

Meeting Minutes
National Numeracy Network Board Meeting
Sunday, October 14, 2012; New York, NY

Attending ...

Board Members: Nathan Grawe, Eric Gaze, Donna Sundre, Sue Mente, Caren Diefenderfer, Carol Overby, Judy Moran

Others: Neil Lutsky, Amber Lambert (NSSE), Ping Wang, Cat McCune, Frank Wang, Esther Wilder, Corrine Taylor, Len Vacher

- I. Minutes of October 16, 2011 NNN Board Meeting (Asheville) were approved
- II. **President's Report**, Caren Diefenderfer

Thanks for those who arranged meetings. Board members expressed that the meetings were very successful—the best NNN meetings yet (Neil). Eric noted the degree of work involved and raised for future discussion the question of independent vs. shared meetings. Special thanks were given to Esther and Frank for organizing our best meeting yet. Len speculated this meeting would mark a turning point in the NNN's history. Len asked if presentation slides could be posted on the webpage.

Thanks to Len & Dorothy for work on *Numeracy*. More detail on progress in report below.

NNN is an academic partner of PKAL/AACU. Agreed to share 2013 meetings in San Diego (they are meeting Oct 31-Nov 2—we could do before, after, or during). Tentatively agreed to collaborate for 2014 as well.

- III. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report**, Nathan Grawe
(See attachment A)

- Proposal to add student meeting registrants as members at a new student rate of \$15. Board directed him to send invitation email noting possibility of institutional support via an institutional membership. Carol moved, Eric seconded, unanimously passed.
- Neil recommended recruiting heavily on West Coast around next year's meeting (noting that East Coast was a big part of this meeting's success).
- Corporate membership discussion: July issue of *Numeracy* will be on financial literacy. Might wait for that to approach banks. Might contact Lynn Steen about early NNN formation meeting attenders—who was there at the start from industry? Could have corporate memberships subsidize high school teacher or graduate student memberships. Group agreed there was value in perusing these relationships. Any conflicts of interest could be dealt with as they arise. Press coverage might help. *Chronicle*? Caren and Corri will work on an article that can be posted on the site, but also can be used to generate potential press coverage.

- Desire for membership list to be available to the list. Nathan will post to listserv a note so that people can opt out and then will send list to the email list. Will also add a directory opt out into the registration process so that we can post that list routinely.

IV. **Website Review**, Caren Diefenderfer
(report attached)

V. **Journal Report**, Len Vacher

- More papers (8) in the mill for this issue than any before (but some are in various stages of review). If all goes well, January will have 5 papers and one note.
- Wider net of reviews and reviews are not as positive as they have been—reviewers are asking for more and more and so quality of end products is rising.
- Some challenges with different disciplinary expectations about what a paper is and what a review process looks like. Not something we need to change, but we need to understand it and continue forward.
- This meeting has already generated one submission and another person has concretely committed to submitting.
- In five years, 83 papers in first five years and 27,640 downloads. In last 12 months there were 13,000—so a one-year doubling rate.
- July issue is a theme collection on financial literacy with guest editors (Audrey Brown, Dorothy, and Anna Lusardi). Five invited papers. Will also include “normal” papers so authors don’t need to wait a full year. The theme papers will be in a specially noted sub-section of the journal.
- Question from Corri: Is there value in continuing themed submissions? Suggests sustainability for Jan 2014.

VI. **Other Old Business**, Caren Diefenderfer

- Listserv activity: Posts per month have been around 5-6. People like that level. Board members were asked to volunteer to commit to posting one or two times in a specific month (see attachment B).
- PKAL sustainability grant update (Corri): Corri introduced SISL statement and moved endorsement (see attachment C). Judy seconded. Len raised question of whether MAA endorsed, noting the question was whether to endorse anything. Neil raised questions of what the statement really meant—could mean little or could mean much, but if much not clear exactly what. Corri said the point was to agree to a definition of sustainability and note its importance. Len noted if we adopt this statement it will reduce NNN’s appeal to some constituencies. Ping argued “sustainability” didn’t really mean anything. Len wondered if NNN would endorse if the word “sustainability” were replaced with “social justice.” Donna felt the definition was non-controversial, but that the endorsing statement would be controversial and while unassailable to her personally didn’t feel entering that controversy was central to the NNN mission. Carol wondered

whether we should ask our members to decide if we wanted to engage in endorsements in general. Nathan suggested we also ask the members how such endorsements should be decided. Neil didn't find the statement controversial, but the statement's title put a more controversial frame onto it. Motion failed. Corri will send the statement for comment to the membership again for comment. And then the board will vote electronically.

