Mathematics Society

Board of Directors

Friday, March 26, 2021 @ 6:00 PM (EDT)

Google Meet

Speaker	Harleen Bhandal (Chair)
Secretary	Carolyn Wang (Secretary)
Attendees	Angela Wang-Lin (VPA), Cody Halden (VPF), Anna Li (VPI), Matthew Schwarze (Director), Abhiraj Lamba (Director), Josué Kurke (Director), Terry Kuang (*Pro-tempore* Director), Yuqian Wang (*Pro-tempore* Director), Daniel Huab (Councillor Representative), Jake Riesenkonig (Community Representative)
**** Non-voting**	**Rose Penner (Business Manager), **Colleen Richter (Dean's Delegate), **Natalia Manturowicz (Council Secretary), **Kanan Sharma (WUSA VPOF Designate), **Mary Sybersma (Council Speaker), **Catherine Dong (Undergrad Student Sen.)
Expected Absences	Jeffrey Tse (President), Michelle Wang (VPO)

1 Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Be it resolved that the meeting is called to order at 6:05 PM (EDT).

1.2 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."

Consent

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Be it resolved that the Board approves the agenda for this meeting as presented.

> *Motion:* Chair Bhandal motions to move item 5.1 to the beginning of General Orders, seconded by Director Kurke

Motion passes unanimously

Secretary note: this was motioned so the guests don't have to stay for the entire meeting

1.4 Approval of the Minutes - Chair Bhandal, VP Halden

Be it resolved that the Board approves the public minutes for the 2021-01-24 meeting as presented.

A few corrections were presented (Director Kuang's absence as he was not informed of the meeting, item 5.2 was stricken from the agenda, 5.4 refers to Chair Bhandal as Speaker Bhandal, and Speakers are unable to motion items so the motioners must be adjusted)

> *Motion:* Chair Bhandal motions to table approval until minutes are updated and approved at the April Board meeting, seconded by VPF Halden.

Motion passes unanimously with one abstention.

2 Reports

Executive Reports

President, VPA, VPF, VPI, VPO, Business Manager, Chair

President, *as presented*

Secretary note: President Tse was not present to give an oral report due to time zone differences.

Secretary note: Director Schwarze joins the meeting at 6:15 PM EDP

VPA, *as presented*

VPA Wang-Lin has been having meetings on the MathSoc Mentorship program's next steps, and discussing handing the initiative off to be run by the Faculty.

Director Wang voices concern over giving power to the Faculty since the program was meant to be by students for students. Council Rep. Huab explains that the reason it would be handed off to Faculty is because there's no incentive for a student to run it, and if it were given to the Faculty to run it could be done justice to and run properly with more attention.

Chair Bhandal suggests bringing up the issue at Council to see if there are any structural changes to be made.

Director Schwarze supports handing the project off to Faculty as long as the Mentorship Program Leadership team doesn't think the quality of the program will decrease. He notes that WUSA also creates services where it sees fit with hopes of handing the initiatives off to the University when possible.

Council Rep. Huab clarifies that they are pushing to have a new Faculty member or Co-op student run the program.

Director Wang asks the Executive team if they have a plan to address anti-Asian racism in light of recent events. Shares concern over how this could impact the society's standing with the Asian student community. She notes that there was a general sentiment to release a statement before the General Meeting tomorrow. VPA Wang-Lin says she can pen a statement before the meeting.

Director Wang clarifies that the statement doesn't need to be broadcasted at the GM, and could also be released on social media. VPOF Designate Sharma adds that the statement should not be rushed and that thoughtfulness should be prioritized. He suggests releasing a statement expressing that the society is working on a statement and internal review on how to support students. Director Wang agrees and Chair Bhandal suggests that the discussion be taken offline.

VPF, *as presented*

Budgets for Spring 2019, Fall 2019, and Winter 2020 are on the MathSoc website, and the budget for Spring 2018 should be up shortly. No issues with the MathSoc Zoom license. The Membership Committee had its first meeting and VPF Halden has had tasks designated to him.

Secretary note: Director Kuang joins the meeting at 6:24 PM EDT

VPOF Designate Sharma asks whether the budgets on the website are audited in the manner that is conducted by MathSoc at the end of each term; VPF Halden clarifies that the budgets are audited as in ready to be put on the website as the actual amounts were referenced to the accounting system. The budgets may not reflect the internal budget but the figures are from WUSA.

