** (University of California, Berkeley) and

JUDY WALKER (University of Nebraska) as candidates for election to five posts as Members at Large of the Council, each for a term of three years, beginning 01 February 2006 and ending 31 January 2009.

4.1.3. Trustee

The Council nominated **JOHN B. CONWAY** (University of Tennessee/National Science Foundation) and **JAMES A. DONALDSON** (Howard University) as candidates for election to one post as Trustee for a term of five years, beginning 01 February 2006 and ending 31 January 2011.

4.2. Report from the Committee on Science Policy

The Committee on Science Policy met in Washington on April 7-9, 2005, immediately before the Council meeting. Samuel Rankin, AMS Associate Executive Director, provided an oral report on the committee's activities.

4.3. Report from the Committee on Professional Ethics

The annual report of the committee has been filed by the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041101-006.

4.4. Report from the Arnold Ross Lecture Committee

The annual report of the committee has been filed by the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041215-014.

4.5. Report from the Library Committee

The annual report of the committee has been filed by the Council and can be found in the AMS Committee Report Book as Report Number 041220-015.

4.6   Report from the Editorial Boards Committee [Executive Session]

4.6.1. Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee

Upon the recommendation of the Editorial Boards Committee, the Council named **JONATHAN I. HALL** (Michigan State University) as chair of the Mathematical Reviews Editorial Committee for a three year term, beginning 01 February 2006 and ending 31 January 2009.

5.   Old Business

No Old Business was treated at the meeting.

6.   New Business

6.1. Discussion of Council Composition

As a repeat of an item first tried in April 2002, the Council devoted a portion of this meeting to discussing a general topic within its purview. This year's topic was the composition of the Council itself. This choice emerged from the May 2004 and November 2004 meetings of the AMS Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC). A question initially put to the LRPC at its May 2004 meeting was whether both candidates from an AMS Presidential election could be better used by the Society; at present one of the two candidates, the election winner, takes on an extremely active and important AMS leadership role for four years, while the other, in many cases, has no role whatsoever, despite evident willingness to be heavily engaged. The ensuing LRPC discussion of this question evolved into a very general discussion about the composition of the Council, comparing the number of elected and appointed members. The LRPC decided to continue the discussion at its November 2004 meeting, and it asked the Executive Director to prepare background material on Council composition. After a lively discussion in November, the LRPC decided that topic might be best addressed by the Council itself.

Here are some of the questions tackled by the LRPC. Presently the majority of the Council is elected, not appointed. Is this still an important philosophical point? In times past it was, at least to certain people. Should policy chairs be Council members? Although their positions might make them particularly effective, adding them might tip the balance between elected and appointed members. Would adding more elected members to correct the balance make the Council too large?

The Council held a 75 minute discussion of these and other questions. In an effort to summarize, it was moved and seconded to affirm, for the benefit of the LRPC, the sense of the Council that the present system for determining Council composition works fairly well and that the percentage of elected members should not be reduced. The motion carried.

6.2. Report of the Executive Director

The Executive Director, John H. Ewing, gave his annual report to the Council, this year looking at the Society from the perspectives of various groups of members and toward those parts of the Society's activities most important to each. That report has been filed in the AMS Committee report Book as Report Number 050904-001.

7. Announcements, Information and Record

7.1. Centennial Fellowships

The AMS Centennial Fellowship Committee has announced fellowship awards granted to Yuan-Pin Lee, (University of Utah) and Mihnea Popa (Harvard University). Both have accepted. The amount of each 2004-2005 fellowship award will be $62,000, with an additional expense allowance of $3000.

7.2. Council Subcommittee on an AMS Fellows Program

Following the 09 January 2005 Council discussion of the issues surrounding the creation of an AMS Fellows Program, President Jim Arthur appointed a small committee to draft a concrete proposal for an AMS Fellows program (not to consider if it would be a good or bad idea but to permit the discussion to continue with a feasible program in mind). The members of the committee are:

John Ewing, Consultant
John Franks
Susan Friedlander, Chair
Sheldon Katz

This committee produced a draft of a detailed proposal for a Fellows program, which is attached (Attachment C). According to the plan adopted at the 09 January 2005 Council Meeting, the proposal will be discussed by the Committee on the Profession. The next meeting of the Committee on the Profession is scheduled to happen in September 2005 – in other words, before the January 2006 Council Meeting.

