

Mathematics Society Meeting Minutes

MC COMFY (MC 3001) UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Speaker: President Alex Lee *Secretary:* Kevin Li

The following MathSoc voting members were in attendance:

- Alex Lee (President)
- Yuqian (Ina) Wang (VP Academic)
- Clayton Halim (VP Operations)
- Krishna Pasumarthy (VP Finance)
- Kanan Sharma (VP Internal)
- Kevin Li (Secretary)
- Rosie DeFazio
- Ruiying Zhong
- Junqiao Lin
- Patrick Melanson
- Monica Xu
- Cristian Mustatea
- Candice Lee
- Falah Shazib
- Lily Horne
- Terry Chen
- Garrett Hildebrandt
- Stephen Wen
- Logan Grout
- Jennifer Lee
- Danny Jiang
- Bianca Filip
- Rajat Malhotra
- Luthfi Mawarid
- Rahul Sirwani
- Karolina Xin
- Liban Osman
- Jing Yi Wang
- Harleen Bhandal
- Alisa Lin
- Zouhaier Ferchiou
- Krystle Tang
- Tony Deng
- Guy Stoppi
- Si Han (Sofia) Lin
- Catherine Tan
- Akash Bedi

The following non-voting members were in attendance:

- Seneca Velling

PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the Speaker called the meeting to order at 5:12 PM.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

A brief overview of the agenda was given. It was noted that the time of the confidential session was not recorded at the time, and is thus left blank.

Be it resolved that the agenda for the Fall 2018 General Meeting are adopted.

Alex Lee and Kevin Li

Motion passes **unanimously**

APPROVAL OF SPRING 2018 GM MINUTES

The minutes in question were reviewed.

Be it resolved that Council approves the public minutes for the 2018-07-11 meeting as presented

Cristian Mustatea and Stephen Wen.

Motion carries **unanimously**

Regular Session

REPORTS AND UPDATES

EXECUTIVE REPORTS

PRESIDENT (ALEX LEE)

As president, Alex has been sitting on various governing bodies, such as MathSoc Council, Co-operative Education Council and MathSoc Board of Directors. He has been acting as the voice of the Math Faculty on Feds Student Council, and sharing current operations receiving feedback on the Feds Committee of Presidents. This is a collection of all student society presidents discussing their procedures and operations. Alex is also sitting on the Mathematics Faculty Council, which decides items like course changes. As president, Alex also attends Dean's Office Meetings, or sends a Vice President in his stead.

MathSoc is currently working on a MathSoc website, due to the quality of the current one. Alex has been encouraging collaboration with other societies, helping organize such events as UW smiles day. He has also been working to improving relations between MathSoc and its clubs and affiliates. Most notable among that group is the MEF and Orientation. Another goal has been to encourage involvement in Math Faculty Students in clubs and orientation.

A question on the date of the new website unveiling was asked. In response, it was stated that the current website is nearing completion and that they are just waiting on some documents from the previous President. Release of the site will be before January, barring unexpected events. An inquiry was made on the expense of the website. The site is free, and being created by a volunteer, but they may be granted honorarium.

VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS (CLAYTON HALIM)

As VPO, Clayton is responsible for the administration of the MathSoc Office, and ensure MathSoc services run smoothly. The term has seen an increase in bookings of rooms such as the MC Comfy. This has led to improved relations with non-math clubs. New introductions this term include a new candy selection. Dial locks to be replaced with digital locks by next term.

It was asked if the 397 locks bought would cover all lockers. It was answered that all dial locks will be replaced. In MC, there are roughly 500 locks, but with around 200 digital locks, so the locks ordered will replace all current dial locks.

VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMICS (INA WANG)

As VPA, Ina sits on various groups. Ina sits on various faculty related groups, (Undergraduate Affairs, Faculty Council, Mathematics Strategic Plan Implementation Working Group). These groups are generally concerned with potential faculty changes, improving lectures, student learning, and work term reports. This term, a proposal was passed in Faculty Council to change the Work Term Report from a credit to a non-credit. This is still pending approval from the Senate, and if passed, would be implemented in Fall 2019.

In addition to these groups, as VPA, Ina also sits on University Level groups, such as the Education Advisory Council and the Senate Undergraduate Council. These groups discuss changes that affect the university. One topic discussed was the increased voting rates in the recent municipal election.

Ina is also on a variety of Co-op related groups. Due to the recent legalization of Cannabis, a variety of policies are being implemented in Waterloo Works. Disclaimers and warnings now appear on Cannabis related job postings, as these jobs may affect job prospects in other countries. The Associate Dean of Co-op is working on analyzing the differences in learning outcomes of Co-op and non-Co-op students.

