

Minutes of the National Numeracy Network (NNN) Board Meeting
preceding the NNN's Annual Program, this year in conjunction with
the Writing with Numbers Workshop
(co-sponsored by Carleton College and Colby-Sawyer College) and
The North East Consortium on Quantitative Literacy (NECQL) Annual Meeting
May 15, 2008
Colby-Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire

In Attendance

Corri Taylor (President)
Milo Schield (Vice President)
Cinnamon Hillyard (Treasurer, via conferencing telephone)
Neil Lutsky (Board Member)
Bernie Madison (President Emeritus)
Dorothy Wallace (Emeritus Board Member, serving as note-taker)
Len Vacher (Emeritus Board Member)
Caren Diefenderfer
Cathy Manduca
Eric Gaze
Semra Kilic-Bahi
Stuart Boersma
Matthew Isom
Don Small
Paola Giacch
Nathan Grawe (late arriving)

I. Approval of Minutes

Last year's formal minutes were taken by Secretary Rebecca Hartzler, who resigned this spring. The minutes being circulated were ones reconstructed by Corri. Milo moved to approve the reconstructed minutes. Neil seconded. Motion passed.

II.A. President's Report

1. Corri expressed the NNN's gratitude to Semra, Neil, and Cathy for their flexibility and teamwork in merging, organizing, and funding the NNN meeting/Writing with Numbers Workshop, originally to be held at Carleton and the NECQL meeting planned for the same weekend at Colby-Sawyer.
2. With Rebecca's resignation from the NNN Board, after being tapped as a dean at SCCC, we need someone to fill her role as Secretary.
3. In September 2007, the NNN entered into a partnership with SERC at Carleton (under the direction of Cathy Manduca) for hosting and content management of the NNN Web site and the USF Libraries (under the direction of Todd Chavez) for the hosting of our journal *Numeracy: Advancing Education in Quantitative Literacy*. The Web site is now up and running with background information

- about the NNN and the QL/QR movement, including seminal papers on the topic and some additional resources. The main goal of the workshop tomorrow is to add more high quality content to the pedagogical resources, this year, focusing on writing assignments. For future meetings, we'd like to continue creating and uploading such resources to the Web site.
4. The journal was successfully launched in January. More on the journal from Len and Dorothy later this meeting.
 5. Now that we have more products to offer, we may be ready to launch a serious membership drive. That will be a subject of discussion.
 6. Important announcement: Nathan Grawe, in his role as director of Carleton's QuIRK initiative, has partnered with Project Kaleidoscope (P-Kal) to run a workshop this coming October for teams of institutions to plan and improve their QR programs.

II.B. Treasurer's Report/Finances

1. See the handout from Cinnamon.
2. All checks have been deposited.
3. The NNN has approximately \$11,400 remaining from the NNN-MAA meeting in Chicago. The funds should be exhausted this year. Bernie noted that the original intent of these funds was to support meetings. We may ask the MAA for an extension on using the funds. Conversation deferred to III G.
4. It costs approximately \$5,000 per year for SERC to support the Web site. Perhaps some of the NNN-MAA funds could support the archiving of meeting records and programs on the Web site.

II.C. Membership Report

Cinnamon has received membership information from Rebecca and will be reconstructing the membership list.

IID. Journal Report

1. The journal went live in January 2008.
2. So far there have been 900 full text downloads of articles from the first issue. Len reports that this is a very good count for a new on-line journal.
3. A dozen more articles are in process – at least in early stages.
4. We are starting to get unsolicited articles now.

III.A. Journal Discussion

1. Neil inquired about advertising the journal (and having funds to do so).
2. Cinnamon noted that there's a special issue from the joint meetings sessions; she will investigate advertising in that issue.

III.B. Web Site Discussion

1. Neil is still the point man for Web site information.

2. Kim R. will take down the NNN info from the Dartmouth site after archiving information such as old NNN Newsletters. We can post those on the new SERC site.
3. Is it possible to generate automatic searches for information on QL-related meetings? If not, certainly a form can be on the site for others to post such meeting details.
4. We would like to post descriptions of QR Programs, starting with NNN member institutions and perhaps expanding to include other schools on Lynn Steen's list of schools with programs. This would help expand the info that Lynn has collected. We could make being listed a privilege of being an NNN member – perhaps that would create an incentive for membership. Cathy will get a form created for these institutional descriptions for the Web site.
5. It would be nice to have a regular column on the Web site – something along the lines of William Safire's NYT's column on language. Eric volunteered to start such a column. Corri volunteered to edit it and post it.
6. We discussed the need for reviewing material submitted to the Web site, especially by folks outside our board. We decided to keep things simple with Neil and Corri acting as gatekeepers for content.
7. Cathy mentioned that if we enable more unsolicited content we may need to develop a protocol for handling/editing materials and dealing with complaints or objections to content.