VIII. **New Business**

- Eric suggested we nominate in advance of the meetings (at least 2 months) and voting be done by full membership in advance of meetings (at least 1 month). Neil raised a concern about lack of information among general members, resulting in voting based on trivial markers like institution or even name. Noted: The new bylaws will have a nominating committee that can signal an endorsement. Election will be based on majority of those who vote. Len noted this is more in line with what major organizations do. Caren and Corri will build this into the bylaws (which still have to be voted on from last year) and we will vote on this issue via conference call.
- Eric proposed we consider endorsing a type-2 TUES grant he is writing that will include money for a meeting similar to that held at Carleton. NNN would "sponsor" that event. No action was taken.
- Caren looked for suggestions of someone who would keep our webpage current. (Might be something new members could do. Esther noted we might have a sub-committee structure so people could be involved even if not on the board. Might also be used for generating news items.)
- Caren and Corri will work to compose the new nominating committee as soon as we pass the bylaw changes from last year's meeting.
- Neil proposed we send letters of acknowledge to Dean's at institutions where people have done large service in the past year.
- Caren will work to send thank you letters to those who did the work for this year's meetings. Frank and Esther will submit a list of who should get an NNN letter of thanks. That includes at least Rob Whittaker, Andy Serwer, Frank, Esther, Ricardo Fernandez.

VII. **Change in board members**

- Leaving board: Maryann Allen (resigned in Sept)
- Expired terms: Donna Sundre and Lynnette Hoelter
- Carol moved Donna's nomination to another 3 year-term. Sue seconded. Unanimously approved.

Carol moved we adjourn. Judy seconded. Unanimously approved.

Attachment A: Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Changes in Board

Maryann Allen resigned her position as director on September 13, 2012.

Membership Report

Status Report on Membership Drive

In 2009 the NNN had 14 paid members. In 2010, this rose to 31 (15 by way of institutional membership and 16 as individuals). At the 2011 board meeting we discussed the importance of a membership drive. We informally talked about a two-year plan to generate around \$6000 in annual membership dues from 225 members with 125 members and \$3600 in dues secured in the first year.

In 2012 we exceeded both of our year-one goals. We have 78 members by way of 18 institutional memberships in addition to 105 individual members bringing the total to 183 paid members. (Of these, 36 became members via non-member registration for the annual meeting and so may be less persistent.) Membership dues paid by these members total \$6,550. Another 5 memberships are pending (3 have registered for the meetings and 2 have registered for membership, but not paid).

We currently have a solid start on 2013's membership drive. Two institutions with 7 associated members and another 16 individual members have renewed. (The year begins Nov 1.)

Membership drive activities:

- Previous treasurer Cinnamon Hillyard and SERC Director Cathy Manduca selected an online membership system (Wild Apricot) to organize and manage our membership records. This tool has been invaluable in the membership drive. Not only has this tool managed member data, it will also automatically remind people to renew membership so that future membership drive efforts can be devoted to expanding into new territory. Thank you to Cinnamon and Cathy for this great choice!
- The board elected to maintain a low, \$30 membership rate to attract membership.
- We contacted all past members. (There were 81 people who had paid for membership at some time up to 2011.)
- We limited listserv use to paid members (with a 2 month grace period at the end of the membership year).
- We solicited contacts at institutions a number of us have consulted with in the past.
- We reached out to authors in *Numeracy*.
- We contacted directors of QR centers we could find on the web.
- We reached out to all NSF PIs over the last 10 years whose grant descriptions mentioned QL, QR, or variants.
- We expanded on our partnership with PKAL by agreeing to be an organizational sponsor of their Nov. 2012 "Next Generation STEM Learning: Investigate, Innovate, Inspire" conference. PKAL highlighted NNN membership in an email

blast they sent to their listserv of STEM leaders. We have also planned joint meetings with PKAL in 2013.

- We established a partnership with AAC&U which joined as an institutional member. They published an article on the progress of the QL movement, including a plug for NNN membership and *Numeracy*, in their journal *Liberal Education* which goes to thousands of academic deans. They also invited us to give a pre-conference workshop in Feb 2013 on QL assessment at their conference “General Education and Assessment: A Sea Change in Student Learning.”
- We organized an annual meeting with pricing to attract new members. (The meeting fee was \$50 for members or \$60 for non-members who received a membership through Oct 31, 2012.)

Possible next steps:

- President letter to those who are members via the conference, encouraging them to re-up for 2013.
- “We miss you” message to those who have previously been members but were not in 2012.
- Press institutional members to fill out their rosters of 6 individual members. If all did so, we would add 30 members to our total.
- Make institutional memberships more valuable by providing better web-page acknowledgement
- Reach out to chief academic officers with our solicitation, noting assistance identifying team members for QL program/requirements reviews.
- Pursue corporate memberships

Financial Report (as of 10-04-12)

<i>Fall 2010 balance</i>				<i>\$5652.00</i>
<i>Fall 2011 balance</i>				<i>\$5191.84</i>
<i>Fall 2012 balance</i>				<i>\$9690.85</i>

