

SIGMAA for the Philosophy of Mathematics Charter

Article I Identification

Section 1. The name of this SIGMAA is The Special Interest Group of the MAA for the Philosophy of Mathematics, which will usually be shortened to The SIGMAA for the Philosophy of Mathematics. The group will usually be referred to as POMSIGMAA.

Section 2. The SIGMAA for the Philosophy of Mathematics has as its purposes to stimulate an interest in the philosophy of mathematics in the wider mathematical community, including undergraduate and graduate students, high school, college and university faculty, and mathematicians in industry; to inform this wider community of concepts, issues, and recent developments in the philosophy of mathematics; and to encourage research, and the communication of ideas and results, in the philosophy of mathematics by people with a substantial understanding of both mathematics and philosophy. The mathematical focus of this SIGMAA revolves around issues and questions about the nature of mathematics, mathematical objects, mathematical knowledge, mathematical practice, mathematical esthetics and ethics, the development of mathematical concepts and subjects, and the relationship between mathematics and the physical and intellectual world. Since one's philosophy of mathematics affects (sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously) one's teaching style and attitude toward students, this research and discussion can be expected to have a large effect on the teaching of mathematics.

Article II Membership.

Section 1. Membership in the SIGMAA for the Philosophy of Mathematics will be open to all MAA members. POMSIGMAA members will be those MAA members who have paid the POMSIGMAA membership dues.

Article III Administration

Section 1. Officers and Executive Committee

Elected officers of the SIGMAA will be chair, past-chair/chair-elect, secretary-treasurer, program coordinator, and public information officer. The POMSIGMAA Executive Committee comprises these five officers.

A POMSIGMAA member with special expertise may be appointed by the SIGMAA chair, after consultation with other SIGMAA officers, to a two-year term as an ex-officio member of the SIGMAA Executive Committee to fulfill a special need for the SIGMAA.

Section 2. Duties of the officers

The *chair* chairs the meetings, oversees the SIGMAA's activities, serves as liaison with the MAA Board of Directors, staff, and other organizations, and is the chief spokesperson

for the SIGMAA. The *past-chair* acts as advisor to the SIGMAA generally and to the Executive Committee in particular and will serve in the chair's place if the chair is temporarily unable to fulfill his/her duties. The *chair-elect* becomes chair one year after being selected as chair-elect and will serve in the chair's place if the chair is temporarily unable to fulfill his/her duties. The *secretary-treasurer* shall have the usual duties pertaining to the office, including the custody of the records and minutes of the SIGMAA, the giving of due notice of all meetings, the supervision of elections, the coordination of the finances of the SIGMAA, submission of required written annual and financial reports to the MAA office as required, serving as liaison with the MAA Associate Secretary, and handling all correspondence related to activities of the SIGMAA except that concerning programs at meetings. The *public information officer* is responsible for maintaining the SIGMAA's web page, moderating the SIGMAA's listserv, editing the SIGMAA's newsletter and notifying SIGMAA members of a new edition of the newsletter or sending it to members electronically, and other informational communications with members. The *program coordinator* is responsible for coordinating the programs at the meetings and carrying out all correspondence related to these programs. The program coordinator will solicit proposals for sessions such as contributed paper sessions and minicourses at MathFest and JMM, as well as other workshops, conferences, etc., from the SIGMAA membership. The program coordinator will also submit the proposals for sessions that are to be part of the MAA scientific program at MathFest and JMM via MAA's online proposal submission system by the posted deadlines. The program coordinator will arrange sessions at MathFest and JMM that are directed primarily at the SIGMAA membership, such as guest lectures and business meetings, by contacting the MAA associate secretary.

Section 3. Terms of office, nominations, and elections

- a) A new chair is elected every two years, and cannot succeed him/herself, although a chair can be elected again after not being on the Executive Committee for two years. Past-chair is the most recent past chair, and serves for one year; chair-elect serves on the Executive Committee the year prior to becoming chair. Thus, in any given year, there is either a past-chair or a chair-elect, but not both. Secretary-treasurer and public information officer are elected every five years. Program coordinator is elected every two years. New officers take office at the conclusion of the winter meeting. The incoming chair is elected during the first year of the current chair's term, becoming chair-elect during the current chair's second year and becoming chair the year after, as the chair being succeeded becomes past-chair.
- b) A Nominating Committee will consist of the immediate past chair and two SIGMAA members appointed by the SIGMAA Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee will solicit suggestions and volunteers for office from the membership and then select a slate of one or more candidates for each office open in any given year.
- c) Election of officers will take place by electronic ballot of the membership. The secretary-treasurer will send members a request for nominations at the beginning of August, with a deadline for nominations of August 31. By October 1, the

MAA will distribute to the SIGMAA members instructions for voting, and voting must be completed by October 31. The electronic ballot will indicate that write-in votes are permitted. The winner will be the candidate receiving the most votes. Ties will be broken by a fair, unbiased random process supervised by the MAA. The public information officer will notify members of the election via the POMSIGMAA electronic discussion group and the POMSIGMAA web page.

If fewer than 12 members, or 1/25 of the membership, whichever is larger, vote, the current officers will remain in office until further deliberate actions are taken to achieve a quorum (see section V.1 for the definition of quorum.)

Note: The use of the term "electronic" throughout this document will be understood to refer to any widely accepted form of electronic communication, such as e-mail, internet chat or call, web-conferencing, web-surveying, discussion board, etc.

d) Should an office other than chair become vacant midterm, the SIGMAA Executive Committee, in consultation with the most recent Nominating Committee, will appoint a member of the SIGMAA to fill that office for the remainder of the term of office. Should the office of chair become vacant midterm, the past-chair or chair-elect, whichever is in office at the time, will assume the chair duties until the new chair-elect becomes chair.