President Arthur reviewed the history leading up to the specific proposal, Susan Friedlander gave an overview and John Ewing described both the spirit in which the proposal was brought forth and the steps to be followed if for any such proposal were to be implemented. He emphasized that the idea is to have specific proposal on which discussion could focus and that the proposal could well be modified again, based on those discussions, before any action is taken. The Council then held a general discussion touching on details of the proposal and also made remarks for and against having such a Program. No action was taken.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

ATTACHMENT A

2005 AMS GOVERNANCE

2005 COUNCIL

Officers

President	James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	2006
Immediate Past President	David Eisenbud	MSRI/University of California, Berkeley	2005
Vice Presidents	Haim Brezis	Université Paris VI	2007
	Vaughan F.R. Jones	University of California, Berkeley	2006
	Karen Vogtmann	Cornell University	2005
Secretary	Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	2006
Associate Secretaries	Matthew Miller	University of South Carolina	2006
	Michel Lapidus	University of California, Riverside	2007
	Susan Friedlander	University of Illinois at Chicago	2007
	Lesley Sibner	Polytechnic Inst of NY	2006
Treasurer	John M. Franks	Northwestern University	2006
Associate Treasurer	Donald E. McClure	Brown University	2006

Representatives of Committees

Bulletin Editorial	Donald G. Saari, Chair	University of California, Irvine	2004
Colloquium Editorial	Paul J. Sally, Jr., Chair	University of Chicago	2007
Executive Committee	Walter L. Craig	McMaster University	2006
Executive Committee	Hugo Rossi	University of Utah/MSRI	2005
Journal of the AMS	Ingrid Daubechies	Princeton University	2006
Math Reviews Editorial	B. A. Taylor, Chair	University of Michigan	2005
Math Surveys & Monographs	J. T. Stafford, Chair	University of Michigan	2007
Mathematics of Computation	Chi-Wang Shu, Chair	Brown University	2007
Proceedings Editorial	Eric Bedford, Chair	Indiana University	2005
Transactions and Memoirs	Robert Guralnick, Chair	University of Southern California	2008

Members at Large

Sarah C. Billey	University of Washington	2007
James W. Cannon	Brigham Young University	2006
Sylvain E. Cappell	Courant Institute	2006
Beverly E. J. Diamond	College of Charleston	2006
Carolyn S. Gordon	Dartmouth College	2007
Mark Goresky	Institute for Advanced Study	2006
Susan M. Hermiller	University of Nebraska	2005
Sheldon H. Katz	University of Illinois, Urbana	2007
Brian H. Marcus	University of British Columbia	2005

John E. McCarthy	Washington University	2005
Paul J. Sally, Jr.	University of Chicago	2005
Michael F. Singer	North Carolina State University	2007
Alejandro Uribe	University of Michigan	2006
Catherine H. Yan	Texas A&M University	2007
Paul Zorn	St. Olaf College	2005

2005 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	*ex officio*
Walter L. Craig	McMaster University	2006
Robert J. Daverman	University of Tennessee	*ex officio*
David Eisenbud	University of California, Berkeley	*ex officio*
Robert M. Guralnick	University of Southern California	2008
Hugo Rossi	University of Utah	2005
Paul J. Sally, Jr.	University of Chicago	2007

2005 TRUSTEES

James G. Arthur	University of Toronto	*ex officio*
John B. Conway	University of Tennessee	2005
John M. Franks	Northwestern University	*ex officio*
Eric M. Friedlander	Northwestern University	2009
Linda Keen	CUNY	2008
Donald E. McClure	Brown University	*ex officio*
Jean E. Taylor	Rutgers University	2007
Carol S. Wood	Wesleyan University	2006

ATTACHMENT B

AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
BUSINESS BY MAIL
17 March 2005

In a mail ballot dated 14 February 2005, there were 21 ballots cast, by:

James G. Arthur	Susan M. Hermiller
Eric Bedford	Sheldon H. Katz
James W. Cannon	John E. McCarthy
Walter L. Craig	Paul J. Sally, Jr.
Robert J. Daverman	Chi-Wang Shu
Beverly E. J. Diamond	Michael F. Singer
David Eisenbud	J. T. Stafford
Carolyn S. Gordon	B.A. Taylor
Susan Friedlander	Catherine H. Yan
Robert M. Guralnick	Paul Zorn
Mark Goresky	

In the election to the Executive Committee the result was:

Beverly E.J. Diamond	8
Robert M. Guralnick	13

Accordingly, Guralnick is declared elected, effective immediately, and ending when a replacement is determined in the election of February 2009.

