

SIGMAA-QL Business Meeting

Joint Math Meetings, Baltimore, MA, January 16, 2014

Officers present: Semra Kilic-Bahi, Past Chair; Rob Root, Web Master-retiring; Victor Piercey, Web Master-new, Andy Miller, Chair-retiring, Aaron Montgomery, Chair-Elect-retiring, Gary Franchy, new 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 6:00pm.

Our chair Andy opened the meeting at 6:10. He had circulated the agenda before:

1. Approval of minutes from JMM 2013
2. Introduction of new officers
 - a. Chair Elect: Gary Franchy, Mott Community College
 - b. Webmaster: Victor Piercey, Ferris State University
3. Planning for future meetings
 - a. MathFest 2014 (Portland, OR)
 - i. Proposal: SIGMAA-QL 10th Anniversary Reception/Panel
 - b. JMM 2015 (San Antonio, TX)
 - i. Ideas? Panel or Workshop on
 1. Mathematics and public policy?
 2. "Core Ideas" in college-level QL courses?
 3. QL for majors/in upper-division courses?
 4. "Advanced pedagogy" applied to QL?
4. Brainstorming future opportunities
 - a. Minicourse/PREP Workshop?
 - b. Collaborations with Sections?
 - i. Activity in a box?
 - ii. SIGMAA lecturer?
 - c. Collaborations with other SIGMAAs?
5. Announcements
6. Other business

We basically followed this schedule.

We first voted to approve the 2013 meeting minutes. During that time, we noticed that we had no Internet in the room, so we could not project the minutes on the screen. But for the rest of the meeting, Andy had the agenda on the screen.

Andy invited the members to thank the retiring officers. Then he introduced and welcomed

the new ones. He encouraged them each to say a few words.

First Gary, the new chair-elect, talked a bit about his past experiences, Davenport, and his relationship with QL. Semra added that Gary had done substantive work with the spreadsheets across the curriculum theme.

Victor P., the new Web Master, first pointed out the misspelling of his last name, and then told us about being an attorney in a past life. He is now working at a state university whose mission is career-oriented and open admissions. Rhymes w ql??. He also mentioned an Inquiry-Based (IBL) course he has been working on (“quantitative reasoning for business”).

Next Andy opened up the discussion on what the SIGMAA could do in MathFest 2014. In particular he suggested we do a program that focuses on the tenth anniversary of our SIGMAA. Would a look at the history of SIGMAA-QL be of interest?

Victor P. pointed out that while looking back is a good idea, we should look forward too. He said that it is a good time now to think about how flexible QL / QR is. He mentioned that there are several QL / QR books out there now, but they all seem to be converging to a standard. Is this desirable? Do we not want more flexibility? Where should we take the QL / QR movement?

Gizem, Gary and Aaron also supported the idea of looking back and looking forward. They also suggested that we might consider inviting a few people who were involved with the founding of the SIGMAA.

Maura explained that Rick Gilman was the first past-chair. Caren was also one of the Charter officers.

We then brainstormed about who else would be good to invite that could provide a historical perspective.

Names that came up were: Bernie Madison, Eric Gaze, Len Vacher, Dorothy Wallace, and other names currently affiliated with the NNN (National Numeracy Network).

Andy then moved us to a discussion of planning for the JMM 2015, which will be held in San Antonio, TX. Should we consider a panel, or a workshop? Andy said that though Eric could not be there for the meeting, he had seemed amenable to the idea of a workshop. The goal would be to have the audience be participants, they'd be doing active stuff, and they'd all leave with a plan. Would the plan be for a QL course?

Maura opened up the format question. Do we want an MAA Minicourse? Here are also the auxiliary workshops, and for those participants do have to register ahead of time but they do not have to pay. For minicourses, participants have to pay.

We all seemed to like the idea that whatever activity we plan, it would be ideal if the participants could leave with a concrete product, a plan or a program to follow.

Victor P. asked whether the idea was to offer an introductory course (“what is QL?” or “How to infuse QL into your course?”). Do we offer a course template? Possible modules to be inserted into a range of general-education courses?

Andy said that Eric seemed to have a preference.

Gary and Gizem talked about the possibility of posters and round tables representing different courses, where we could invite people to talk about a range of different kinds of courses and people would walk about and learn about each. Gizem mentioned that the MAA CPS (Contributed Paper Session) committee has just approved a new format where each presenter first briefly explains their presentation, and then they each go stand on a corner with their posters and such and respond to visitors coming to see their stuff.

Then we talked a bit about the types of workshops that happen at the JMMs. There are the ancillary workshops, which are free for participants, but they should register before the meeting. There are some that run before the meeting (on the day before the JMM starts). And there are some that run during the JMM. A typical duration seems to be 80 minutes.

Semra pointed out that once we start, we can extend to PREP workshops (MAA’s PREP program: <http://www.maa.org/programs/faculty-and-departments/prep-workshops>) We could offer information on many different resources, textbooks, assessment tools, etc, and people can choose two-to-three options.

Maura asked: How about a workshop on QL and assessment?

Aaron found that this idea had an “unattractive appeal to it”.

Priscilla said that she always wonders about how to talk to non-math people about QL. We should think about this issue and sometime do something about it.

Andy collected these ideas together and asked: between the two ideas (QL modules and QL assessment), which one seems to be more interesting?

Aaron said that 80 minutes for QL assessment could be reasonable. We could maybe say: “Bring us your bad QL assessment; we will assess them.. “. So we can assess their assessment tools and try to offer good assessment tools as alternatives.

Andy said Priscilla’s idea seems to overlap with the issue of how to talk to partner disciplines.

Gary asked whether we can time things so the modules workshop can be followed by the assessment workshop. So there could be one workshop to invite people to think about QL modules for their courses. And then there could be one session on assessment, teaching people about assessment tools that work.

Andy seemed to think we should do one thing at a time (“change one thing at a time”).

Stuart said that beyond this, he believes that we should also think about things at a higher level. It would be good to have a bunch of active QL scholars to come together and think about the future. We could draft a couple paper ideas.

Maura asked whether it is time for another book. She said this could be an edited volume, written by active QL thinkers and doers.

Someone (who???) reminded the group of the invitation sent to the QL community by Dorothy Wallace, who had asked for a special issue for Numeracy on assessment. Semra pointed out that it seemed like Wallace did suggest a special issue, but was not looking for a guest editor.

Stuart brought us back to a possible panel title for JMM: “Future directions in QL”.

Kira said that this could be good. If at MathFest 2014, we will be looking back and forward, it could be nice to spend JMM 2015 with developing and beginning to implement those “forward” ideas.

Rob mentioned that he always found the connections of QL to polarizing political issues very attractive. Could this be a good CPS (contributed paper session) theme?

We were reminded that Macalaster has a course that seems to focus on that theme.

Andy thanked the group and said that the officers will continue to think about all these ideas, and hash things out.

Priscilla encouraged the officers to “do what you need to do as criterion, submissions and participation.”

At 6:46, Andy started a discussion on new ways to foster QL.

He mentioned that at the SIGMAA officers meeting that he had attended, the group shared ideas on new things SIGMAAs could do. Some of these were:

- Collaborating with other SIGMAAs
- Reaching out to MAA sections and participating in MAA section meetings
- Organizing and sponsoring minicourses and PREP workshops,

Kira was emphatic about the need to reach out beyond our discipline. She mentioned that she had recently attended a meeting organized by the Kettering Foundation on civic engagement. Nobody there had heard of QL.

Kira also explained that she had originally got involved with the QL movement, because ten years ago (2005) in Lafayette, she attended a workshop run by Rob. She said that the social justice piece is important, and we should not let it disappear from the QL conversation.

Andy pointed out that we are making connections, and we collaborate and cooperate with the National Numeracy Network, which is not made up of only mathematicians.

Victor P. said we should build QL into an interdisciplinary movement.

Kira said that the point was that there was such an interdisciplinary movement already, but that math is not a part of it.

Victor D. asked us to first think among ourselves: How does what we do relate to other disciplines?

Eileen first introduced herself. She works for Math For America, and is an active member in the SIGMAA-QL listserv. She said that she was witness to the development of the move towards including more computer science courses in K-12. And she said that the people behind the move have a real PR (public relations) person. They bring K-12 teachers and strategize with computer science professors. There is a formula to public relations and the professionals know it. The PR person helps to do things large-scale. We might need to consider how to get funds to get started.

At 6:57, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Andy, with final announcements for tomorrow's talks, the special presentation by Victor Donnay following the business meeting, and where the group would go to hang out after the whole thing is done.

Then the reception (which was delicious, and included candied apples!!!!) continued until the scheduled event:

7:00pm: Special Lecture: at Victor Donnay, Bryn Mawr College, "*Sustainability + Serendipity = Math Awareness Month 2013*"

Attending (members):

1. Victor Piercey (Ferris State University)
2. Andy Miller (Belmont University)
3. Semra Kilic-Bahi (Colby-Sawyer College)
4. Gizem Karaali (Pomona College)
5. Rob Root (Lafayette College)
6. Stuart Boersma (Central Washington University)
7. Aaron Montgomery (Central Washington University)
8. Maura Mast (University of Massachusetts, Boston)

9. Gary Franchy (Mott Community College)
10. Kira Hamman (Penn State Mont Alto)
11. Teri Murphy (Northern Kentucky University)
12. Priscilla Bremser (Middlebury)
13. Victor Donnay (Bryn Mawr)
14. John Maceli (Ithaca)
15. Steve Hilbert (Ithaca)
16. Eileen Lee (Math For America)
17. Lorie Cormack (Salisbury University)

Attending (non-members):

18. Elizabeth Biernat (Bryn Mawr – non-member)
19. Becky Plassmann (Central Oregon Community College – non-member)
20. Daniel Visscher (University of Michigan – non-member)
21. Ileana Ionascu (Immaculata University – non-member)
22. Hannah Weinstein (Bryn Mawr - non-member)