

AMS-ASA-AWM-IMS-MAA-NCTM-SIAM
Joint Committee for Women in the Mathematical Sciences
Minutes from Annual Meeting
September 25, 2010
Chicago O'Hare Hilton
Draft – updated Jan. 5, 2011

Attending: Indrani Basak (ASA; Penn State Altoona), Sandra Clarkson (ASA; Hunter College), K. Renee Fister (SIAM; Murray State), Susan Hermiller (AMS; University of Nebraska), Eriko Hironaka (AMS; Florida State), Terrell Hodge (AWM; Western Michigan University), Tanya Leise (MAA; Amherst College), Maura Mast (AWM; University of Massachusetts Boston), Gerald Porter (MAA; University of Pennsylvania), Mary Silber (SIAM; Northwestern University)

Not present: Carolyn Connell (MAA; Westminster College), Priscilla Greenwood (IMS; Arizona State University), Amy Langville (AMS; College of Charleston), Nicole Lazar (ASA; University of Georgia), Xihong Lin (IMS; Harvard School of Public Health), Lynda Wiest (NCTM; University of Nevada)

1. The members of the committee introduced themselves briefly. This led to a discussion of current information about the status of women in mathematics and what activities the different societies do regarding this. For example: AWM did a survey about the two-body problem and the number of women who had a partner who was an academic; Chemistry and CS societies have done similar surveys; and there is a study from Stanford that looked at this, called “Dual Career Academic Couples: What Universities Need to Know” (<http://www.stanford.edu/group/gender/ResearchPrograms/DualCareer/DualCareerFinal.pdf>).
2. Next question: how can we help people at teaching-oriented institutions, that is, help them to know how to “make it work”? Do the societies primarily focus on research and Research I institutions? ASA – focus is industry and government but they have the Caucus for Women in Statistics (<http://www.caucusforwomeninstatistics.com/>) and a Committee for Women (see <http://www.amstat.org/committees/cowis/>). These groups give out scholarships, sponsor a meeting for first time attendees at meetings, have a breakfast discussion, take the initiative to provide childcare support for meetings, nominate women for prizes and for Fellows positions. SIAM also focuses on industry and government, along with having a real research focus. But they do try to do outreach and there is an education component to the work of the society. There is a diversity committee, but no committee on women. New partnership with AWM features reciprocal memberships. The MAA has the Committee on the Participation of Women – this committee has some data but has not moved ahead with analyzing it yet. Should the chair of this committee be a member of JCW? Brief discussion about whether or not AMATYC should be included in JCW as well as ISI, the International Statistical Institute.

Action item: Make a formal recommendation that there be intersection among JCW and the women's committees in the member societies.

There was also a discussion about the JCW membership, with the suggestion that it be more representative of mathematics in that more men be included on the committee.

Action items:

- *When we communicate with our member societies, we should request that men be considered for JCW.*
- *We recommend that the AMS appoint a representative to JCW who is also a member of the AMS Council. Similarly, we recommend that the MAA appoint a representative to JCW who is also a member of the MAA Board of Governors.*
- *We recommend that the chair of the Committee for the Participation of Women (in MAA) be an MAA representative to JCW*
- *JCW should work with the member societies to coordinate more transition among committee members, perhaps staggering the representatives from different societies so that there is some continuity from year to year.*

3. Data: Sandi talked about the Joint Data Committee and issues regarding JCW's access to data. The Joint Data Committee may be able to work with JCW to obtain data, so the question is what data do we want? We had some data about membership, speakers and awards, but it was in bits and pieces. Discussion: You have to tell people why we're collecting the data – there need to be good reasons. We have data – from the AMS. Can't we look at that? What trends do we see? And is our charge to collect data or to present data? Could we break this down in to short-term and long-term goals? It comes back to the question of what data we want and what questions we want to look at. Suggestion: we should proceed carefully. Let's do an overview of the literature to find out what is known already. Then we have a firm background. Some suggested topics:

- Dual career couples: what your university/organization is doing to support your spouse;
- Look at Marie Vitulli's updated "Are women getting all the jobs?" article (<http://pages.uoregon.edu/wmmath/Statistics/AreWomen2.html>) – does that generate any questions?
- Parental leave policies
- Support for childcare

Suggestion: couldn't we get together a list of best practices and work with the data committee to ask institutions which ones they follow? The ADVANCE portal probably lists best practices.

Action item: Terrell offered to look at their site to see what could work from that. Susan, Tanya and Jerry agreed to also work with her.

Other ideas: Organize a workshop or information session. Example: on the topic of the book “Women don’t ask”. Renee had been at a workshop at the Math Bio meeting where they talked about this. Could we organize a workshop on negotiation, along the lines of: “In Academia you don’t get what you deserve, you get what you negotiate”.

Action Item: Tanya will suggest sponsoring such a workshop with Project NExT.

4. Review action items from Sept. 2009 meeting.

The panel at JMM 2010 went very well. Maura will try to get the slides to Sandi to put on the JCW website.

There was a lengthy discussion about the panel planned for the Joint Math Meetings in 2011. The conversation eventually settled on idea of noting the 40th anniversary of JCW with the topic of looking at women in math and statistics, then and now. The idea is that the panelists will consider issues that they have faced and will talk about which issues are still with us. What have we learned about the question “can women do math?” It would have a reflective, retrospective focus and also address challenges for the future. Maura agreed to work with Terrell in organizing the panel and getting the description to the AMS. Mary suggested that planning for the 2012 panel begin at the 2011 Joint meetings.

The group also talked about the new JCW website, located at www.jcw-math.org. Sandi has reorganized and updated the website and is now looking to pass this work along to someone else on the committee. Possibly Amy could take it over – Maura and Sandi will talk with her.

5. Maura gave an update on the ADVANCE AWARDS meeting that she attended in June 2010. At this meeting, representatives from seven professional societies met to talk about their awards processes and how they could be improved. Could this information be made available on a broader scale – to departments, for example? Can we post it on our website? Could we get a program like this on the agenda for the Chairs meeting, either sponsored by MAA or AMS? Susan suggested that we present this to the AMS, perhaps the AMS representatives could organize a recommendation, run it by JCW, and present it to AMS? Then the MAA representatives could do the same.

6. Tanya was elected new co-chair, as Sandi’s term will end in February 2011.

7. Wrap up and plans for next year:

- We will meet in Chicago in 2011 on Saturday, September 24. This will include dinner with the AMS Committee on the Profession.
- Note AWM 40th anniversary conference will be at Brown, September 17 – 18, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Maura Mast
January 2, 2011