

Committee on the Profession Highlights

September 13, 2003

O'Hare Hilton Hotel, Chicago

The Committee on the Profession (CoProf) and the Committee on Science Policy has formed a joint organizing committee to plan for a panel presentation in Phoenix dealing with aspects of the pipeline issues in mathematics. Members of the Committee discussed the possible goals and conceptual framework of the panel and suggested potential panelists and perspectives which could be represented. It was noted that there are currently no funds allocated to compensate a speaker for a panel of this type.

CoProf considered a recommendation made by the Centennial Fellowship Selection Committee to change the eligibility period from its current time of between three and twelve years since receipt of PhD to between five and twelve years. The Committee reviewed a history of eligibility criteria for the Centennial Fellowship, data on contribution levels to the Centennial Fellowship Fund and a profile of the PhD-age of the most recent applicant pool. Members of the Committee remained divided after much thoughtful discussion of this topic, and it was agreed that action on this item would be tabled and revisited in two years at the 2005 CoProf meeting.

CoProf approved recommending to Council the expansion of eligibility for Life membership and the modification of the dues levels for Life Membership. The proposal was well received by members of the Committee who decided to include an additional statement on reciprocity Life members. The specific wording for reciprocity members would parallel that of Life membership for ordinary members. It was noted that the bylaws change provides the AMS the flexibility to make future changes to the specific requirements and dues levels for life membership.

CoProf reviewed background material on the "Focused Planning" effort in the area of membership as well as a preliminary set of recommendations. Members of the Committee discussed the recommendations, specifically which if any raise questions or concerns that don't seem to be addressed by the background materials. Feedback on the document was provided for the Staff Steering Committee.

CoProf reviewed some alternate phrasing drafted by President Eisenbud for a proposed prize for outstanding achievement by a mathematics department. A subcommittee was formed to elaborate upon and refine the proposal. The refined version, which will emphasize innovation and copy-ability, will be distributed and reviewed by CoProf via email. If CoProf can reach agreement in time, then a final version will be recommended to the November 2003 ECBT and January 2004 Council.

The Committee discussed a 2002 CoProf subcommittee suggestion to recommend to the AMS Council that the charge to the Committee on Human Rights of Mathematicians be broadened to include issues of human rights of (foreign) mathematicians and the U.S. government. CoProf formed a subcommittee to review the Charge to the Committee on

Human Rights, to assess whether it makes sense to include a portion on the rights of foreign mathematicians who experience difficulties during U.S. travel.

CoProf reviewed a draft paragraph on plagiarism, which the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) recommends appending to the current AMS Ethical Guidelines. CoProf formed a subcommittee to review and revise, if necessary, the current AMS Ethical Guidelines. The subcommittee will discuss what portions of the statement warrant update, determine how the revised portions will be phrased, what examples will be included and to whom the statement will be addressed.

The Committee selected employment opportunities, a subject last reviewed in 1995, as the topic of the coming annual review. Employment issues affecting PhD's and Bachelors recipients may also be examined. A subcommittee will be formed to conduct the review.

CoProf reviewed a report provided by Christine Stevens of the MAA supported Project NExT. The profile of the program and a listing the AMS sponsored recipients and their affiliations was discussed. The committee agreed, without hesitation, to recommend to the November 2003 ECBT the continued support of Project NExT, at its current level of \$15,000 per year.

CoProf will hold its next meeting on October 2-3, 2004 at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton.