
 University of Waterloo Mathematics Society

Council

May 11, 2020

Location: ONLINE, Time: 6:30 PM EST - Call in [Here](#)

Speaker	Yuqian (Ina) Wang (ex officio)
Secretary	Natalia Manturowicz
Attendees: (Voting)	Sima Jia (VPF); Sophia Spitman (VPI); (VPO); Yuqian (Ina) Wang (President); John Hunte (ActSci); Sehar Durrani (Business); Matthew Schwarze (Business); Kanan Sharma (Business); Brayden Royston (CS); Kevin Trieu (CS); Vincent Macri (PM/AM/CO); Angela Wang-Lin (Stats); Caleb Lew (Teaching); Catherine Dong (Mathematical Studies & Other)
(Non Voting)	Rose Penner (Business Manager), Colleen Richter (Dean's Designate), James Anderson (MathNews)

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1 Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

The President calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM EST.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

The Speaker assumes the agenda.

1.3 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Mathematics Society of the University of University of Waterloo acknowledges:

“The University of Waterloo is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, land promised to the Six Nations, which includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.”

1.4 Oral Conflict of Interest Declaration

The Speaker poses the following question:

“In relation of any of the items of business on the agenda for this meeting, does any Councilor have an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest?”

2 Special Orders

2.1 Appointment of Speaker - President Wang, Councilor Hunte

Be it resolved that ___ is appointed Speaker of Council for the Spring 2020 semester.

2.2 Appointment of Secretary - President Wang, Councilor Hunte

Be it resolved that ___ is appointed Secretary of the Society for the Spring 2020 semester.

Be it further resolved that __ is appointed Assistant Secretary of the Society for Spring 2020 Semester.

3 Approval of the Minutes

Be it resolved that Council approve the Minutes of the March 31, 2020 Meeting of Council, [as presented](#).

4 Reports

Motions arising directly out of a report, including to adopt recommendations in the report, may be considered immediately after the report without having to wait until later in the meeting. No action is required to receive a report. If Council decides to adopt or accept a report, then it is endorsing the entire report and not just the recommendations.

4.1 Executive Reports:

VPA, VPI, VPO, VPF, President

4.2 Representative Reports:

CS/Comp Math, PMath/AMath/CO, Actsci/Math Finance, MathBus, CFM, Statistics, Math Teaching, Math Studies & Other

4.3 Board of Directors Report: *Chair*

4.4 Miscellaneous Reports:

Governing Document Update - Councilor Hunte, Councilor Sharma

5 Consent Agenda

Items having shown no opposition and being not controversial may be added to the consent agenda. If any councilor wishes to discuss an item on the consent agenda it is immediately moved to the general orders. The consent agenda is approved en masse.

5.1 Ratification of Away Votes - Councilor Hunte

Be it resolved that MathSoc Council ratifies the results of the following Away Votes.

- April 9, 2020: [PMC & Club Management](#)

PMC - Councilor Macri, Councilor Hunte

Whereas there is currently an emergency which has shutdown campus for the foreseeable future;

Be it resolved that MathSoc Council consents to the Pure Math, Applied Math, and Combinatorics and Optimization Club invoking the Emergency Powers Clause (Section 12) of their club constitution for the Spring 2020 term.

Club Management - Speaker Hunte, Councilor Sharma

Be it resolved that notwithstanding any provisions in their Bylaws, clubs unable to hold required termly meetings shall be permitted to retain their current executive team for the Spring 2020 term, to the extent required to prevent the dissolution and ensure the continued function of the club, where permitted by the MathSoc Vice-President, Internal.

- April 17, 2020: [MathSoc Membership & Clubs Membership](#)

Note: See [this attachment](#) for the April 17th, 2020 vote. The second motion was voided, and only the first was voted upon.

MathSoc Membership - President Wang, Councilor Sharma

BIRT Council assumes \$0 is the membership fee for spring 2020 and thus assumes all math students on co-op and academic terms to be considered social and voting members of Math Society for Spring 2020.

5.2 Ratification of Speaker's Interpretation of the Bylaws Regarding Fees - Councilor Hunte

Be it resolved that MathSoc Council ratifies and expressly endorses the interpretation of the Bylaws by Speaker Hunte with respect to fees, as follows:

"It is only reasonable that all membership fees charged by or under the jurisdiction of MathSoc are \$0, notwithstanding any other provision in any Society policy, procedure or bylaw."

6 General Orders

A general order is an item of business that is ordered to be taken up at a meeting. Time limits to discussions indicate the point at which the Speaker will end the discussion unless Council directs otherwise.

6.1 Appointment of Elections Committee - President Wang

Be it resolved that ____, ____, ____ & ____ are appointed to the Elections Committee for the Spring 2020 term.

Be it further resolved that ____ is appointed Chief Returning Officer for the Spring 2020 term.

6.2 Appointment of Directors - Councilor Hunte, Councilor Sharma

Whereas the Board is permitted to fill its own vacancies due to failure of a General Meeting to appoint Directors; and

Whereas the Board has delegated the responsibility of filling these vacancies to the Council; and

Whereas Speaker John Hunte and Councilor Kanan Sharma were tasked with running applications for vacant seats on the Board of Directors at the March 31, 2020 meeting of Council; and

Whereas the application process and interviews have concluded for those vacant At-Large positions and a report has been prepared, [as attached](#); then

Be it resolved that ____ and ____ are appointed Directors At-Large for a period of 1 year, until the start of the Spring 2021 term.

