

SIGMAA-QL Business Meeting

Joint Math Meetings, New Orleans, LA, January 6, 2011

19 persons attended including Eric Gaze (Chair 2011-2012) and Stuart Boersma (past Chair 2011–2012 / Chair 2010-2011)

Minutes recorded by Gizem Karaali (Secretary-treasurer 2010-2013).

1. Stuart Boersma called the meeting to order at 5:35pm and summarized the meeting agenda.
2. Stuart invited people to the informal reception after the Business Meeting.
3. Stuart discussed election results and introduced new officers:
 - a. Eric Gaze will be the new Chair starting February 2011,
 - b. Semra Kilic-Bahi will be the new Chair-Elect starting February 2011,
 - c. Robert Root will be the new Webmaster/Newsletter Coordinator starting February 2011.
4. Minutes from 2010 were reviewed and approved unanimously.
5. Stuart reported on recent (2010) activities:
 - a. QR and the Environment CPS, JMM 2010
 - b. Mathematics in Interdisciplinary Survey Courses, Panel Discussion, Mathfest 2010
 - c. Mathematics and Democracy Reunion: TODAY (January 6, 2011) following business meeting.
 - d. Role of QL in the High School Curriculum: TOMORROW (January 7, 2011) 1pm, Napoleon C1, 3rd floor, Sheraton.
 - e. Two new issues of Numeracy
[-http://services.bepress.com/numeracy/](http://services.bepress.com/numeracy/)
6. Stuart reviewed some upcoming 2011/2012 events:
 - a. Mathfest 2011: Panel on Assessing Quantitative Literacy, organized by Aaron Montgomery.
 - b. JMM 2012: QR, Health, and decision making? Organized by Cinnamon, Eric and Semra. We are also planning to have two invited speakers, Steve Voloshin, and Lisa Schwarts to talk about Health Literacy at the reception.
 - c. JMM 2012: Stat/QL and service learning and social justice, joint w/ SIGMAA-
STATED

7. Action item: Change our definition of a quorum before the next election: the new quorum was discussed (Aaron, Maura and Stuart), the group voted and approved.
8. Treasurer report on budget and membership (Gizem)
9. Members present introduced themselves:
 1. Ray Collings (Georgia Perimeter College)
 2. John Macelli (Ithaca)
 3. Judy Moran (Trinity)
 4. Milo Schield (Augsburg)
 5. Andy Miller (Belmont)
 6. Semra Kilic-Bahi (Colby-Sawyer)
 7. Maura Mast (UMass Boston)
 8. Cinnamon Hillyard (UWashington Bothell)
 9. Aaron Montgomery (Central Washington University)
 10. Susan Pustejovsky (Alverno College)
 11. Caren Diefenderfer (Hollins University)
 12. Andy Carter (Roosevelt University)
 13. Kathleen Lopez (University of Louisiana at Lafayette)
 14. Susan Addington (Cal State San Bernardino)
 15. Mike Pinter (Belmont)
 16. Gary Franchy (Davenport University)
 17. Stuart Boersma (Central Washington University)
 18. Eric Gaze (Bowdoin College)
 19. Gizem Karaali (Pomona)
10. Open group discussion on the future of our SIGMAA:
 - a. Future events at meetings?
 - b. Numeracy is in its 3rd year. Keep QL articles coming!
 - c. Use of listserv?
 - d. Other:
 - i. Eric initiated discussion on assessment. Mentioned the NSF grant he and Semra are planning to apply and invited people to contribute to the web portal that will be a clearinghouse / national database for assessment ideas / methods / techniques they will be developing.
 - ii. Andy M commented that a common instrument would be a good thing to develop
 - iii. Eric threw out the idea of a universal instrument for assessment of QL goals, brief mention of the Washington Post op-ed from September 2010 (where the author claims math is useless pretty much): QL is misunderstood!

- iv. Aaron suggested that we should build the needed constructs and define things ourselves, or we will have to accept whatever is imposed upon us by others
- v. Semra mentioned that during her sabbatical she plans to spend some time at James Madison and their assessment group. She invited others to get involved.
- vi. Eric said that for the QL assessment instrument they have been working on, they need to find schools willing to pilot.
- vii. Semra added that we should assess the middle schoolers, and even elementary schoolers once we have some ideas about the right instruments. We might be surprised by what we see.
- viii. Stuart said that assessing QL is hard, because it is not really about whether you get it or not, it is not so binary, it is a progression.
- ix. Eric said that as NCTM discusses whether calculus is really necessary for everyone, we should play a role in pushing to frame modeling courses that are proposed to replace calculus as QL courses
- x. Stuart asked what is an appropriate level of activity for a SIGMAA? Do you think our SIGMAA is active enough? Doing too much? No substantial comments were received.
- xi. John suggested that maybe there are simply too many SIGMAA's and the membership of MAA does not carry all of them. That may be why our SIGMAA membership numbers have fallen a bit this year. Maybe we should do more events together with other SIGMAAs. Maybe some SIGMAAs should merge.
- xii. Stuart said that we need to prepare students differently, but the QL versus calculus question will not be resolved until college admissions people and the guidance councilors in high school change their perspective. Caren added to this comment.

11. The meeting adjourned at 6:31pm and the attendees were invited once again, this time by Cinnamon (past-Chair) to join the reception and the event following the meeting (Mathematics and Democracy: 10 Years Later).