

Mathematics Society

Fall 2012 General Meeting
Monday, November 5th, 5:30PM

Agenda

1. Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President, Academics
 - c. Vice President, Events
 - d. Vice President, Operations
 - e. Vice President, Finance
2. Presentation of the Society's Financials
3. Presentation of the CnD's Financials
4. First Year Software Engineering Council Seat

Motion: *That article V.2 of the bylaws be amended by adding ", except for those in the Software Engineering program." to the first bullet; and that article V.6 of the bylaws be amended by replacing the last paragraph with:*

At the start of each term, the students in each Software Engineering class shall elect members of their class to serve as Software Engineering Representatives for the term. The available seats shall be divided evenly between the classes to elect, with any extra seats going first to lower-year classes. In the Spring term, seats shall be allocated as if there is a first-year class, but the first-year seats shall remain vacant.

Rationale: *The Software Engineering program, like all engineering programs, normally elects representatives on a per-class basis. The current bylaws exclude the first-year software engineering class from this practice. It is proposed to allow the first-year class to elect a representative as a class, rather than with the rest of the first-years.*

5. Update in the Vacancy in the Presidency

Motion: *That article VI.3 of the bylaws be amended by inserting ", including the President," after "If an Executive" at the beginning of the second paragraph.*

Rationale: *Currently, without a specific mention of the President, Robert's Rules of Order provides that the vacancy system described in the bylaws does not apply to the President, but instead if the President becomes vacant, then the ranking Vice-President takes over. That was never the intention. It is proposed to add a specific mention of the President so that the vacancy provisions used by MathSoc apply.*

6. Updates to the Vice President, Events job description to reflect current practice

Motion: *That article VI.2.4 of the bylaws be replaced with:*

*The Vice-President, Events is responsible for overseeing Society events and shall:
Oversee events and activities for Society members;*

Ensure that all Society events have the appropriate documentation, including insurance coverage and/or event forms;
Encourage members to become more involved in the Society and ensure that the opportunity exists for them to do so;
Oversee all volunteers of the Society, including selection of directors;
Ensure that volunteers within the Society are appropriately recognized for their efforts; and
Ensure that the spirit of Math does not leave the Society.

7. Changes to the Vice President, Finance selection

Motion:

That the first sentence of article V.6, paragraph 1 of the bylaws be replaced with: Council Representatives, the President, and the Vice Presidents (excluding the Vice President, Finance) are elected for one term. A Councillor serves for one term at a time, unless he resigns or is removed from office.

That a new article V.6.1 be inserted after article V.6 of the bylaws, entitled "VPF Appointment", reading as follows:

The Vice-President, Finances shall be appointed for each term by Council in the previous term.

Rationale:

Having the students elect a job that is much more skill-based than political is inappropriate, as elections are often acclamations or popularity contests. It has often been the case that MathSoc has been hampered by uninvolved or inexperienced Executive. The VPF is a very important role and a poor VPF significantly damages MathSoc's ability to function, more than any other Executive. It is proposed to move selection of the VPF to Council in hopes that Council can exercise discretion in selecting a VPF.

8. Adding AFM101 or BU227W as a requirement for holding the Vice President, Finance position

Motion: *That article V.7 of the bylaws be amended by inserting "In order to serve as Vice-President, Finances, a member must have credit for AFM 101 or BUS 227W. This requirement may be waived by Council by a two-thirds vote."*

Rationale: *The VPF position, more than any other executive position, would strongly benefit from an occupant who is familiar with basic finance. As such, it is proposed to add an accounting course as a requirement to hold the position. Council is given the power to waive the requirement in case no qualified candidate steps forward.*

9. Reducing Notice Requirements for General Meetings

Motion: That article VII.2 of the bylaws be amended to read as follows:

Notice of a general meeting shall be sent be posted on the Society website and in the Society office , and the President shall, as far is as reasonably possible, attempt to send email notice to every voting member. Notice including the date, time, and place of the meeting shall be given at least two weeks before the meeting, and notice of motions shall be given at least one week before the meeting.

Rationale: *The current notice requirements are self-contradictory (they require that the agenda be published at two separate times) and insufficient to contact students (they do not specify that students must be emailed). Additionally, they require the full text of motions, which most students do not care about. It is proposed to require email to members containing notice, and to relax the notice requirement to need only the subject matter of the motion, and to delete references to an agenda.*

10. Temporary Fee Decrease

Motion: *That a referendum be held in conjunction with the general elections on the following question: "That the MathSoc fee be reduced by \$2.50 from September 2013 through August 2016."*

Rationale: *The MathSoc fee can be changed only by a referendum. Due to the large increase in the number of math students, MathSoc's income has increased much faster than its spending over the last few years. A temporary fee reduction would offset this increase and prevent MathSoc from accumulating student funds, so it is proposed to have a referendum on a three-year decrease of the fee by \$2.50.*

11. Mathsoc's Role in the CnD

Motion: *That Mathsoc is willing to cover expenses and activities from the Math Coffee and Donut Shop that directly benefit math students, including maintenance of cafeteria space, renovations, capital improvements, and marketing & advertising. Additionally, Mathsoc should not be covering internal costs that the CnD incurs during regular operation, such as space costs, inventory, or repairs.*

Rationale: *Currently, MathSoc and the CnD are managed as separate financial entities, but Mathsoc is ultimately liable for any debts that the CnD incurs. It is unclear which expenses and activities in the CnD Mathsoc should be willing to pay for. For example, Mathsoc covered renovations to the space, and traditionally covers any repairs to equipment, but would Mathsoc cover the purchase of new equipment in the event something could not be repaired. We would like to clear up this confusion.*

11. Power to Alter Policies

Motion: That Council be given the power to amend or rescind the policies notwithstanding the changes made at the general meeting in Spring 2011.

Rationale: At the general meeting in Spring 2011, several policy changes were adopted which would typically be made at Council. The decisions of general meetings are binding on Council, which means that Council cannot further amend them, even to overhaul the policies in question. It is proposed to give that power back to Council. The decisions made were minor, such as to slightly vary the funding formula by which clubs are given money.

12. Monthly General Meetings in the Winter

Motion: That the Winter 2013 President shall call a general meeting in each of January, February, and March.

Rationale: The general meetings as they exist should be a way for students who aren't normally involved to participate in the governance of MathSoc. Unfortunately, because they are infrequent, there ends up being much routine business such as bylaw amendments that gets dealt with. MathSoc is also not a very cohesive organization, and the general meeting is the lowest common denominator for participation. It is proposed to trial a term with more frequent general meetings to see if this allows for better engagement and society cohesion.

Proxy Forms

If you cannot attend the meeting, and would like to vote on these issues, please submit a proxy form. Assigning someone as your proxy means that they can vote on your behalf. Each person present at the meeting can have only one (1) proxy vote. Proxy forms are available online at <http://mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca/documents/Proxy%20F12.pdf>, or outside the Mathsoc office.