Be it further resolved that ____ and ____ are appointed Directors At-Large for a period of 8 months, until the start of the Winter 2021 term.

6.3 Committee of Presidents Representation - Councilor Macri

Whereas WUSA Council voted to give EngSoc two votes on the Committee of Presidents (COPs) ([document](#)); and

Whereas no other societies have two votes, ([document](#)); and

Whereas there is only [one EngSoc](#);

Be it resolved that Council directs the MathSoc Executives to do all that is in their power to reverse the WUSA Council decision giving EngSoc twice the voting power of other societies and ensure that EngSoc has no more power than any other Society on COPs.

6.4 “Spicy Motion” Re: n-Jsoc - Councilor Macri

Whereas war, violence, and crime are bad;

Be it resolved that MathSoc is opposed to organizations who attack and steal from MathSoc having multiple votes on the Committee of Presidents (COPs)

6.5 Discussion about potential reduced fee for Online Academic Terms - President Wang

Some Background Info:

- Our previous fee was 12.75 (\$2.75 of which goes to mathNEWS) per student;
- Council recently approved (on behalf of students) of an increase \$1.51, starting for Fall 2020;
- The previous point still waits for the Member's consent during a GM;
- MathSoc chose not charge fees for students for Spring 2020, same with other societies;
- No one is certain if Fall 2020 will be similar to the Spring 2020 term.

QUESTION: Should we have a reduced fee for terms where the majority of activities will be happening online?

7 New Business

Any Councillor may raise any item of concern during new business. Generally, long discussions without a specific motion before Council should be avoided, and are technically against the rules of procedure. If a Councillor has any questions about the procedure, form, or content, they should ask the Speaker.

7.1 Commitment to Paying Spring 2018 Debt to University - President Wang

Whereas in Spring 2018, the VP Academic, Jimmy Zhou, undertook a project to advocate for changes to the work term report requirements that successfully resulted in a change to the grading basis from numerical to credit/no-credit; ([document](#))

Whereas MathSoc filed Freedom of Information (FOI) requests through the secretariat to obtain contextual information that supported its advocacy campaign;

Whereas the Secretariat issued an invoice to MathSoc in the amount of \$195.00 in September 2018, but the invoice has yet to be paid by MathSoc;

Be it resolved that Council re-affirm its commitment to paying off its debt to the Office of the Secretariat of the University of Waterloo at the earliest possible opportunity.

7.2 Renewal of Spring 2019 FOI Funding - President Wang

Whereas in Spring 2018, the VP Academic, Jimmy Zhou, undertook a project to advocate for changes to the work term report requirements that successfully resulted in a change to the grading basis from numerical to credit/no-credit; ([document](#))

Whereas it was discovered that the Faculty of Mathematics has adopted the practice of reviewing work report grades and making retroactive adjustments to numerical work report grades such that the grade reported on student transcripts may be deflated by as much as 9%;

Whereas funding is required for the filing of further FOI requests to investigate this matter on behalf of upper-year students at the University of Waterloo whose academic records have been tampered with by the Faculty;

Whereas funding in the amount of \$500.00 was approved by MathSoc council on April 9th, 2019;

Whereas MathSoc's governing documents require that funding for long-term projects be re-affirmed from time to time;

Whereas the Secretariat has advised that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well bureaucratic challenges on the part of the University in handling FOI requests, a significant delay in the processing of FOI requests is to be expected;

Be it resolved that Council renew its commitment to funding, in the amount of \$500.00, the investigation of the aforementioned wrongdoing on the part of the Faculty, until December 31, 2021.

7.3 Mobius Fee Discussion - President Wang

Whereas the University began transferring course materials from physical textbooks to online and digital sources;

Whereas Mobius is one of the resources that is commonly used in the University, especially in the Math Faculty;

Whereas the Faculty is currently paying for the cost of Mobius for students (i.e. student is paying \$0.00);

Whereas it's a huge cost for the university and the Associate Provost of Academics wants the students to pay for their use;

Whereas Mobius is more commonly used in the Math Faculty than it is used in the other faculties, so it's seems unfair for students to pay per course;

Whereas the Faculty wants to set a fixed rate of \$30.0 for student annually;

Question(s) for thought:

1. Should students pay for a fee for using the resource?
2. If yes to Q1, how should the student pay for it? Per course rate, fixed rate, or combination?

7.3 Student Engagement and Society Activities - VP Jia, President Wang

Whereas the University is solely online this term, it is expected that students would face challenges that come with remote learning as well as adapting to studying at home.

Proposal for discussion :

- To encourage and engage students despite the remote nature of the school term, MathSoc would promote rigorous event organized by MathSoc and its affiliated clubs to ensure the students benefit optimally from the university's core priorities
- It upholds the highest academic standards by engaging clubs with activities that aid student learning while ensuring the physical and mental well-being of our students.

8 Announcements

9 Adjournment

The meeting is scheduled to be adjourned at 9:00 PM EST.

Relevant Documents

Please refer to the pre-meeting email for any hard copies or hyperlinks above.