SIGMAA-QL Business Meeting
Joint Math Meetings, San Francisco, CA, January 15, 2010

14 persons attended including Cinnamon Hillyard (Chair) and Eric Gaze (incoming Chair-Elect)

Minutes recorded by Semra Kilic-Bahi (secretary-treasurer 2007-2010) and Gizem Karaali (incoming secretary-treasurer starting February 2010).

1. Cinnamon Hillyard called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

2. Cinnamon invited people to the informal reception after the Business Meeting.
   -Steve Blumsack suggested that such plans be announced ahead of time
   -Inviting a guest speaker to a business meeting and planning for a larger reception briefly discussed, members present seemed to approve (possibly joint with Mathematics Education Reform (MER) Group)

3. Cinnamon introduced new officers: Eric Gaze will be the new Chair-Elect starting February 2010, Gizem Karaali will be the new Secretary/Treasurer starting February 2010.

4. Minutes from 2009 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

5. Treasurer report on budget and membership (Semra)
   -a comprehensive report dating back to 2004 (attached)
   -Milo Schield suggested that the SIGMAA reimburse registration for officers

6. Cinnamon reported on 2009 activities:
   a) 13th annual meeting of the Northeast Consortium on QL – March 28, 2009, Smith College (http://www.smith.edu/qlc/NECQLXIII.html)
   b) NNN annual meeting – May 1-2, 2009, University of Washington Bothell (http://serc.carleton.edu/nnn/news/09annmtg/index.html)
   c) MathFEST 2009 poster session and lunch – August 6-8, 2009, Portland, OR
      very successful!
   d) JMM 2010: contributed paper session joint with SIGMAA-EM
      considering an MAA Notes volume
      -Rick Gilman recommended moving fast on such a book project
      -Eric suggested including contributions from the MER session
   e) Two new issues of Numeracy
      -http://services.bepress.com/numeracy/
      -editors looking for contributions

7. Cinnamon reviewed some upcoming 2010 events:
   a) SMAC, Washington State, Feb 5-6
   b) NECQL XIV, Keene State, April 17
   c) SENCER Summer Institute, Asheville NC, July 29-August 2

d) MathFEST 2010, Pittsburg, August 5-8
e) NNN meeting – October
f) JMM 2011 – Eric described plans for panel session
g) Possible themes for joint session with MER (to discuss with Bonnie Saunders (?)):
   i. Role of QL in high school curriculum / relation to college algebra
   ii. Mathematical training of teachers and QL
   Also CRAFTY people may be interested.
   -Eric mentioned the new definition of college algebra in a recent CRAFTY document – the course goals and core competencies are very similar to a QR course: college algebra as *problem solving in real world context with emphasis on quantitative literacy* (the actual definition and description can be found at http://www.maa.org/cupm/crafty/CRAFTY-Coll-Alg-Guidelines.pdf)
h) MathFEST 2011: tenth anniversary of the book *Math and Democracy*: a panel discussion.
i) Steve brought up NCTM meetings as possible venues for QL people
j) Cinnamon: MAA Northwestern Section meeting to be held in April 2010 at Seattle University will have QL session

8. Cinnamon went over two Listserv reminders from the MAA:
   a) remember to be professional and respectful
   b) make sure that the MAA has an up-to-date email address for you

9. Cinnamon raised the issue of the newsletter. Called for contributions and nominations: we should do this earlier this year so that the elections will be done within the time frame of our charter

10. Milo presented the MAA QL Survey results: "*Quantitative Courses for Graduation*" also presented at paper session during the JMM 2010:
    -Milo took over the job to update L. Steen's earlier survey of QL programs list last year, but the project got bigger with the involvement of the MAA. Such activities can give us some visibility.
    -87% of the responding colleges have a college wide quantitative graduation requirement.
    -68% have some kind of a quantitative center.
    -Milo's conjecture: at least 20% of all four-year colleges in the US have a QR course
    -Further discussion needed on what a QL/QR course is or should be. Even before then perhaps, the discussion on what QL/QR is should be continued.
    -We can further ask: Which colleges would accept a high school QL course? Steve says common core issues are discussed, college readiness is an important goal, if colleges won't accept a QL course, then high schools will be reluctant to offer them. A brief discussion of the state standards (Texas, Florida, Washington, Massachusetts)

-Pre-post assessment of QL or the QR skills other than course completion? Very rare!
-Rick suggested Milo use the wiki to get feedback from the SIGMAA-QL members about the next survey items.

11. Members present introduced themselves:
    1. Eric Gaze (Bowdoin)
    2. John Macelli (Ithaca)
    3. Judy Moran (Trinity)
    4. Deann Leoni (Edmunds Community College)
    5. Scott Dillery (Lindsey Wilson College)
    6. Rick Gilman (Valparaiso)
    7. Dara Sandow
    8. Milo Schield (Augsburg)
    9. Gizem Karaali (Pomona)
    10. Steve Blumsack (Florida State)
    11. Andy Miller (Belmont)
    12. Semra Kilic-Bahi (Colby-Sawyer)
    13. Maura Mast (UMass Boston)
    14. Cinnamon Hillyard (UWashingon Bothell)

12. Cinnamon opened the floor for discussion:
    -Rick suggested a book fair
    -Andy seconded the book fair idea with emphasis on social justice
    -Judy said that the QL movement is having an influence beyond its immediate sphere: ten years ago we knew what algebra meant, now Eric gives us a definition (he is not to blame, he got it from other people) which is almost indistinguishable from QL. Just like the calculus reform changed the non-reform books as well. Eventually we might wish to explore what these courses (algebra, QL/QR) have in common and what distinguishes them from one another. A panel or a debate could be interesting.
    -Rick: it is easy to get CRAFTY people to talk on this.
    -Eric asked Bill W (??) at what point an algebra course becomes a QL course. The response was unsatisfactory: it is algebra if 1- it fulfills college requirement as algebra, and 2- focuses on developing algebraic skills.
    -Rick quoted something he had heard before: "*In algebra you model things to develop (algebraic) skills, in QL you develop skills to model things.*" But indeed algebra was developed to model things. Is it possible to answer at what point we stop calling it algebra?
    -John: two current issues with some QL/QR courses: 1- engineering faculty may not accept them as sufficient preparation, and 2- some people are channeled to such non-traditional courses but after them they are not allowed to continue on to more advanced tracks.

13. The meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.