Article IV Activities

Section 1. SIGMAAs comprise a program of the MAA and are not separate entities from the association. For this reason, all administrative, financial and programmatic activities of the SIGMAAs must operate in a manner consistent with MAA operating procedures in order to maintain the tax-exempt status of the association. To the extent that any SIGMAA charter contradicts the policies and procedures of the MAA, the MAA policies and procedures will supersede.

Section 2. The SIGMAA for the Philosophy of Mathematics will engage in activities such as the following:

- a. Talks, panels and paper presentations at MAA meetings; efforts will be made to assure that some of these presentations are accessible to and of likely interest to members of the wider community of mathematicians.
- b. Electronic newsletter.
- c. Web page.
- d. Promote submissions to publications that further the goals of this SIGMAA.
- e. Receptions and business meetings at MAA meetings.
- f. Electronic discussion group.
- g. Other activities found by the members to be appropriate to the purposes of this SIGMAA and the purposes of the MAA.

Section 3. Interactions with the association:

a. The SIGMAA for the Philosophy of Mathematics will coordinate its activities at national meetings with the MAA Associate Secretary. At times, this SIGMAA may interact with various MAA committees with charges related to issues of interest to this SIGMAA.

b. Any product of the SIGMAA belongs to the MAA; therefore, the SIGMAA chair should collect signed copyright agreements from the creators of the product.

c. Reports of SIGMAA activities will be included in an annual report submitted by the secretary-treasurer to the chair of the MAA Committee on SIGMAAs.

Article V Membership Meetings

Section 1. Quorum

A quorum at any membership meeting, including electronic meetings, will consist of at least 12 members, at least two of whom are officers.

Section 2. Frequency and place of meetings.

General membership meetings of this SIGMAA shall take place at winter meetings of the MAA; if attendance at summer meetings warrants it, membership meetings may also take place at these. Other activities may be scheduled at MAA Section meetings. All business outside the annual meeting(s) held during JMM will be conducted electronically provided a quorum is attained.

Section 3. Conduct of meetings.

The SIGMAA chair will preside over the annual business meeting held during JMM. The chair will circulate an agenda via e-mail one month in advance and will request additional agenda items at that time. During the meeting, the chair will allow ample time for discussion and will seek to achieve consensus. If a consensus is not reached, decisions will be made by a vote in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

When the SIGMAA Executive Committee decides that an issue requires attention of the entire SIGMAA in advance of the next membership meeting, the committee may decide to convene a meeting electronically. The quorum definition in section V.1 applies to any vote conducted electronically, and ample time for discussion will still be allowed. Members will be given at least two weeks to vote on any issue requiring an electronic vote.

Article VI Finances.

Section 1. An annual MAA dues supplement will be assessed of each member of the SIGMAA. The dues supplement will be used to support activities of the SIGMAA. The manner of collection and disbursement of these funds will be determined by the MAA Board of Directors. The SIGMAA may formally submit a request to the MAA Committee on SIGMAAs to change the dues supplement. If approved, the committee will forward a

recommendation to the MAA Board of Directors for final approval. The MAA Board of Directors may also initiate a change in the dues supplement.

Section 2. The SIGMAA is not required to submit an annual budget if they do not expect to spend more than they bring in over the course of the year. The SIGMAA does not accumulate funds from year to year; so current expenses are limited to current revenues unless the SIGMAA submits a request as detailed in section VI.3.

Section 3. The SIGMAA may apply to the MAA for specific funding beyond that provided by the dues supplement. All requests for funds will be substantiated in a budget for the proposed expenditures and must be approved by the MAA deputy executive director.

Article VII External Funding.

Section 1. The SIGMAA may initiate grant proposals to be submitted by the MAA. The SIGMAA will follow the policies and procedures of the MAA for all such submissions.

Section 2. Neither this SIGMAA nor any officer nor representative thereof will have any authority to contract debts for, pledge the credit of, or in any way bind the MAA.

Article VIII Changes.

Section 1. Changes to this Charter may be proposed by any group of at least five members of the SIGMAA. Such proposals should be sent to the secretary-treasurer, who will send notice of the proposed changes to the members at least one month prior to a vote. Changes to this charter may be proposed to the MAA by the SIGMAA if a recommendation for such changes is supported by two-thirds of the members voting, provided a quorum is attained. Notice of the proposed changes must be sent to the membership via e-mail, allowing at least one month for discussion. The proposed changes must then be submitted for consideration to the Committee on SIGMAAs, which will forward a recommendation after approval to the MAA Board of Directors.

Section 2. Changes to this charter may also be initiated by the MAA Board of Directors, which will forward such a request to the Committee on SIGMAAs. In turn, the committee will work with the SIGMAA to develop specific new language for the charter that is acceptable to the SIGMAA (as indicated by a two-thirds majority of the members voting, provided a quorum is attained) and the MAA Board of Directors. The Committee on SIGMAAs will then forward the revised charter to the MAA Board of Directors for approval.

Article IX. Dissolution.

Section 1. This SIGMAA shall be dissolved for either of the following reasons:

- a. Failure to maintain at least 20 members for two consecutive years;

b. Approval of a recommendation (on its own or based on a recommendation by the Committee on SIGMAAs) by a majority vote of the MAA Board of Directors.

Section 2. If dissolved, any unspent funds of this SIGMAA will be returned to the general fund of the MAA.

Date of latest revision: [to be added once approved]. Original charter approved 11-9-2002