

University of Waterloo Mathematics Society

Spring 2020 General Meeting

July 25, 2020

Location: [Webex](#) | Time: 3:00 - 6:00 pm EDT

Chair	Yuqian (Ina) Wang [President]
Secretary	Natalia Manturowicz
Required Attendees	Councilors, Directors, Executives, MEF Director
Expected Attendees * Non-voting members	Current Undergraduate Math Student, Colleen Ritcher (Dean's Delegate)*
Invited Attendees (Non-voting)	Senior Faculty members, WUSA executive, Incoming Undergraduate Math Students*
Expected Absences	

1 Preliminaries (< 10 min)	3
1.1 Call to Order	3
1.2 Approval of the Agenda	3
1.3 Territorial Acknowledgement	3
2 Approval of the Minutes (< 5 min)	3
2.1 Approval of the Fall 2019 General Meeting Minutes	3
3 Reports of the Society (< 24 min)	4
3.1 President's Report	4
3.2 Vice-President, Academics' Report	4
3.3 Vice-President, Finances' Report	4
3.4 Vice-President, Internals' Report	4
3.5 Vice-President, Operations' Report	4
3.6 Board of Directors' Report	4
4 General Orders	4
4.1 Plans for the Society in Fall 2020 - President Wang [Discussion]	4
4.2 Mathematics Endowment Fund Report - MEF Executive Director Zhang [Decision]	4
4.3 MEF Divestment - Vincent Macri [Decision]	5
4.4 Fee Increment - President Wang, Councilor Hunte [Decision]	6
4.5 Ratification of Bylaw Changes - President Wang, Councilor Hunte [Decision]	7
4.6 Bylaw Amendments - Councilor Hunte, Councilor Sharma [Decision]	8
4.7 Councilor Discounts - Speaker Schwarze (on behalf of Council)	9
4.8 Requirement for the Chair of MathSoc's Board of Directors - Councilor Sharma, Chair Zu'mot [Information/Decision]	9
4.9 Appointment of 12-month At-Large Board Members - Chair Zu'mot [Decision]	9
5 New Business	10
5.1 Modernisation of Director Eligibility Requirements - Speaker Schwarze, Councilor Hunte [Decision]	10
6 Announcements	10
7 Adjournment	10

1 Preliminaries (< 10 min)

1.1 Call to Order

The President as Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:00 pm EDT.

1.2 Approval of the Agenda

The Chair assumes the agenda.

1.3 Territorial Acknowledgement

The Mathematics Society of the 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.”

2 Approval of the Minutes (< 5 min)

2.1 Approval of the Fall 2019 General Meeting Minutes

Be it resolved that the Minutes of the 2019 Fall General Meeting are approved, as [presented](#).

3 Reports of the Society (< 24 min)

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 the Assembly decides to adopt or accept a report, then it is endorsing the entire report and not just the recommendations.

3.1 President's Report

3.2 Vice-President, Academics' Report

Presented by Alan

3.3 Vice-President, Finances' Report

Presented by Xima (Sima) Jia

3.4 Vice-President, Internals' Report

Presented by Sophia Spitman

3.5 Vice-President, Operations' Report

Presented by Sophia Spitman

3.6 Board of Directors' Report

Presented by Samer Zu'mot, Chair of MathSoc's Board of Director.

Supporting Document: [here](#)

4 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 Chair will end the discussion unless the Assembly directs otherwise.

Note: Item 4.4 to 4.6 were previously approved by Council in the April Council Meeting, while awaiting consent from the next General Meeting.

4.1 Plans for the Society in Fall 2020 - President Wang [Discussion]

This is a 30~ minute period for Math Students to share with MathSoc about their concerns/inquiries for the Fall Term. Additionally, it is also a dedicated time for MathSoc to listen to students' suggestions and requests.

4.2 Mathematics Endowment Fund Report - MEF Executive Director Zhang [Decision]

Be it resolved that the MEF General Meeting accepts the report of the MEF Executive Director, including its recommendations.

4.3 MEF Divestment - Vincent Macri [Decision]

This motion was previously submitted by Amanda Morin for the Winter 2020 General Meeting.