Events were also hosted this term, such as a resume critique in conjunction with the Data Science Club. An ongoing project is also keeping inventory on the textbook library, working on textbook acquisition, and on increasing in the exams available in the exam bank.

It was inquired on whether Ina was the person responsible for the exam bank. The response was yes. It was also mentioned that various professors have been emailed requesting exams. A question was also asked on the general scope of the exam bank. It was stated that a portion of the current exam bank is out of date. Therefore, Ina is currently working on updating the exam bank.

VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE (KRISHNA PASUMARTHY)

As VPF, Krishna manages MathSoc finances, such as cash closing, and cheque reimbursement. The cash close and cheque reimbursement has been split among finance directors. These directors are doing this on a daily and weekly basis, respectively. Finances are reported to the MathSoc accountant on a weekly basis

As of August 31, 2018, club balances for the last two years have been cleared. The clubs under MathSoc all hold separate accounts under MathSoc, and now have been cleared.

Budget actuals being tracked on a real time basis, unlike before, where actuals were only reported after the term had ended. This now ensures that no club goes over budget, and that MathSoc is aware the moment they do.

In addition, Krishna is working with organizations requesting financial support from MathSoc. This includes WATonomous and hEDGE. Starcon is also a partner of MathSoc and their finances are being done through the society.

VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL (KANAN SHARMA)

As VPI, Kanan is responsible for the organization of all MathSoc events, social media, and for communication with clubs and affiliates. Some events held during the term include Welcome Week, Midterm Destress Week. By the end of the term, the mathNEWS agreement will be finalized. The delay was due to disputes over finances.

For the Winter 2019 term, MathSoc will be hosting a Math Semi. This is much like Grad Ball, but for first, second and third year students. An agreement will be signed at end of term, and new group to be formed for organization. MathSoc will be providing funding for this event.

A summary of the various events held during the term was given. The events covered were the MathSoc Info Session for first years, the Math Dance Flash Mob (run by the President), a Bonfire, which has held in collaboration with CSC and WICS. Other events held were the Midterm Destress Week, and a Screw Up Panel, a new event held this term to aid first years with mental health. Due to popular demand during orientation, therapy bunnies were brought back. Various events like a candy giveaway was held for Halloween, and 3 profs showed for Game Night with Profs. For Pi Day, along with the traditional events, pieing various individuals was held, including Kevin Hare (Vice Dean), Dan Wolczuk, Francis Poulin (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies), Alex Lee (President), and various other MathSoc executives and orientation leaders (with the assistance of the President). Party with Profs was successful, with roughly 20 professors and 200 students in attendance. The large attendance in professors is likely due to the mass email sent to the faculty. Final Destress Week will be held the last week of November.

Volunteer appreciation to happen on November 27, and volunteers were asked to email Kanan for details.

Kanan was in regular contact with Ana Freitas (Dean's Office liason), Francis Poulin (Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies) and Donna Lutz (Director of MUO) to help students deal with stress relief and mental health. Kanan is also the MathSoc representative on the Student Wellbeing Committee and the Math Faculty Strategic Plan Implementation Working Group. Kanan meet with Jodi, the Director of Strategic Communications. MathSoc can now get posters on TVs in MC and DC.

In conjunction with Feds, issues regarding mathNEWS and the Stats Club were resolved. The formation of Gamma Iota Sigma was also discussed with Jake Riesenkonig and Dave McDougall.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATES

A presentation by a representative of the Board. For the Fall 2018 term, preliminary stuff was mainly done. This includes the final dates for the Fall 2018 by-election, the 2018 budget approval, CnD improvement funding approval, procedure approval and CIF funding proposals. The board is currently rewriting MathSoc policies, to bring it in line with the current operations of the council, and re-writing executive evaluation criteria. An on-going project is the creation of a volunteer database.

The database was clarified to be to help MathSoc retain volunteers. This database would send members of the database emails on events that they may potentially wish to volunteer for. The database would also help keep track of the volunteers MathSoc has.

At this time, Ina asked to make a correction to her VPA update. The change requested was to change the implementation date for changes to Co-op from Fall 2018 to Fall 2019. It was noted that the original date given was Fall 2019 so no changes were made.

GENERAL ORDERS

PRESENTATION OF SOCIETY'S FINANCIALS

A brief overview of MathSoc financials for the Fall 2018 and Spring 2018 term was given. The budget actuals were shown. The student fees for the term was \$12.50, in line with previous years, raising a total of \$71,837.50. It was noted that all clubs, as per regulation, been depositing the fees they have received into MathSoc and being strictly kept under budget. The budget surpluses from the last few terms have been used for activities.