Robert J. Daverman
Secretary
March 17, 2005

A Proposal for a Fellows Program of the AMS

Following discussion by the AMS Council in January 2005, the President appointed a small committee, which was asked to formulate a concrete proposal for an AMS Fellows program. Such a proposal was meant to stimulate informed debate about the wisdom of creating an AMS Fellows program. The proposal below is intended to fulfill that purpose.

A number of other scientific societies have Fellows programs. This proposal is based on characteristics of those programs, but adapted to the governance structure of the AMS. The proposal also reflects information gathered for the Council in 2002 by the Committee on the Profession as well as results of a recent survey of members.

The goals of the Fellows Program are:
- *To create an enlarged class of mathematicians recognized by their peers as distinguished for their contributions to the profession.*
- *To honor not only the extraordinary but also the excellent.*
- *To lift the morale of the profession by providing an honor more accessible than those currently available.*
- *To make mathematicians more competitive for awards, promotion and honors when they are being compared with colleagues from other sciences.*
- *To support the advancement of more mathematicians in leadership positions in their own institutions and in the broader society.*

Details concerning the background material and data used in formulating this proposal are available on the following web site
http://www.ams.org/ams_fellows/council-items.html

I. Program (steady-state)

A. The Fellows program of the American Mathematical Society recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to the creation and exposition of mathematics through original research and publications. Exceptional contributions to the teaching of mathematics or service to the mathematical profession may also be recognized.

B. The responsibilities of Fellows are:
    - To take part in the election of new Fellows,
    - To present a "public face" of excellence in mathematics, and
    - To advise the President and/or the Council on public matters when requested.

C. All AMS members except student and nominee members are eligible to be elected Fellows.

D. The target number of Fellows will be determined by the AMS Council as a percentage of the number of eligible members.[1] The target percentage will be revisited by the Council at least once every ten years and may be increased or decreased in light of the history of the nomination and election process.[2] The intended size of each year's class of new Fellows should be set with this target size in mind.

E. Following an election process (see below), individuals are invited to become Fellows. They may decline and they may also resign as Fellows at any time.

F. Each year all Fellows are invited to a reception at the AMS annual meeting, and the new Fellows are announced at this reception followed by a press release. New Fellows receive a certificate and their names are listed on the AMS web site. The names of new Fellows are also included in the Notices.

G. If they are not already Fellows, the AMS President and Secretary are made Fellows when they take office. They remain Fellows so long as they remain members.

II. Election Process

A. New Fellows are elected each year after a nomination process. Eligible voters consist of current Fellows who are also members of the Society. Both the election and the nomination process are carried out under the direction of the Secretary with help from the AMS staff.

B. The Election Committee will consist of nine members of the AMS who are also Fellows, each serving a three-year term, and with three new members appointed each year. The AMS president, in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Council, nominates the new members of the Election Committee in November of each year. At the same time, the President nominates a continuing member of the Election Committee to serve as Chair. The President's choices are approved by Council at its January meeting.

C. The Election Committee accepts nominations for Fellows between February 1 and March 31 each year. Nominations are made by members of the AMS. A member can nominate no more than 4 nominees a year.

D. To be eligible for nomination to Fellowship, an individual must be an AMS member for the year in which he or she is nominated as well as for the prior year.[3]

E. A nominator must supply a package with the following information on the nominee:
    1. A Curriculum Vitae of no more than five pages.
    2. A citation of fifty words or less explaining the person's accomplishments.
    3. A statement of cause of 500 words or less explaining why the individual meets the criteria of Fellowship.
    4. The signatures of the nominator and three additional AMS members who support the nomination, with at least two of these individuals current Fellows.[4]

F. A person can be nominated no more than 3 times in a 5 year period.

G. Each year the January Council provides a guideline for the number of nominations to appear on the ballot.[5] The Election Committee assembles the ballot from the nominations bearing in mind this guideline, diversity of every kind, and the quality and quantity of the external nominations. The Election Committee has the discretion to make nominations itself if necessary to fulfill the general goals of the fellowship.