Whereas The Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF) funds are invested as part of the pooled endowment funds, these funds hold fossil fuels investments, and carbon and climate risks impacts the entire university community; and

Whereas the MEF constitution (section 3.1.2)¹ empowers MEF to make recommendations to the University on the management of our funds”; and

Whereas the scientific and international community have reached a consensus that a climate that can support civilization requires global temperature increases to remain below 2°C warmer than the pre-industrial average², and that this requires leaving between 60-80% of existing fossil fuels reserves unburned³; and

Whereas these ‘unburnable’ fossil fuel reserves are currently valued as if they will all be burned, at as much as \$20 trillion⁴; the value of fossil fuel companies and their business models are based on plans to burn these reserves; maintaining a livable climate requires building a consensus that these reserves will be stranded while accepting their financial valuations is accepting climate catastrophe; and

Whereas the University of Waterloo has tens of millions invested in the fossil fuel industry, including oil, gas and energy transportation companies⁵; and

Whereas in response to this urgent crisis, major endowments, foundations and pensions have pledged to divest funds valued at \$2.6 trillion from fossil fuels⁶, and by doing so are demonstrating this divestment is practically feasible.

Whereas the membership of MEF includes all University of Waterloo Undergraduate Mathematics Students, which is the same as the membership of the Mathematics Society, represented here at the General Meeting of the Society; then

Be it resolved that we, the members of MEF, affirm that our funds should not be invested in the fossil fuel industry, including oil, gas, coal and pipeline companies, who by maintaining that unburnable carbon reserves are worth trillions, are most responsible for perpetuating climate change; and

Be it further resolved that we, the members of MEF request that MEF recommend the following to the University Board of Governors:

That the University of Waterloo fully and regularly disclose carbon liabilities and the extent of MEF’s investment in the fossil fuel industry, including oil, gas, coal and energy transportation companies for MEF’s endowment.

¹ “Constitution of the Mathematics Endowment Fund (MEF)” (Mathematics Endowment Fund), <https://uwaterloo.ca/math-endowment-fund/board-directors/constitution>.

² “Copenhagen Accord: Framework Convention on Climate Change” (United Nations, December 18, 2009), <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/l07.pdf>.

³ “Unburnable Carbon 2013: Wasted Capital and Stranded Assets | Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment” (Carbon Tracker Initiative & Grantham Research Institute, 2014), <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/PB-unburnable-carbon-2013-wasted-capital-stranded-assets.pdf>.

⁴ Brad Johnson, “The \$20 Trillion Carbon Bubble: Interview With John Fullerton, Part One,” *ThinkProgress*, March 26, 2012, <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/03/26/432617/the-20-trillion-carbon-bubble-interview-with-john-fullerton-part-one/>.

⁵ “Investment Exposure in Energy Sector”, September 30, 2019, mathnews.uwaterloo.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Energy-Exposure-Report-as-at-Q3.pdf.

⁶ “Measuring the Growth of the Global Fossil Fuel Divestment and Clean Energy Investment Movement” (Divest-Invest, 2015), <http://divestinvest.org/2015report/>.

Be it further resolved that we, the members of MEF request the University of Waterloo commit to divesting MEF's endowment from the fossil fuel industry, including oil, gas and energy transportation companies within the next five years, and direct its fund manager to develop a plan to do so; to reflect that the membership of MEF clearly rejects the financial status quo that values all fossil fuel reserves as if they will be burned; and

Be it further resolved that we, the members of MEF request that the University of Waterloo reinvest in socially responsible, low carbon ventures that safeguard those investments and our collective future; and

Be it further resolved that nothing in this resolution shall be taken as a request contrary to MEF's continued investment as part of the pooled university endowment.