Math CnD financials were also shown. Revenues up 13% for CnD in Spring 2018, compared to Spring 2017. One reason for this was SLC store closures. For capital expenditures, 2 large drink coolers and one tabletop food coolers were purchased. In Fall 2018, a new fridge was purchased, as well as a third cash register and new server for the POS system. Due to strong sales, funds may be allocated in the future to replace the old carpet and furniture. The CnD is also funding 50% of the digital lock purchase.

An overview of CIF requests for the Fall 2018 was given.

It was asked whether there would be negative effects from SLC reopening. It was stated that MathSoc only has the budget actuals for September, so the effect are still unknown.

It was asked whether it was wise to buy a new POS as a long-term purchase. This is due to restaurant re-openings in SLC. It was stated that despite the reopening's, the POS purchase is still required, due to high traffic during lunch hour. This traffic will likely be unabated by restaurants at SLC.

Some general inquiries into the budget procedure were made. During this, it was asked whether the Budget could be found online. It was stated that the budget is available on request. A suggestion to put the budget online was placed into further consideration by Alex.

PRESENTATION OF MEF DIRECTOR

Due to a group project, the MEF Director was absent so Alex presented in their stead. A brief explanation of the MEF was given. Contributions to the fund are tax deductible. Groups on campus can submit proposal, which goes to the funding council to be approved. Individuals can ask for professional development funding, up to \$750, for such events as Hackathons or conferences. Approval for these requests are made by the director. One is not disqualified from receiving funding if they asked for their contribution to be refunded.

If one wishes to join the MEF, one can join funding council for the Winter 2019 term and beyond. More information can be found on the MEF Facebook page or Website. For a longer-term commitment, one can join the Board of Directors.

Some inquiries were made into the exact specifics of the MEF, mainly concerning the principle and investments.

TRANSFER APPROVAL OF BUDGETS FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO COUNCIL

Questions were asked regarding the current state of MathSoc budget approval. It was stated that many clubs request budget increases on a regular basis, due to last minute additions. Currently the Board must ratify each budget. No more changes can be made after ratification, without Board approval. Since the Board meets infrequently, this presents a variety of challenges. It was clarified that the motion would shift the approval from the Board to Council.

Whereas the Mathematics Society General Meeting in Spring 2018 adopted a new set of bylaws;

Whereas the Society Budget must be approved by the Board of Directors every term;

Whereas this causes problems if the Clubs/Society budget needs to be amended after every budget meeting;

Be it resolved that the approval of the Mathematics Society termly budget is transferred from the Board of Directors to Council.

Kanan Sharma and Ruiying Zhong

Motion passes **with majority**. Stephen Wen opposed. There was 1 abstention.

CHANGE OF SPEAKER

Be it resolved that Ina Wang be appointed speaker.

Ina Wang and Kanan Sharma

Motion passes **by consensus**.

It is noted that Alex Lee exited the room.

PROPOSED DISCOUNTS FOR MATH FEDERATION ORIENTATION COMMITTEE

A general explanation of the motion was provided, with some clarification to the background offered. A point of information was offered, noting that previous members of the Mathematics Faculty Orientation Committee have received a \$1000 honorarium. Another individual noted that current MathSoc Executives receive honorarium. It was also stated that CnD workers and MathSoc Execs currently qualify for the discount.

Whereas the Mathematics Society Executives receive a 20% discount at the Math Coffee and Donut Shop;

Whereas the Mathematics Faculty Orientation Committee contributes greatly to the first-year student experience by spending countless hours throughout the year to plan and execute the annual faculty orientation week;

Be it resolved that the MathSoc student body recommends that the Mathematics Faculty Orientation Committee members receive a 20% discount at the Math Coffee and Donut Shop.

Kanan Sharma and Junqiao Lin.

Motion passes **with majority**, 1 in opposition, and 1 abstention.

It is noted that Alex Lee entered the room.

CHANGE OF SPEAKER

Be it resolved that Alex Lee be appointed speaker.

Kanan Sharma and Ina Wang

Motion passes **by consensus**.

NOMINATION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

A brief overview of the roles and responsibilities of members of the Board was given. In response to a question regarding time commitment, it was stated that the Board generally meets twice a term for 3-4 hours each via teleconference. Some questions arose over the question of Co-op. Qualifications to sit on the board was given, in response to some questions. Nominations then commenced. Harleen Bhandal, Kevin Li, and Rajat Malhotra

nominated themselves. Seneca Velling nominated Deon Hua and Bilal Akhtar. These candidates were highly praised by Seneca. Alex Lee was also nominated, but Alex rejected his nomination. Some debate ensued over the specifics of the nomination process. The nominees present gave a short speech. For the nomination process, it was decided that the candidates would leave the room, where a vote was conducted by the members at the GM. The winners of this vote were Harleen Bhandal and Kevin Li.

