

## **SIGMAA-QL Business Meeting**

Joint Math Meetings, San Diego, CA, January 6, 2013

**Officers present:** Eric Gaze, Past Chair; Rob Root, Web Master; Semra Kilic-Bahi, Chair, Andy Miller Chair-Elect, Gizem Karaali, Secretary/Treasurer (minutes recorded by Karaali, Secretary/Treasurer).

We waited a bit to begin our business meeting, even though most of us were present at 5:00pm. At 5:10 we decided to start even though the room no longer had a computer projector.

Our chair Semra opened the meeting at 5:10. She had circulated the agenda before:

1. Approval of JMM 2011 and JMM 2012 Minutes
2. Introduction of Chair Elect, Andrew Miller, Belmont University
3. Secretary/Treasurer Report, Gizem Karaali, Pomona College
4. QLRA Presentation, Eric Gaze, Bowdoin College
5. Presentation of "QL in the Media Awards," by Rob Root
6. Announcements? Suggestions/Concerns from the audience.

We followed this schedule mostly. In order to wait for a quorum (which was eventually reached by the late arrival of a couple more members), we first began with introductions. There were new and old members, and this turned out to be a most fruitful and pleasant part of the meeting, where we refreshed our acquaintances as well as got new ideas from people about why QL is interesting (what brought people to the room) and might be relevant in a variety of contexts.

Then Gizem gave the secretary / treasurer report. She reported on two items:

1. Our SIGMAA had an accumulated balance as of 12/31/11 of \$9,148. We are not allowed to carry over our balances anymore, but apparently if we want more funds for anything we simply have to ask! We did not manage to use it up before the money was turned over to the MAA but I guess we are better off than some others (some other groups had over \$20K balances they were carrying over with the hope of using it for some big event...)
2. As of September 30, 2012 we have 202 members. This is about the middle of the pack for a SIGMAA in terms of numbers but not quite. Seven SIGMAAs have more members and three have less. (SIGMAA-BIO ha exactly the same!) We started with 170 in 2004, and went up to 244 (2008), but there seems to be a slight downward trend. Is there anything we should do about this?

Next Andy moved that we approve the minutes (2011 and 2012). We checked that quorum was 10 members and since we had this we voted to approve the two sets of minutes from past years.

Semra then took over and asked for ideas to engage and attract more members. Ideas brought up were: Is there a way we can use the MAA template for advertising? Should we have a table at meetings (section and national)? Design a T-shirt competition?

New member Victor volunteered to help Rob with the QL in the Media competition & other web stuff

Then Semra floated some speaker ideas on the theme of QL & sustainability

We also discussed the upcoming review of our SIGMAA. We brought up the fact that we had much difficulty cajoling people to volunteer to serve, and that for the 2014 review we might wish to consider our nominating process. We might wish to add more positions and officers as a way to get more people engaged and involved, and as a way to cultivate more future leaders. Semra reminded us that we should check our charter.

Semra reported that in the next JMM (2014) there will be a session on QL and assessment. She also mentioned that Semra and Gizem were considering a session on using humor to teach math, but this is hard as long as Gizem is a member of the MAA committee on CPSs.

Rick Gilman reminded the group that 2015 is MAA's centennial and we could join with HOMSIGMAA to organize a session on QL & history. Victor pointed out that there would be much to say, he mentioned the Holocaust as an example.

Andy brought up the Social Security game minicourse, and said that he was considering a minicourse on social justice. Possibly for MathFEST 2014 or JMM 2015. Semra recalled having played the Social Security game and how this was also a good example of history & QL coming together. She then mentioned that she developed a similar game for her classes. In particular she used a QL game from Kay's book that requires students to estimate dates for events; Semra chose various landmark events in the history of the civil rights movement.

Victor brought up how in the recent election, math & arithmetic & statistics were all over the place in political blogs. Is it the right time to do a session on QL and public policy? Andy and Eric brought up the discussions about taxing soda and pointed out that QL could have much to say about public policy.

Eric then mentioned that this is the year for the Mathematics of Planet Earth. Can we collaborate with SIGMAA-EM?

Overall, we all seemed to be keen on collaborating with other SIGMAAs. Andy and Charlotte summarized it best by saying that it is in the nature of QL to connect with other disciplines.

Andy read agenda and reminded us that Eric was to report on his joint project with Semra. And so Eric reported on QLRA, an NSF-TUES funded research project which involved developing and field testing

across a wide range of campuses a test consisting of 23 multiple choice questions, administered to incoming students (Bowdoin, Colby-Sawyer and Wellesley: a total of 1600 students). The results imply that the instrument does discriminate Quantitative Reasoning as a construct, as a habit of mind. The scores on the test correlate with GPA,  $r = .39$  at Bowdoin: best predictor besides admissions office.  $r = .48$  first year GPA and STEM GPA (correlations are always for score on the Q-test and associated GPA). Pretty cool stuff! They picked some issues on reading comprehension. The 2013 version is ready, so talk to your IRB. Each institution needs its own IRB approval.

Dave mentioned that he used it in his institution; the main attraction for his administration was that the test was used elsewhere and so had a natural benchmark.

Semra explained how things went at Colby-Sawyer with the test.

Eric underlined that NNN and SIGMAA-QL should share resources. And wouldn't it be nice to have a grant which would allow us to bring people together to share what they are doing? We could learn so much from one another and everyone else.

Andy remembered a model: that supports course redesign, in particular for hybrid / online courses, but they support conferences too (National Center for Academic Transformation?).

Andy asked if anyone is willing to run a PREP workshop.

Andy also said that he had made reservations for dinner after the meeting.

Finally we came to the announcement of the *QL in the Media* winners. Nobody showed up to claim their awards! Rob said he was too busy to take care of the contest in the future. Victor volunteered to help. He & Rob will think about the future of the competition.

We briefly considered splitting the website tasks from the newsletter tasks. We decided that new volunteers would be more than welcome if they want to get involved.

At 6:02pm the meeting was adjourned by Chair Semra.

**Attending members:**

1. Victor Piercey (Ferris State University)
2. Eric Gaze (Bowdoin College)
3. Andy Miller (Belmont University)
4. David Damiano (Holy Cross)
5. Kay Somers (Moravian College)
6. Semra Kilic-Bahi (Colby-Sawyer College)
7. Gizem Karaali (Pomona College)

8. Reyhan Garcia (Pomona College)
9. Rob Root (Lafayette College)
10. Charlotte Chell (Carthage)
11. Rick Gilman (Valparaiso University)
12. Mary Parker (Austin Community College)