VPI

The Math Graduate Committee is looking for applicants for Valedictorian and for the J Allen George award, and since convocation for Spring term will be online, the committee is looking for two valedictorians to host the event and give the speech. Fall term plans have yet to be set.

There are events upcoming and VPI Li has been making posts on social media to advertise them, as well as for other initiatives.

VPO

Secretary note: VPO Wang was not present at the meeting as she was writing a midterm

Business Manager*, as presented*

The committee for CnD renovations had its first meeting, discussing funds to be raised for this initiative. The committee is looking to conduct a student survey to get feedback on what students would like to see. The MathSoc office renovation is coming a bit slower than anticipated.

Regarding the President's Scholarship, Business Manager Penner got in touch with SAFA staff, however after discussing with them there is still no recommendation on how to proceed.

Regarding MathSoc Cartoons, Gavin and Ava recommend having a contract for the writers in addition to the artists. Currently the situation is sitting with WUSA Legal to review.

Chair, *as presented*

There are two applications for directorship with the Board, they are on the agenda for the General Meeting.

Chair Bhandal had a meeting with the Executive Appointment Committee to go over application timelines. She adds that due to her likely presidency next term, there may be a conflict of interest with her chairing the Exec Appointment Committee and asks for input from the Board.

VPOF Designate Sharma and Director Kurke agree that it is a conflict of interest.

> *Motion:* Director Wang motions to select a new chair, VPA Wang-Lin seconds.

Whereas the Chair of the Board is the default chair of the Executive Appointment Committee,
Whereas Harleen Bhandal is the current Chair of the Board,
Whereas Chair Bhandal is running for President for the Spring 2021 school term,
Whereas Board recognize it is a conflict of interest,
~~BIRT the Board appoints _________ as the Chair of the Spring 2021 Executive Appointment Committee.~~
BIRT the Board appoints Cody Halden as the Chair of the Spring 2021 Executive Appointment Committee.

VPF Halden self-nominates.

> *Motion:* Director Wang motions to fill in the blank with VPF Halden's name, Director Kurke seconds.

Motion passes unanimously with abstentions from Chair Bhandal and Director Lamba.

Motion passes unanimously with abstentions from Chair Bhandal, Director Lamba, and VPF Halden.

3 Unfinished Business (10 minute for each discussion)

3.1 Approval the Council Constituency Seats for 2021 - Chair Bhandal, VP Wang-Lin

Submitted by Mary Sybersma

Whereas the By-laws requires the Board to reattribute and approve the number of seats for each Council constituency each Fall;
Whereas this has yet to be completed;
Whereas Speaker Sybersma has used the procedure outline in the bylaws to determine the Council Constituency Seats Allocation for the 2021;
BIRT the Board approves the Council Constituency Seats Allocation for the 2021 year as presented.

VPOF Designate Sharma asks why there are still only 5 seats for First Year students given the large population this year, Speaker Sybersma clarifies that the numbers were calculated based on the Winter 2020 term but can easily be changed depending on how the Society would like to accommodate this year's student population numbers. VPOF Designate Sharma notes that the bylaws would dictate that this term's numbers be used for next year's calculations, however Chair Bhandal suggests that reflecting numbers as accurately as possible is important so using last term's numbers might be better. It is noted that Board, Council, and GM have the power to suspend Bylaws on a term-by-term basis.

Speaker Sybersma notes that the Bylaws don't specify which term's numbers to use which gives flexibility to the calculations,

A straw-poll is conducted to see if Board is in favour of using the Winter 2020 student population numbers, and sees a unanimous yes.

Motion passes unanimously.

4 General Orders

5.1 The GoldenHack MoU [Discussion] - Chair Bhandal, Director Kurke

Submitted by Rose Penner

Whereas Mary Sybersma, Cody Halden, Abhiraj Lamba, and Josué Kurke as well as Business Manager Rose Penner worked with with Julia Liu (MathSoc W21 Business Rep) and Tailai Wang (MathSoc W21 CS Rep) to draft an MOU as presented;
BIRT the Board approves this as the first draft of the MOU.

BIFRT the Board tasks Mary Sybersma, Cody Halden, Abhiraj Lamba, and Josué Kurke as well as Business Manager Rose Penner to work with with Julia Liu (MathSoc W21 Business Rep) and Tailai Wang (MathSoc W21 CS Rep) to implement changes suggested by the Board and bring the MOU to Board again for a second reading.