III.C. Membership Drive

1. We need everyone's help in promoting the NNN's work and in networking with other organizations. Such efforts should help us with our membership efforts. As we develop more offerings – good content on the Web site, our journal, regular meetings, it should be easier to gain members. One issue, though, to work through – most all our “products” are offered for free. What's the incentive for folks to join rather than free-ride?
2. Possible promotional help – a banner with the NNN logo that's at the top of the Web site that could be easily sent to folks who are attending other related conferences.
3. Corri offered to edit the tri-fold and post it on the Web site so that potential members can easily download it and send in for membership in one step.
4. We brainstormed about related organizations and people who could help us network and spread the word about the NNN. Individuals at the board meeting offered to take the lead with the following:
 - a. Annapolis Group (Deans at select colleges) – Corri
 - b. MAA's SIGMAA-QL – Cinnamon
 - c. Math Across the Curriculum – Cinnamon
 - d. Evergreen State – Stuart
 - e. Kay Somers – Caren
 - f. Geoscience – Cathy
 - g. Assessment conference list – Semra
 - h. CAUSE – Cathy and Len

- i. NECQL – Corri
- j. Transitions Math Project – Stuart and Cinnamon
- k. Administrators, AAC&U – ask for help from Terry Rhodes
- l. Pew Consortium for Math and Science – Cathy
- m. National Association of Teacher Educators – Eric
- n. American Conference of Academic Deans -- ?
- o. PMET – Bernie

III.D. Potential Funding Sources

1. Corri has list of potential corporate sponsors that we might approach when ready.
2. Potential for fund raising and outreach by teaming with Teachers as Scholars training programs for K-12 teachers. Perhaps some proportion of proposals for such projects could be directed to NNN.
3. When will NNN be ready to submit our own proposal for NSF or other funding? Could we use some portion of such a grant to support administrative help?
4. Could some institution host the NNN and support an executive director?
5. Neil suggested that the NNN needs a better membership record and a more proven track record of hosting events (workshops, conferences, etc.), more good material on our Website, before we'll get corporate sponsors or big grant support.
6. Corri got a small grant from Wellesley College to support a summer intern to help her collect, organize, and evaluate various Web resources in support of QL. She expects the work to be posted late summer or early fall. (Corri sought the Wellesley grant after she and Bernie did not get the Spencer grant they applied for to do this work.)

III. E. Training K-12 Teachers

1. Teachers-as-Scholars program discussed above.
2. Corri mentioned having run a one-week summer training program for secondary school teachers of mathematics – teaching them how to take a QR approach in their classes (Fairfax County, VA). She suggested that others might try to get grants or direct contracts with local school districts to conduct similar teacher training programs.

III. G. Future Meetings

1. Len said that Lee Zia (NSF) wants ideas on how to connect the PIs with NSF grants on QR. How to coordinate and combine those efforts. One idea is to use Len's NSF supplemental to gather those PIs together for a workshop just before or after the NNN annual meeting.
2. Cathy supported such a meeting and could help get those PIs projects up on the NNN Web site in one location. To do so the meeting would need to take place somewhere with high quality Internet access.
3. Possible locations: Cinnamon offered UW-Bothell campus. Good to have next meeting on West Coast. Corri offered Wellesley College as a back-up location.

4. Timing of meetings: May/June is better than later in the summer for most.
5. Nathan announced that the QL Assessment Strategy workshop, jointly sponsored by Carleton's QuIRK and P-Kal will take place Oct. 12-15 at Carleton. There will be about 20 teams of 3-5 individuals from each institution.

III.H. Board Membership

1. William H. Frey and Richard L. Schaeffer will be coming off the board after having served their terms. We also need to replace Rebecca Hartler who served as our Secretary.
2. Corri nominates Eric Gaze to the board. Milo seconds. Vote passes.
3. Corri nominates Caren Diefenderfer to the board. Neil seconds. Vote passes.
4. Board discussed recombining the roles of Secretary and Treasurer (which had been one position until last year). Caren moves to recombine the roles. Neil seconds. Vote passes.
5. Corri moves that Cinnamon fill the combined role of Secretary/Treasurer. Neil seconds. Vote Passes. Cinnamon will hold this position 2007-2010.
6. Thus the officers are: Corri (President); Milo (VP), Cinnamon (Sec/Treasurer).
Other continuing board members: Neil, John Junck, David Bressoud.
New board members: Caren, Eric.

Meeting adjourned.