

Minutes of WAMATYC Executive Board Meeting

December 12, 2003

The WAMATYC Executive Board met at Whatcom Community College in Bellingham on Friday, December 12, 2003. All four officers (President Doug Mooers, Financial Officer Marjie Vittum-Jones, Information Officer Heidi Ypma, and President-Elect Mike Kenyon) were present. The meeting began at approximately 4:45 p.m.

We began by meeting with Whatcom Dean Richard Fulton, who gave us an update on the statewide math project; he had just returned from a meeting on that topic. He reported that there will be a series of meetings over the next one to two years involving representatives of the state's K-12, community college, and four-year college systems. It appears, he said, that the four-year institutions feel that there is a need to consider redefining what is meant by "college-level" mathematics; in particular, we see the existence of (at least) two groups of students in intermediate algebra. Some students need intermediate algebra in order to go on to more mathematics courses and major in math-dependent fields; others need it only as a prerequisite for a terminal college-level mathematics course. There is also some desire to attempt to agree statewide on mathematics outcomes for any college graduate; this would, presumably, help to address the issue of what constitutes college-level mathematics and why intermediate algebra needs to be a prerequisite for it.

Dean Fulton reported that the day ended with a proposal that the state board summarize the issues and have that summary reviewed by the participants, the provosts of the four-year institutions, and the community college presidents, with the hope of finding funding to continue the discussion. WAMATYC's role should be to make sure that our membership -- i.e., the state's community college mathematics faculty -- is aware of the ongoing discussion and has the opportunity to give input. (It is worth noting that Dean Fulton said that the preparation of mathematics and science majors at the state's community colleges does not appear to be much of an issue, or at least was not much of a factor in the discussion.)

Marjie gave information about our current treasury balance (about \$1100), our current membership figures (86) and the status of the Online Math Directory (which was expected to be functional within the week).

The board made substantial revisions to WAMATYC's by-laws, mainly to clarify when membership begins and ends and to better define the roles of

the officers. These changes, along with others that may be made in Articles 3 and 4, will need to be approved by the membership.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.