H. The ballot is available electronically (only) and voting is conducted throughout the month of September of each year. The Curriculum Vitae and citation for each candidate will be available to all eligible voters. Election is by plurality with the top one-half of the candidates elected. In case of a tie, more than one-half of the candidates may be elected.[6]

I. Those nominees elected are invited by the President to become new Fellows of the AMS as of January 1 of the following year.

III. Initial Implementation

A. In the initial year of the program, all eligible AMS members who have done one or more
    of the following[7] are invited to become AMS Fellows.[8]
    1. Given an invited AMS address (including at joint meetings).
    2. Been awarded an AMS prize.
    3. Given an invited address at an ICM.[9]

B. For the initial "seed pool" of Fellows there is no length of AMS membership required.
    Any person who falls into one of the three categories above, and who is an AMS member
    during the year in which this program is initiated will be invited to be a Fellow.

C. An additional 50 Fellows are selected by a committee appointed by the President with the
    advice of the Executive Committee of the Council. The purpose of these selections is to fill
    the "gaps" left by the initial seeding described above.

D. At least ten (10), but no more than fifty (50), new Fellows are elected each year until the
    total number of Fellows reaches 95% of the targeted size of the Fellowship.[10]

End Notes

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[1] This proposal's recommendation to Council is 8% of eligible members. At present there are about
19,000 eligible members so the number of Fellows would be about 1,500. This number lies in the
range of other societies. It is large enough to honor a significant number of mathematicians but
small enough that it is no insult not to be a Fellow.

[2] Here are some numbers that provide context to the proposed total number of Fellows. The total
number of tenured faculty at the 48 top-rated mathematics departments, the Group I departments,
is approximately 1,700. The tenured faculty at the next 56 highest rated math departments is
approximately 1,550. The total tenured faculty at all the doctoral math and applied math
departments is approximately 4,700. There are another 2,300 tenured (doctorate-holding) faculty
at the masters math departments and 4,100 at the bachelor's math departments.

[3] Membership in AMS is officially tracked on a calendar year basis. However, a 2004 member who
has not paid 2005 dues is not dropped from the membership roles until early March, at which time
the Notices & Bulletin subscriptions are stopped, and the member is officially dropped.

[4] The signatures are not required to be original. Additional information will be requested to assist
in accurately identifying theses individuals within the AMS membership records.

[5] AMS membership records show that approximately 0.5% of the total pool of eligible members die
each year. Demographic considerations suggest that an overall annual attrition rate of 1.0% of

Fellows is not unreasonable, yielding an estimated average attrition of 15 Fellows per year.

[6]The committee writing this proposal debated the wisdom of a contested election rather than a more controlled nomination process (by an appointed committee). In the end, there were compelling reasons for making the present recommendation:

- Contested elections are now the norm for the AMS and are consistent with the democratic spirit of the Society.
- A contested election alleviates the "old boy" accusation of a nominating committee's absolute control.
- An election will give the Fellows direct involvement in the Fellowship; they have a vested interested in maintaining the quality of the Fellowship.
- Every name on the ballot will have been approved by the election committee so the x new fellows will have been vetted by a competent committee appointed by the President and approved by the Council.
- Such an election by the Fellowship is the practice in the most prestigious fellowships, for example, The National Academy, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

[7]Each of these needs careful definition in a final proposal.

[8]We now know that the seeding process described in III.A would produce offers of Fellows status to more than 800 current AMS members. The group of IA speakers also includes approximately 400 additional individuals who are not currently AMS members. Some of these non-members may elect to become members if offered status as a Fellow, increasing this number still further.

[9]This will help include more foreign-based AMS members who tend not to be invited to U.S.-based meetings because of travel expenses.

[10]If 1,000 Fellows are named through the initial seeding, then we estimate that a steady state of 1,500 would be achieved in approximately 10-20 years under the proposed plan.