*Updated GoldenHack Constitution

Director Lamba points out that items 5 and 6 from article 4 are in conflict with item 2.5 in the MOU. Tailai clarifies that 4.5 has been amended so that there's no conflict and 4.6 exists because in order to be a Laurier Student Union club, the president must be a Laurier student, with no room for discussion and adds that so far the President has always been a double degree student. Director Wang adds that this is not necessarily a contradiction since a double degree student based in Lauried would still be a UW student and asks whether there have been students from other programs who have held Executive positions (as opposed to all Exec positions being held by double degree students). Julia states that there are Execs who are purely Laurier students and purely UW students.

VPOF Designate Sharma asks whether it would be possible for the other President to need to be a UW student so that our student body gets equal representation. Tailai says that the length of the presented MOU is two years, during which the President will likely be a double degree student, and that in the next iteration further requirements could be included and the club registered under WUSA as well.

Community Representative Reisenkonig notes that the argument rests on a large assumption on the future Presidents, and this could set a precedent where MathSoc formally supports a group that isn't fully inclusive of them. He asks how the GoldenHacks team would address this. Tailai explains that at first they were looking to get registered as a MathSoc club, but ultimately decided that the affiliation route was more appropriate based on information about the attendees and the fact that the event runs once a year. The current President is a double degree student signed for the next year and the next President has unofficially been decided and is also a double degree student (the President's term lasts for two years).

Director Wang asks whether affiliates are also bound to WUSA club rules, Jake clarifies that the clubs system was used as a trial and error run where clubs were nurtured through WUSA to determine feasibility. In response to Tailai's point, Jake clarifies that the precedent is that MathSoc accepts these unofficial 'decisions' as formal justification.

Chair Bhandal suggests adding a clause saying that the current MOU isn't exactly as desired and that it will be amended if renewed.

VPOF Sharma states that there might be issues becoming a club under both universities and asks if the Goldenhacks team would be against requiring that there be two presidents so that both universities' requirements are fulfilled, to which Tailai responds that it might be a bit preemptive to do so. Kanan expresses concern over the situation being unfair to MathSoc's constituents since any Laurier student may be President but only double degree students from Waterloo may.

Jake says that the easiest way to satisfy both universities is to have two separate clubs which affiliate together. He adds that it's easier to become a WUSA club than a MathSoc affiliate, and that being a WUSA club would make it much easier to become a MathSoc affiliate. Kanan also adds that it takes approx. two months to become a club.

Tailai says that the timeline is a bit too long for them to become a WUSA club since they want to fundraise from companies as an affiliate of the two universities. Jake maintains that it would be easier to go the WUSA club route. He feels for their struggle but it's not reasoning for MathSoc to bend their principles since the structure of the Goldenhacks organisations isn't inclusive of UW Math students. He adds that MathSoc generally likes to have their clubs vetted and kinds worked out with WUSA before becoming a Faculty club.

Ina suggests reaching out to the WUSA Clubs manager as a start.

Julia clarifies that the main concern with the MOU is item 4.6 not being inclusive of MathSoc students and that the MOU approval would occur via a Board vote (if at all).

Tailai proposes a straw poll to answer the question: If the Goldenhacks team came back with an updated MOU with item 4.6 amended would the voting members of the Board approve the MOU? The straw poll indicated that the Board would vote yes in majority.

Motion passes unanimously.

4.1 Changing the Composition of Council - Chair Bhandal, Director Wang
Submitted by Mary Sybersma
Whereas in the Winter 2021 elections, there more candidates than seats for some constituencies; and
Whereas after the By-election Council still had empty seats;
Whereas it is beneficial to obtain as much student feedback as possible;

Whereas it is important to ensure the Council remains representative of the entire undergraduate mathematics populace;
Whereas Council discussed this item and was in favour of making changes to the Composition of Council and by-election process;
Whereas changing the composition of Council would require a bylaw change;
BIRT the Board discusses the viability of changing the by-election process to introduce the at-large councilor role in by-elections for Council seats.

VPOF Sharma thinks the change could be good but could also result in a large number of councillors from one particular program, creating bias. Speaker Sybersma notes that students still get first dibs at their allocated seats, and that this amendment aims just to promote participation.

Director Lamba asks how we ensure that the at large counsellors are representing at large students (as opposed to students of their program). He brings up Bylaw 7.7 and a potential additional officer to ensure the interests of the at large counsellors. VPOF Sharma thinks this proposal won't work since councillors are supposed to have office hours but they aren't really attended or held.