4.4 Fee Increment - President Wang, Councilor Hunte [Decision]

This agenda was previously discussed by Council in

Whereas the following motion was passed at the WUSA Students Council;

Whereas the Students' Council approved the Constitutions of the various constituency Societies of the Federation,

Whereas the Constitution of the Federation of Students, Article 8.7(5)(c) of the Bylaws, provides for the regulation and oversight of the Societies by Council,

Whereas the Mathematics Society's full-time staff salaries have been regraded following Job Description changes to the Business Manager and the broader context of the Federation's organizational restructure and regrading,

Whereas taken together with adjustments for opt-out rates and indexation according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of Canada, a net new cost of \$2.49 is presented, and

Whereas the Mathematics Society Board requests the Students' Council ratify its fee increment as the Society lacks the capacity, under its Constitution, to adjust its fees for fixed salary costs in excess of CPI,

Be it resolved that, notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary, the Students' Council expressly ratifies the increase of the Mathematics Society Fee of \$2.49 to a new total fee of \$14.79, as recommended by the Mathematics Society Board, *[subject to consent by the Mathematics Society General Meeting]*; and

Be it further resolved that the Students' Council directs the Mathematics Society to amend its Constitution to provide avenues for adjustment of fees for fixed costs imposed by salaried staff

Whereas all WUSA Mathematics Councilors present at the meeting voted in favour of this motion; then

Be it resolved that the General Meeting consents to the increase of \$2.54 to the MathSoc Fee, for a new total fee of \$14.79.

4.5 Ratification of Bylaw Changes - President Wang, Councilor Hunte [Decision]

Whereas the Society was tasked to change its bylaws to more easily allow it to internally handle fee increments by the WUSA Students Council; and

Whereas following this requirement, the MathSoc Board of Directors and Council both approved the following amendment to Article 5.1(2) of the MathSoc Bylaws;

“The amount of the MathSoc Fee may be adjusted only through one of the following two mechanisms:

[...]

2. Modified or removed by a referendum, or by Council and ratified by a General Meeting, held in accordance with these bylaws.”

Be it resolved that Article 5.1(2) of the Bylaws are amended as follows;

5.1 Membership Fee

The Society shall levy a membership fee to either be collected by the University as a portion of student fees, or paid directly to the Society. Some members are exempt from having to pay the membership fee, as defined elsewhere in this document.

The amount of the MathSoc Fee may be adjusted only through one of the following two mechanisms:

1. Once per Fall term, by a resolution of the Board of Directors, specifying an adjustment of a percentage equal to or less than the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Canada in the previous calendar year according to Statistics Canada. This increase is subject to ratification at the next General Meeting; or
2. Modified or removed by a referendum, or by Council and ratified by a General Meeting, held in accordance with these bylaws.

If a student has arranged fee payment to the satisfaction of the University and the arranged fees include the fee for a given term, then that student is considered to have paid the fee for that term, regardless of whether or not the Society has received the funds.

Members of the Society have the right to request a fee refund within any procedures set out by a decision of the Society. If they are not exempt from paying the membership fee, then upon submitting a refund request, their rights as members cease, but they are entitled to receive the refund only if they have not in the interim used any services of the Society.

4.6 Bylaw Amendments - Councilor Hunte, Councilor Sharma [Decision]

Whereas sections of the Bylaws are not aligned with current practices; and

Whereas the Society exists to represent all Mathematics undergraduate students at the University as members of the Society; and

Whereas there is a need to stratify services provided to members by status as paid or otherwise; then

Be it resolved that Council approves, and recommends to Board the approval of the following changes to Article 5 of the Bylaws, to be ratified at the next General Meeting:

5.1 Membership Fee

The Society shall levy a membership fee to either be collected by the University as a portion of student fees, or paid directly to the Society. Some members are exempt from having to pay the membership fee, as defined elsewhere in this document.

The amount of the MathSoc Fee may be adjusted only through one of the following two mechanisms:

1. Once per Fall term, by a resolution of the Board of Directors, specifying an adjustment of a percentage equal to or less than the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Canada in the previous calendar year according to Statistics Canada. This increase is subject to ratification at the next General Meeting; or
2. Modified or removed by a referendum held in accordance with these bylaws.

If a student has arranged fee payment to the satisfaction of the University and the arranged fees include the fee for a given term, then that student is considered to have paid the fee for that term, regardless of whether or not the Society has received the funds.

~~Members of the Society have the right to request a fee refund within any procedures set out by a decision of the Society. If they are not exempt from paying the membership fee, then upon submitting a refund request, their rights as members cease, but they are entitled to receive the refund only if they have not in the interim used any services of the Society.~~

Council is expressly empowered to regulate through policy or procedure the rights of persons who do not pay the membership fee, exempting their status as members, and to form procedures governing fee opt-outs or refunds, where applicable.

