

JMC

Joint Mathematical Council of the United Kingdom

ANNUAL REPORT

for session November 2012 to November 2013

1. MEETINGS

There were three meetings of the full Council during the session, held on 6 November 2012 and on 26 February and 13 June 2013. The Executive Committee met immediately in advance of each of these meetings. All meetings were held at the Royal Statistical Society, where the facilities continued to meet with general appreciation.

Noting that the meeting in November 2013 represents JMC's 50th anniversary, suitable modest celebrations have been planned.

Following formal approval, Minutes of Council meetings are published on the public-access JMC website <http://www.jmc.org.uk>. JMC is grateful to the Open University for hosting this site and to an OU employee for maintaining it.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

Membership of the Council is set out below. Members of the Executive Committee are indicated by an asterisk. Following normal practice, alternates sometimes attended meetings if representatives were unavailable. In addition, guests were invited to some meetings, in particular Niamh McMahon (ACME Senior Policy Advisor) and Vinay Kathotia (Nuffield Foundation) for the meeting on 13 June 2013.

At the meeting of Council on 6 November 2012, the Teaching Agency (TA) was admitted as an Observing Society, so as to maintain the long-standing relationship with the former Training and Development Agency for Schools. The TA itself merged with the National College for School Leadership in 2013. Council agreed at its meeting on 26 February 2013 that the merged body, known as the National College for Teaching and Leadership, should continue to hold the Observing Society status previously enjoyed by the TA. In the list below, for simplicity only the new merged body is mentioned.

At the meeting of Council on 26 February 2013, the Royal Academy of Engineering was admitted as a Participating Society. At the same meeting, an application from National Numeracy was also considered; while there was general agreement that National Numeracy was pursuing a worthwhile cause, it was felt that, at the current early stage in the organisation's existence, the application was premature.

Under the terms of the Constitution, Peter Thomas was elected as Honorary Secretary at the meeting of Council in June 2013, to take office for a three-year term starting at the end of the AGM in November 2013.

Officers

Chair *	Tim Rowland
Honorary Secretary *	Gerald Goodall
Honorary Treasurer *	Paul Harris
Executive Secretary *	David Martin

Participating Societies and their representatives

Where a representative changed during the session, the sequence is indicated by (i), (ii).

Association of Mathematics Education Teachers	(i) Jenni Back, (ii) Ros Hyde
Association of Teachers of Mathematics	Sue Pope *
British Society for the History of Mathematics	June Barrow-Green
British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics	John Monaghan
Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences	David Arrowsmith
Edinburgh Mathematical Society	Colin Campbell
Institute of Mathematics and its Applications	Chris Sangwin *
London Mathematical Society	(i) Tony Gardiner, (ii) Alice Rogers
Mathematical Association	Alison Clark-Wilson
Mathematics in Education and Industry	Charlie Stripp *
National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges	Sally Barton *
National Association of Mathematics Advisers	(i) Lynn Churchman, (ii) Alice Onion
NRICH representing the Millennium Mathematics Project	Lynne McClure
National STEM Centre	(i) Lydia Showan, (ii) Stephen Lyon
Operational Research Society	Louise Orpin
Royal Academy of Engineering [from 26 February 2013]	Matthew Harrison
Royal Statistical Society	Roeland Beerten
Wales Institute of Mathematical and Computational Sciences	Stephen Williamson

Co-opted members

Immediate Past Chair	Duncan Lawson
JMC International Representative	Ros Sutherland
UK Representative to International Commission on Mathematics Instruction	Chris Budd

Observing Societies and their representatives

Where a representative changed during the session, the sequence is indicated by (i), (ii).

Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education	(i) Lynne McClure, (ii) Robert Barbour
Adults Learning Mathematics	Jeff Evans
Department for Education	(i) Ian Brydon, (ii) Stephen Rogers
Department of Education [Northern Ireland]	Nick Todd
Education Scotland	Fiona Robertson
Higher Education Academy	Mary McAlinden
National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics	(i) Celia Hoyles, (ii) Jane Imrie

National College for Teaching and Leadership	James O'Donoghue
Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation	Janet Holloway
Office for Standards in Education	Jane Jones
Royal Society	Rosalind Mist (see note † below)
School Mathematics Project	(i) Paul Scruton, (ii) vacancy
Sector Skills Council for science, engineering and manufacturing technologies in the UK	John Harris
United Kingdom Mathematics Trust	Bill Richardson

† The Royal Society was also represented during the year by Yasmin Hossain and Juliet Upton. Rosalind Mist attended also in her capacity as ACME Head of Secretariat.

Invited as regular guest

Department for Education and Skills [Wales]	Dylan Jones
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Minuting Secretary

Bill Richardson continued to act as Minuting Secretary for Council meetings.

3. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

JMC continued to receive financial support from ACME for the employment of an Executive Secretary, and is very grateful for this. David Martin continued in the role.

4. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

JMC is frequently called on to be represented corporately on committees, working groups, advisory panels and so forth, sometimes at high levels. JMC continued to make use of a Nominations Committee for responding to such invitations. The Committee was Chaired by Sally Barton. The current membership is Sally Barton (Chair), David Arrowsmith, Alison Clark-Wilson and Sue Pope.

5. DISCUSSIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

JMC continued the practice of organising an afternoon discussion at Council meetings, covering one or more topics of current interest.

Following the practice of recent years, the November 2012 meeting featured an ACME-led discussion, in this case under the guidance of Lynne McClure on supporting able young mathematicians 5–16. A draft ACME policy paper had been circulated and many aspects of this were discussed, initially in small groups and afterwards in open session. Detailed notes were taken by ACME colleagues to inform development of the paper.

The November 2012 meeting also featured an update session and discussion on the National Curriculum and qualification reform, led by Stefano Pozzi and Dawn Bogunovic of DfE.

At the February 2013 meeting, there was an outstanding presentation "Looking back and looking forwards" on the work of NCETM, led by Celia Hoyles and Charlie Stripp (see also item 11 below),

followed by a lively and enthusiastic discussion.

This meeting also had a further presentation and discussion on current developments led by Stefano Pozzi, in this case accompanied by Nicola Edwards (also DfE).

A further presentation and discussion on current developments, led by Nicola Edwards (DfE) and Alison Rowland (Ofqual), took place at the June 2013 meeting, with particular reference to an announcement two days previously by the Secretary of State on GCSE reform.

Also at the June 2013 meeting, there was a presentation and discussion on the work of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics (BSRLM), led by John Monaghan and colleagues.

Summaries of all these discussions are included in the respective Minutes published on the JMC website.

Throughout the year, JMC continued to be very aware of the almost unprecedented nature and scope of change to the school mathematics curriculum that was underway through the National Curriculum Review and the reviews of GCSE and GCE AS/A-levels. This was reflected not only in the formal presentations by Stefano Pozzi and colleagues noted above, but also in many other aspects of the general business of Council. Commentary from JMC representatives from other jurisdictions within the United Kingdom suggested increasing divergence between policy in England and elsewhere. JMC was actively involved in the processes of disseminating and commenting on the various proposals. JMC commented formally in a letter to the Secretary of State in July 2013, expressing concern at the proposed changes to AS/A-level assessment and the serious effects that appeared likely on uptake of AS/A-level Mathematics and, particularly, Further Mathematics. JMC intends to continue to be fully involved in these matters.

6. JMC WORKING GROUPS

A Working Group on Primary Mathematics chaired by Lynn Churchman, which had been established during the 2010–2011 session, continued with some activity during the early part of the present session. No formal report was prepared, but arrangements were made to pass the Group's key findings on to ACME.

7. ICME AND BCME

The 12th International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME-12) had been held in Seoul, Korea, on 8–15 July 2012. A short report by Ros Sutherland, also carrying brief reports from the delegates who had been supported by bursaries, was received at the meeting of Council on 6 November 2012, and a full report was circulated later. Independently of these reports, some dissatisfaction had been expressed concerning the process for the award of bursaries. JMC Executive has been developing a paper setting out revised procedures and hopes to finalise this at its November 2013 meeting for presentation to Council in February 2014.

Planning continued, and reached an advanced stage, towards the eighth British Congress of Mathematics Education (BCME8), to be held on 14–17 April 2014 at the East Midlands Conference Centre, University of Nottingham. JMC is represented on the BCME Planning Committee; during the year, the Executive Secretary succeeded Ros Sutherland in this role.

8. INTERACTION WITH ACME

JMC continued to interact strongly with the Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education, to mutual benefit. Liaison has included regular meetings between the JMC Executive Secretary and the ACME Secretariat. In addition, JMC is represented formally by its Chair, or alternate, at termly ACME meetings when the DfE is present. JMC also carried out its usual functions in respect of appointment of new members to ACME.

JMC was pleased to receive a pre-publication draft of the ACME Annual Report at its meeting on 13 June 2013.

9. STEM MINISTERIAL ADVISORY GROUP

JMC continued to be represented, by the Chair, on this Group which, during the period under review, was co-chaired by David Willetts (Minister of State for Universities and Science, BIS) and Elizabeth Truss (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Education and Childcare, DfE).

10. OCR MATHEMATICS CONSULTATIVE FORUM

JMC continued to be represented on this Forum. The current representative is the Honorary Secretary, with the Executive Secretary as alternate. Many JMC organisations are also represented directly on the Forum. Formal Minutes are taken and are circulated to all JMC representatives on being received.

11. NCETM

There was general relief that a new DfE contract had been gained to secure the work of NCETM, albeit on reduced funding, to 2015.

Celia Hoyles stood down as Director early in 2013 amid much appreciation for all her work for NCETM since its inception. Charlie Stripp was appointed as the new Director. See item 5 above for a record of a presentation on the work of NCETM at the February 2013 meeting of Council.

JMC was represented by the Chair on the Advisory Group of NCETM.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Most of JMC's interaction with other bodies is carried forward through attendance at meetings and by email discussion. In addition, a few formal letters have been sent and received during the session; details are available from the Honorary Secretary.

Gerald Goodall
Honorary Secretary, JMC
On behalf of JMC Executive Committee

secretary@jmc.org.uk

October 2013