Speaker Sybersma adds that there are not many program-specific initiatives and that Council pretty much approves everything clubs ask for anyways. Most Council matters are about MathSoc, not a particular program.

Chair Bhandal suggests capping the maximum number of seats any program can have.

Director Lamba suggests that the number of at large seats be set after the election so that people in any program still have the first shot at filling that program's seats. Director Wang notes that at least one seat would've been reserved for the students of any particular program (even if unfilled) before these proposed amendments.

Council Representative Huab adds that if the concern is about overrepresentation of Computer Science students, they are underrepresented in terms of the ratios within the student body. If the concern is due to funding bias for clubs, budget meetings happen before by-elections so this wouldn't be a concern. VPOF Designate Sharma confirms this timeline, but adds that it's easy for anyone to submit a motion to increase a club's budget and that we are only restricting voting power since anyone can voice concerns.

Secretary note: Community Representative Reisenkonig leaves the meeting at 7:45 PM EDT.

Business Manager Penner suggests that conflicts of interest are psoted so that if a motion pertains to a particular program, only the original number of designated seats' worth of councillors may vote.

Director Kurke reiterates that the goal of this amendment is to give people a chance to get involved after the fact. It is valid to be concerned about people taking advantage of this maliciously, but that is unlikely to happen and Council can always do a trial run if people are worried. Chair Bhandal also notes that Board oversees Council spending.

Director Wang adds that part of the concern is about the timeline; she proposes that the general election be finished by the end of the third month of the previous term so that Board can have an idea of how many seats are still vacant so that an election can be run immediately when the term starts and Council established by the second or third week.

VPOF Designate Sharma suggests that the general election be kept as-is and that if there are still vacancies, Council be allowed to fill them so that everyone has had two elections to try and get involved.

Director Lamba proposes that at-large councillor elections occur simultaneously with the by-election, but the number of seats not assigned until the election is over.

> *Motion:* Director Wang motions to extend the meeting to 8:30 PM EDT, Chair Bhandal seconds.

Motion passes unanimously with one abstention.
Director Wang notes that she votes in favour.

> *Motion:* Chair Bhandal motions to table this order until the next board meeting. Director Lamba seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

4.2 Amending Definition of term - Chair Bhandal, Director Kurke
Submitted by Mary Sybersma
Whereas due to COVID-19 the first day of classes has been much later than normal; and
Whereas exams are still starting at about the same time; and
Whereas MathSoc does not often host meetings and generally slows down during the exam period;
Whereas Council discussed this amendment and seemed to be in favour of it;

BIRT the Board supports changing the definition of term to change from: *'A period of time, approximately four months long, from the start of classes or of Orientation week in one term as defined by the Senate of the University, until the day before the start of next term'* to *'A period of time, four months long, from the first of January, May or September.'*

Speaker Sybersma clarifies that the current definition means to include Orientation week in the fall term. Director Lamba clarifies that Winter and Spring have been defined as this motion proposes already.

Chair Bhandal says that Execs might not want to (or be on campus to) start on the first of the term, however VPOF Designate Sharma notes that MathSoc has been lacking in presence in Orientation week which is difficult and confusing for the organizers. Council Rep. Huab adds that if the Execs can't or are unable to start so early it's okay but this new definition gives the new Execs a chance to participate early if they choose, to which Director Wang adds that the Execs can always send designates in their place. VPA Wang-Lin adds that the extra time could be used for transitions and that it's only fair that the terms (and thus time served by Execs) is split evenly. Director Kurke adds that clearly most things can be done online so Execs should be able to transition online as well.

Speaker Sybersma notes that, very rarely, Orientation can start before September and clarifies that the Bylaw definition is the beginning of September, not the beginning of September OR Orientation. Director Kurke says that the beginning of September is fine for the sake of consistency.

Motion passes unanimously with one abstention.

4.3 Board Procedure 11 - Chair Bhandal, Director Wang
Submitted by Harleen Bhandal
Whereas Procedure 11, the Appointment of Directors, was passed at the August 22, 2020 Board meeting;
Whereas Ina, along with Harleen and Mary were tasked at this meeting to edit this procedure;
Whereas Ina has made substantial edits to the procedure based on the previous discussion;
BIRT the Board approves the amended Procedure as presented.

