

## Draft Minutes of the Irish Mathematical Society Annual General Meeting held on September 3, 2021 in MTU and on Zoom (due to Covid)

*Present:* C. Boyd, S. Buckley, M. Bustamante, T. Carroll, L. Creedon, N. Dobbs, R. Flatley, R. Gaburro, B. Guilfoyle, J. Granell, C. Kelly, M. Kerin, B. Kreußler, G. Lessells, E. Lingham, E. Li (guest), D. Mackey, M. Mackey, JP. McCarthy, N. Madden, D. Malone, M. Mathieu, A. O'Farrell, C. Ó Luasa, M. O'Reilly, A. O'Shea, N. Snigireva, C. Stack, H. Šmigoc, E. Xie (guest), T. Xie (guest).

### 1 Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on December 11, 2020 and published in Bulletin 86 were accepted, with a discussion around the education subcommittee that was taken under matters arising.

### 2 Matters Arising

C. Stack asked a question about the disbandment of the educational subcommittee, as she had a concern that it was not in line with the subcommittee's constitution. The committee noted that it had received C. Stack's correspondence on this issue, and would be happy to respond. In summary, the proposal for the subcommittee had been approved at the 2014 AGM, and the brief for the subcommittee was described in the minutes of that meeting. C. Stack suggested that there may have been a more extensive set of rules. The committee agreed to investigate this and respond to C. Stack in detail.

### 3 Correspondence

- The committee had received a query about the disbandment of the educational subcommittee, which had been discussed under matters arising.
- The committee had also received a suggestion from C. Stack that it would be appropriate to remember David Lewis of UCD, who had recently passed away. The meeting observed a moment of silence in his memory.

### 4 Membership Applications

The new and renewed members thus far for 2021 were A. Ní Shúilleabháin, M. O'Connell, M. Leitner, M. Golitsyna, M. Mc Gettrick, N. McElduff, R. Smith, T. Lynch, E. Bach, M. Manolaki. J. Hayes had also been approved as a member, though the treasurer was investigating if he was also eligible for institutional student membership.

### 5 President's Report

The president gave a summary of his report (available in full in the Bulletin), covering the May 2021 EMS Presidents Meeting, IMU Membership, Kovalevskaya travel grants for the ICM, P. Lynch's article on the annual IMS scientific meeting. M. Mackey thanked the president for keeping the matter of funding of IMU membership alive. A discussion followed on if the lack of funding for IMU membership might be regarded as a reduction in status of mathematics. It was noted that there may be multiple issues at play, and physics, chemistry and astronomy were in a similar position.

### 6 Treasurer's Report

A report on finances was presented. Since last year, €4,000 has been placed in savings certs. There had been little expenditure on conferences and meetings due to Covid. Last year's IMU dues had been paid with the support of mathematical research institutes and departments. This year, savings due to Covid had made it possible for the society to pay directly. M. Mackey asked if it might be possible to support more meetings in the following year. This was generally agreed to be a good idea if possible.

## 7 International Mathematical Union

The issues around IMU membership had been dealt with as part of the President's Report and the Treasurer's Report.

## 8 Bulletin

A. O'Farrell extended his thanks to M. Mackey for maintaining the Bulletin's website and to the editorial board (T. Carroll, J. Cruickshank, D. Mackey, P. Mellon, A. O'Shea, I. Short and T. Unger) for their support in the Bulletin's operation. He noted that E. Lingham would be joining as a new editorial board member.

It was noted that at the committee meeting there had been a proposal to send a printed copy of the Bulletin to institutional members.

## 9 Educational Subcommittee

A. O'Shea reported that the new educational subcommittee had begun its work in January by electing M. Kerin as secretary. Four main issues has been discussed over the year.

**Textbook quality assurance:** Following on from the work of the previous subcommittee, the subcommittee will endeavour to make sure that second level mathematics textbooks are subject to quality assurance.

**Online teaching at tertiary level:** There is a plan to organise a workshop later this year on the role of hybrid/online learning in future teaching practices.

**Supporting exceptional talent:** A subgroup has been formed which is considering measures to challenge and stimulate high-performing students newly arrived in third level. This subgroup will also investigate methods to raise the profile of mathematics in the media in order to encourage more students to study mathematics.

**Developing links between mathematicians and researchers in mathematics education:** It is hoped to hold a series of online talks on aspects of mathematics education research relevant to those teaching at third level.

J. Granel's excellent work with the Professional Development Service for Teachers and the State Examinations Commission in relation to the new Applied Mathematics Leaving Certificate course was also noted.

## 10 Subcommittee on Equal Opportunities

R. Gaburro was seeking feedback on the possibility of establishing a subcommittee on equal opportunities. At recent meetings of the European Women in Mathematics (EWM) and the IMU's Committee for Women in Mathematics, it has become apparent that many national societies are forming subcommittees with interests around equal opportunities, diversity and women in mathematics. The possibility of a subcommittee in this area had been raised with the committee and it was supportive. The subcommittee could have function in supporting meetings such as the Women in Mathematics Day and providing a contact point for outreach and international activities.

T. Carroll welcomed this development. The meeting was supportive of the suggestion, and a more detailed proposal will be formulated for the committee's Christmas meeting.

## 11 Elections

C. Kelly, R. Flatley, M. Mathieu, R. Ryan, H. Smigoc and N. Snigireva have reached the end of two or four year terms, but were willing to stand for re-election. D. Malone has reached the end of a six year term, and is consequently not eligible for re-election.

C. Kelly was proposed as treasurer by T. Carroll and seconded by D. Malone. D. Kitson was proposed for secretary by M. Mathieu and seconded by T. Carroll. R. Flatley,

M. Mathieu, R. Ryan, H. Smigoc and N. Snigireva were proposed for general committee membership by T. Carroll and seconded by D. Malone. Election to these positions was approved by the meeting.

D. Malone was thanked for his service as secretary for the last six years.

## 12 AOB

- J.P. McCarthy asked about arrangements for next year's scientific meeting. This year's meeting was to have been in TU Dublin, but because of complications due to Covid and relocation of the TU Dublin Campuses, UCC and CIT (now MTU) had stepped in. D. Mackey was hoping to be able welcome the 2022 meeting to the TU Dublin campus at Grangegorman.
- The Fergus Gaines Cup was virtually presented to the 2020 and 2021 winners of the Irish Mathematical Olympiad (IrMO), as Covid had prevented the presentation last year.

Fergus Gaines, who served as the leader of the Irish team at the IMO several times, passed away in 2001. The cup has been presented as the Fergus Gaines Cup since 2005 and has been on many adventures, including being recovered by Tim Murphy after it went missing. The cup is currently safe with G. Lessells in Limerick.

The 2020 winner was Tianyiwa Xie who had represented Ireland three times. The 2021 winner was Ellen Lee, who had just received her Leaving Certificate results. The meeting wished both of the well-deserved winners all the best in their future studies.

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