Be it resolved that Kevin Li and Harleen Bhandal are nominated to the Fall seats on the Board of Directors, with terms starting on January 1, 2019 and ending on December 31, 2019. *Kanan Sharma and Karolina Xin.*

Motion passes with a **majority** and 1 abstention.

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

An overview of recent Feds actions was made by Seneca Velling. The new budget reforms package was discussed. All budget decisions for Feds will now be overseen by a budget appropriation committee. An online committee process for this will start in the Winter 2019 term. Various bylaws are being reviewed, and legal counsel recommendations are being reviewed, and to likely be presented in the Winter Feds GM.

The contents of the new 3-year plan commercial plan was presented. The current situation of the Bomber was presented. It was stated that the restaurant is currently unprofitable, but more profitable than comparable restaurants across Canada. Feds remains committed to the Bomber and has done external consultations to improve profitability. One suggestion was to renovate the Bomber entrance. Moving forwards, Feds aims for more transparency for its commercial operations.

The Societies Agreement between Feds and the various faculty societies will be completed soon. Feds remains committed to a fair renegotiation process. Feds elections are also happening soon.

A question was asked regarding the proposed changes to the Bomber entrance. Seneca stated that the professional consult revealed that students thought the entrance was unwelcoming and dark. Feds is hoping to fix this. Some changes recommend by the consult have already been made, such as in the music selection.

Clarification was requested on the Societies Agreement. It was stated that the agreement is renegotiated every 3 to 5 years. It was also stated that Feds was pointed to be in breach of contract by the Engineering Society at the last board meeting. This is due to lack of notice for the auditor, and delays in providing fees. Due to this, internal protocol has been changed, to prevent such events from occurring again. A part of the new agreement includes a waiver of timelines in the delivery of fees if both parties consent.

Discussion regarding the loss of quorum in the recent Feds GM which resulted in the failure to appoint an auditor. It was stated that the previous auditor would continue in their position, and that auditing will be completed in a timely manner. The reason for the Feds deficit the previous year was asked. It was stated that this was due to amortization related expenses from the PAC expansion. Feds has run a surplus since.

CHANGE OF SPEAKER

Be it resolved that Ina Wang be appointed speaker.

Ina Wang and Garrett Hildebrandt.

Motion passes **by consensus**.

DISCUSSION: GAMMA IOTA SIGMA

A presentation was held on the proposed fraternity. A brief overview of the differences between the fraternity and current structures in the University were presented. A outline of long term goals and for future plans was given.

The floor was opened to discussion. It was asked whether the fraternity was open to all genders. It was said that fraternity is used as a moniker, and that everyone would be welcome. A question regarding how the fraternity would fit under existing University structures was asked. The presenters stated that the fraternity would be student run, with presidents and executives. These positions would most likely be on a term to term basis. Some clarification was offered by the questioner on the intent of his question. It was stated that Emily would most likely be the faculty member responsible for the fraternity, and that the fraternity would operate under MathSoc.

It was noted by Seneca that certain actions proposed would not be compliant with University policy, such as the \$50 being paid to the Grand Chapter. The University requires all clubs to manage their own finances. In addition, MASDA prohibits fraternities, and Waterloo policy does the same. It was stated by the presenters that no issue regarding legality had come up during their discussions with University representatives.

It was stated that the fraternity would welcome members from the whole campus.

CHANGE OF SPEAKER

Be it resolved that Kanan Sharma be appointed speaker.

Kanan Sharma, Ruiying Zhong

Motion passes **by consensus**.

In response to some discussion, the presenters clarified that the chapter being proposed was limited to just the University of Waterloo. It was also clarified that the proposed fraternity wishes to operate under MathSoc like other clubs, though possibly with greater scope. A point of information was offered regarding proposed practices and MathSoc policies, as all clubs must levy a minimum of a \$2 fee per term. It was stated that the Grand Chapter of GIS is fine with local chapters levying fees on top of the \$50. As the discussion had run off course, it was asked for the meeting to be adjourned. It was noted that since the fraternity seems to exist in a grey space, the existence of GIS under MathSoc should be negotiated under a MoU. It was stated that this is not something that should be decided during the Fall 2018 GM. It was noted by the presenters that the presentation was to inform people of GIS, receive feedback, and that detailed information will be given December 3. Some more discussion concerning meeting adjournment took place.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no new business, Kanan Sharma adjourned the meeting at 7:21 PM.