

**SIGMAA MCST Business Meeting Minutes**  
**OHIO CENTER B, Greater Columbus Convention Center**  
**Friday, August 5 2016**

Present: Bob Klein (Chair), Katie Morrison (past chair), Amanda Serenevy (chair elect), Mary Garner (secretary/treasurer), Phillip Yasskin (program coordinator), Edward Keppelmann (webmaster), Judith Covington, Bob Sachs, Nina White, Virginia Watson, Tom Clark, Brandy Wieggers, Diana White, Doug Ensler, Brianna Donaldson

Welcome and Introductions. It was noted that the SIGMAA MCST were very successful on Thursday afternoon -- 50 to 75 people were at each session.

Katie Morrison called for nominations for program coordinator and chair elect. Phillip said he'd do it again if nobody wants to do it. Bob Klein said the position should be renamed the "Phillip Yasskin Program Coordinator" position. All agreed.

**JMM 2017 – Atlanta January 4-7 2017**

September 20<sup>th</sup> is when abstracts are due for CPS on *Unexpected Topics for a Math Circle*, Friday morning. While many math circle session topics have become well used and well known, presenters will share session topics that focus on areas, fields, or contexts not typical in math circles. Topics might include art, scientific applications, literature, or other surprising contexts.

Ed will send out request for proposals for *Unexpected Topics for a Math Circle*. Once abstracts are submitted, someone needs to skim them and pull out characteristics of talks like MC for students vs. teachers, problem-focused vs. organization. (Phil?) Bob will crease session schedule based on talk characteristics and email schedule to Gerard Venema. Katie pointed out that in the future we can tell organizers not to schedule math circle sessions alongside certain other sessions such as inquiry based learning, outreach activities, etc.

Virginia Watson and Mary Garner will get students for the student wrangle and the student demo. High school (or mathematically equivalent) students for math wrangle and middle school (or mathematically equivalent) students for demo (with teachers maybe).

Gabriella Pinter will be demo leader.

Doug Ensler (from AMC) offered to help produce the Math Wrangle problems.

Phil Yasskin and Bob Sachs volunteered to be judges for Math Wrangle. Third judge? Ed said he'd send out a call on listserv for another judge. Bob Sachs suggested an AMC person to judge and Doug agreed.

**Math Fest 2017 Chicago July 26-29 2017 (NOT IN AUGUST)**

Discussion points about topics for CPS for next year's Math Fest:

- Sessions are better attended when they are about problems.
- Sessions about start-up, organization, funding may be too particular to the context and not appropriate for a talk.
- Perhaps participants can include the top three hints they can give for start-up, organization, funding and then get into the problem discussion.

- One-to-one discussions at the exhibit booth may be more useful to talk about workings of a math circle. Refer people to the booth.
- Make announcements between talks and project slide inviting all to the booth. Perhaps two projectors. Bob suggests two projectors.
- Perhaps use one computer and put all powerpoints on that computer. Could ask presenters to submit slides ahead of time?
- Flash talks should be considered.

Proposal for CPS needs to be submitted by Bob by October 31.

Decision: pass around possibilities to leadership group and then decide.

Demo for students and wrangle: Nina White stated she has contacts with Chicago Math Circle people. Nina White has contacts with Chicago math circles. Bob needs to submit proposals for wrangle and demo by October 31.

### **MAA Support**

Doug Ensler is the MAA representative. He suggests that certain activities/expectations held by the SIGMAA MCST should be institutionalized so that each year there are automatically passes for students and teachers for the wrangle and the demo. In previous years leaders ordered passes for students and teachers for demos; we should make this automatic. The last day of JMM is public, so this doesn't come up for JMM. Doug says need to track and document such activities. Doug wants to make the last afternoon of Math Fest public.

All agreed the wrangle and demo is an important outreach activity and should be supported.

Doug requested that the MAA leadership be told how many passes for students and teachers by the last late registration date. It was suggested that blank or generic passes be used because changes among student participants can happen at the last minute.

There was a discussion about scheduling the wrangle in the morning instead of afternoon. The decision was to keep it on Saturday afternoon.

### **Nominations**

Nominations were tossed around freely for program coordinator and chair elect. Katie said she would pursue people. Nominations

### **Agenda Items Not Addressed**

- When should we run our next mini-course?
- Rethink how to run the circle demo so that we keep more mathematicians engaged – should we have a fishbowl style – maybe have camera recording/projecting student activity. Five focus questions on poster paper on wall to give mathematicians something to think about as they watch.
- Announcements: MTC Network and NAMC? Global Math Project?
- Report from Ed K. about the SIG meeting?

- Coordinate with NAMC so we only have to make one flyer/schedule of events. Maybe Ed should email NAMC with list of extra activities to include in the flyer, then creation of the flyer will be left up to NAMC admin person? Maybe email listserv a month in advance of meetings and set up google form so that people can just report on the form what events they have had accepted at the meeting (NAMC admin person)?
- Make sure everyone has updated their email addresses in the google group. People to invite to google group: Paul Zeitz, Tatiana Shubin, Brianna Donaldson, Brian Conrey, Dave Auckly, Josh Zucker, others?