2012 Detail

	Credits	Debits	Net
Membership			
Dues collected (includes 2013 payments)	\$6550.00		
Paypal fees on memberships		\$121.13	
Wild Apricot		\$270.00	
SERC contribution to offset Wild Apricot in first year	\$270.00		
<i>Membership subtotal</i>	<i>\$6820.00</i>	<i>\$391.13</i>	<i>\$6428.87</i>
Annual meetings			
2011 payments that came after meeting	\$345.00		
2011 ACA bill		\$1007.96	
2012 registration fees collected	\$3872.00		
2012 Paypal fees on registrations		\$103.96	
2012 meetings expenses paid		\$35.74	
<i>Annual meetings subtotal</i>	<i>\$4217.00</i>	<i>\$1147.66</i>	<i>\$3069.34</i>
Other			
SERC hosting fee		\$5000.00	
Interest	\$0.80		
<i>Other subtotal</i>	<i>\$0.80</i>	<i>\$5000.00</i>	<i>-</i>
			<i>\$4999.20</i>

<i>EOY balance (as of 10-04-12)</i>	<i>\$9690.85</i>
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Outstanding (approx.)			
2012 meeting registration	\$150.00		
2012 meeting Macaulay rent		\$500.00	
2012 meeting Fri dinner		\$2660.00	
2012 misc meeting expenses		\$100.00	
2012 meeting student assistants		\$200.00	
<i>Outstanding bills (approx.) sub-total</i>	<i>\$450.00</i>	<i>\$3760.00</i>	<i>-</i>
			<i>\$3310.00</i>

<i>Approximate funds available</i>	<i>\$6380.85</i>
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Proposals

1. **Membership rates:** Resolved that membership rates for 2012-13 remain at \$30 for individuals and \$250 for institutions (with 6 individual memberships attached). [Note: Many 2011-12 members have already re-upped in response to the automatic reminder. Any change in membership fee would only apply going forward to new members or those renewing after some identified date specified by the board.]
2. **Increasing value of institutional membership:** Resolved that the NNN offer space on its webpages for institutional members to advertise their QL programs/projects.
3. **Corporate memberships:** Resolved that the NNN officers be granted authority to seek corporate memberships/sponsorships through all of the following:
 - Advertising the corporate sponsorship/membership on the NNN webpage
 - Guaranteeing at least a 30-minute slot on the annual meeting for the corporate sponsor to share their ideas/work in QL
 - Allow them to advertise their support for the NNN in their public relations materials.
4. **Goals:** Resolved that the board sets as goals a) 225 paid members, b) 2 corporate sponsorships, and c) total membership revenue of \$8000.

Attachment B: Listserv Assignments

November	Caren
December	Nathan
January	Corri
February	Sue
March	Judy
April	Neil
May	_____
June	Carol
July	Eric
August	Donna
September	_____
October	_____

Attachment C: PKAL Sustainability

Corri's email to NNN Board Members on May 1, 2012

The National Numeracy Network is collaborating with ten STEM disciplinary societies in an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education to address the “Big Questions” (e.g., those relating to societal issues such as ecosystem health and access to safe food, water and energy supplies) in STEM undergraduate courses. The initiative, “[Mobilizing Disciplinary Societies on Behalf of our Students...and our Planet](#)” has engaged over 50 representatives of the 11 partner societies in specific projects that will help catalyze education for a sustainable future across the country. One component of this initiative was to compose a statement that would serve to provide common language that societies could use in the development of their policies, programs, and strategic plans. That statement, attached and below, represents the work of these representatives to synthesize cross-disciplinary perspectives and common goals.

The partner disciplinary societies are encouraged:

1. to endorse, adopt, or approve the attached statement;
2. to use it to draft position or policy statements on the importance of sustainability education in their disciplines; and
3. to use the statement in government affairs and public policy activities on behalf of STEM and STEM education.

I am writing to offer my support of this statement and to encourage the NNN to use it as suggested above. Our organization, with quantitative reasoning at the heart of so many STEM disciplines, has a unique and important role to contribute to a sustainable future. I am happy to provide more information about this initiative or to answer questions. I will look forward your response to these suggestions and then to conveying the NNN's plan for considering and using this language back to the broader group involved in this initiative.

Best regards,

Corri Taylor

Statement on Education for a Sustainable Future

April 2012

Sustainability has been defined variously as the perpetual maintenance of diverse and productive environments upon which all life depends;[1] the responsible use of resources over an indefinite period of time;[2] or “meet[ing] the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”[3] A sustainable future depends on a workforce of professionals knowledgeable about creating practices, processes, and infrastructure to optimize resource management, and on a community informed about the ethics and influence of human activity on the integrated environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability. For these reasons our societies believe that STEM education, both formal and informal, is key to developing the knowledge, the technology, the skills, the motivation, and the policies needed for a sustainable future. STEM educators have a unique responsibility to contribute to a more sustainable future by including information about our shared sustainability challenges and how STEM-knowledgeable people can contribute to solutions.

[Your society name here], together with 10 other disciplinary societies in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), recognizes that human activities and use of natural, human and economic resources are affecting individuals and societies and will continue to have an effect in the future. Both professionals and members of the general public have the ability to develop and implement innovative strategies and technologies that will mitigate our negative impact. Recognizing the importance of education, [your society name here] supports the inclusion of educational themes in our STEM classrooms that will lead to a greater understanding of natural systems, sustainable resource utilization and development, and improved human health and wellbeing.

[1] Renewable Natural Resources Foundation

[2] National Association of Biology Teachers

[3] World Commission on Environment and Development

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