5.7 Associated Membership

The associated membership shall consist of all persons who would be voting members had they paid the Society membership fee.

4.7 Councilor Discounts - Speaker Schwarze (on behalf of Council)

Whereas within the Bylaws there exists the provision that Councilors shall not receive remuneration for serving as a Councilor, except for discounts; and

Whereas the provision of a 10% discount at all WUSA commercial operations is provided to members of WUSA Council; and

Whereas with the exemption of a General Meeting or a Referendum, Council is tasked with setting the policies of the Society, meaning that Council would normally be the appropriate body to approve items such as discounts on a policy basis; and

Whereas in recognition of work done by past, present and future Councilors as a token of appreciation, MathSoc Council passed the following motion;

Be it resolved that Council approves, and requests the Board consider an item to bring into effect the provision of a 10% discount at the CnD for all Councilors.

And whereas the Board did not bring this into effect; and

Whereas this decision of the Board does not affect the original position that Councilors are deserving of recognition for their work; then

Be it resolved that the General Meeting approves, and requires the Board to bring into effect the provision of a 10% discount at the CnD for all Councilors.

4.8 Requirement for the Chair of MathSoc's Board of Directors - Councilor Sharma, Chair Zu'mot [Information/Decision]

Whereas, the Chair of the Board of Director is responsible for facilitating the Board of Director meetings;

Whereas, the only qualifications for the chair should be understanding of the Bylaws, policies, Robert Rules, and prior experience with the MathSoc Board;

Whereas Bylaw 8.9 states that the Chair must be a Director;

Whereas this is an unnecessary condition for otherwise qualified candidates;

Whereas the Board of Directors agree with such sentiment; and

Whereas the Board of Directors passed a motion at a special board meeting recommending the General meeting to amend the Bylaws and instead say the Chair must be a current or past Director;

BIRT, General Meeting amends Bylaw 8.9 to and replaces "The Chair of the Society must be a Director." with "the Chair of the Society must be a current or Past Director"

4.9 Appointment of 12-month At-Large Board Members - Chair Zu'mot [Decision]

Be it resolved that the General Meeting appoints _____ and _____, based on the recommendation [presented](#).

5 New Business

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

5.1 Modernisation of Director Eligibility Requirements - Speaker Schwarze, Councillor Hunte [Decision]

To not disqualify the otherwise most qualified applicants from serving as Directors for such meritless reasons as age in circumstances where it is not vital to the role.

Whereas it is in the best interests of MathSoc to have the most qualified individuals serving on its Board of Directors; and

Whereas Article 6.7 of the MathSoc Bylaws discriminates against and prohibits MathSoc members from volunteering their services to MathSoc because of their age and nothing else; and

Whereas MathSoc is not a legal entity subject to the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, and thus is not mandated to have any such age requirement; and

Whereas similar societies at the University of Waterloo do not have any such age requirement for serving on their Boards of Directors; then

Be it resolved that Article 6.7 (Eligibility Requirements) of the MathSoc Bylaws be amended as follows:

6.7 Eligibility Requirements

~~In order to serve as a Director, an applicant must be 18 years of age or older.~~

In order to serve as an at-large Director, the applicant must be a current voting member of the Society.

If a Director or Director-elect fails to meet these requirements, then they do not lose their seat automatically, but may be removed from their seat by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

No member shall occupy more than one voting seat on the Board of Directors in the same term simultaneously.

5.2 MathNews' Operations and Finances Presentation and Discussion -VP Jia [Discussion]

Whereas MathNews is a long-standing tradition at UW Faculty of Math; and

Whereas MathNews is student funded; and

Whereas MathNews' MOU Renewal will be underway before the Fall semester;

MathNews' Editor In-Chief, James Anderson, is invited to the General Meeting to present MathNews' operation, plans going forward and financial position. The discussion for attendees can include their input on MathNews' operations, funding amendments, plans going forward.

6 Announcements

7 Adjournment

The meeting is scheduled to be adjourned at 6:00 pm EDT.

Relevant Documents

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