Director Wang explains that when Procedure 11 was implemented she didn't realize its complexity and since it was based on the WUSA procedure, which operates on an annual basis instead of a yearly one, she wants to simplify it. Sha notes that since the GM has low attendance, this procedure was just trying to promote the open positions earlier so that there are more applications, and also promote involvement. VPOF Designate confirms that no changes have been made to the procedure this term, and adds that since its implementation it hasn't succeeded in being followed due to the large amount of work it creates for volunteers and that there were good candidates before the procedure was implemented anyways.

Business Manager Penner agrees and suggests that the applications from the beginning of the term are kept. Chair Bhandal agrees and suggests collecting applications and information until the General Meeting, where Council can have a quick vetting process before people at the meeting vote.

VPOF Designate Sharma suggests that a form opens a month before the GM, personal information is removed from the responses and the entire package sent to the GM agenda, where people interested in reading and voting can do so. He notes the large amount of work being placed on volunteers and that this may be the reason for low retention. (Director Kurke adds that 'so much work falls on the Chair that they're basically a couch')

Director Wang proposes to eliminate the application process but thinks a procedure should be kept in place for extenuating circumstances, and to amend the motion ro remove articles C to E.

> *Motion:* Chair Bhandal motions to table this motion until the next meeting, seconded by Director Wang.

Motion passes unanimously.

> *Motion:* Director Wang motions to table items 4.4, 4.5, and 5.2 until the next meeting for the sake of time. Director Kuang seconds.

Motion passes unanimously with 2 abstentions.

~~*4.4 Fall 2020 Executive Honorarium Approval -*~~

~~Submitted by Yuqian (Ina) Wang~~

~~**Whereas** the Fall 2020 Executive Evaluation Committee presents the following report, along with the individual self-evaluations;~~

~~**BIRT** the Board approves $_______ as the Fall 2020 President Honorarium for Matthew Schwarze;~~

~~**BIFRT** the Board approves $_______ as the Fall 2020 VPA Honorarium for Harleen Bhandal;~~

~~**BIFRT** the Board approves $_______ as the Fall 2020 VPI Honorarium for Harsh Shekar;~~

~~**BIFRT** the Board approves $_______ as the Fall 2020 VPO Honorarium for Mary Sybersma;~~

~~**BIFRT** the Board approves $_______ as the Fall 2020 VPF Honorarium for Terra Rae.~~

~~*4.5 Appointment of Winter 2021 Executive Evaluation Committee - Chair Bhandal*~~

~~Submitted by Harleen Bhandal~~

~~**Whereas** an Executive Evaluation Committee needs to be formed for the Winter 2021 term.~~
~~**Whereas** the By-Law requires 3 full members of the Society, 1 of whom shall chair the committee, 1 past Executive of the Society, 2 currently sitting members of MathSoc Council, and 1 representative from the Dean's Office as a non-voting member (currently Colleen Richter);~~
~~**Whereas** Council nominates *Mary Sybersma* and *Daniel Lu* to be the council representatives in the Executive Evaluation Committee for the Winter 2021 term.~~
~~**BIRT** Board ratifies Council nominations and appoints ______, _______, and _______ as voting members for the Winter 2021 Executive Evaluation Committee, with ______ as the chair of the committee.~~

5 New Business

Any new business may be brought up here.

~~*5.2 President's Scholarship [Discussion] -*~~

~~Submitted by Rose Penner~~

~~**Whereas** the Board discussed the future of the President's Scholarship at the February 2021 Board Meeting in light of the WUSA Accountants and Auditors warning the Board that CRA may see the scholarship as an attempt to bypass income tax;~~
~~**Whereas** Student Awards & Financial Aid (SAFA) has concluded that the proposed MathSoc President's Scholarship does not qualify as a Scholarship or Award that can be created and offered through the University;~~
~~**Whereas** WUSA's General Accountant has commented that the University does not allow honorariums to exceed $500, with the exception of Orientation, and recommends that we salary the amount and provide T4A for the taxable amount;~~
~~**BIRT** the Board decides how to proceed with promised scholarships to past MathSoc Presidents, Ina Wang, Matthew Nicholas Schwarze and Jeffrey Tse;~~
~~**BIFRT** the Board determines how to proceed with the President's Scholarship moving forward, if at all.~~

6 Announcements

MathSoc Winter 2021 General Meeting at 10:30 AM EST on March 27th, 2021.

7 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM (EDT).