



NEWS

Fall 1999

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President's Welcome

Welcome back from what I hope was a good summer for everyone! It's hard to believe that the time went so fast - all of a sudden, it was September again! I'd be curious to know what summer adventures you had! I was fortunate to be able to attend the Summer NYSMATYC Institute up in the Finger Lakes, then participate in a Graphics Calculator workshop up in Montreal! Tres bien! I also spoke at the New Mexico affiliate meeting in Alamogordo and saw a no-hit baseball game in Arizona!

We face many challenges this year, as the Common Course/Common Numbering project may be winding up. However, we should beware of excess standardization, which could allow Management to dictate syllabi, textbooks and other areas, which could violate Academic Freedom. This work that we do should count towards our Additional Responsibilities, which looms as a major battleground as of this writing. We need to continue to stick together and maintain the Math Collegiality that has stood us in good stead for so long.

With Chancellor Leslie gone, and Andy McKirdy back temporarily, we should consider how we wish to interact with the Board and Central Office. Do we wish to invite some of these people to our meetings, as we've done in the past? In any case, we need to continue to be a strong voice and advocate of math issues on behalf of our faculty. Our experience and expertise should be tapped, especially in a year when Governance will be a prominent issue, what with the formation of the System Senate and other developments.

I would like to see us bring in some new members to MATYCONN this year, as well as involve campuses who haven't been that active. You can all help with this effort. I will raise with our Executive Committee the notion of a joint meeting in the spring, either with ATOMIC, or with nearby affiliates such as New York or New Jersey.

Also, this will be the 10th year of the System-wide Math Contest, which John Palumbo started. Let's do something special to make this one the best ever!! In addition, I hope that many of you will attend the AMATYC annual conference in Pittsburgh in November, which will be a 25th anniversary celebration!

I'd like to hear from you – what are your thoughts and ideas regarding making MATYCONN as strong as it can be? I would thus like to see a strong turnout for our Fall Meeting, which will be on Fri. Oct. 22 at Mitchell College in New London. Hold the date! More information is forthcoming. I have invited AMATYC President Sadie Bragg and our Northeast Regional Vice President (soon to be President-elect) to join us.

See you in New London and stay in touch!!

Sincerely,
Steve Krevisky

Minutes of SPRING 99 MATYCONN Meeting

Manchester Community-Technical College

April 30, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm on April 30 at Manchester Community-Technical College by President Steve Krevisky.

1. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the 10/23/98 meeting were approved with the following change: omit Sadie Bragg from nominations for nominating committee in item #8.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Kunle Olumide reported that there is \$6146 in the MATYCONN account. The treasurer's report was approved.

3. **Newsletter** – Pat Hirschy reported that 2 issues of the newsletter have been published during 98-99 and she would like to have one more issue this year. She said we are missing reports on things going on in math education – if you have any articles please submit them to Pat soon. She would like to publish the final issue in May 99. Pat will be stepping down from her newsletter duties. MATYCONN thanked Pat for all of her efforts.

4. **Minority Scholarship** -- Miguel Garcia suggested the committee survey the membership to find out how people felt on certain issues in regards to minority scholarship (i.e. should only "minorities" be eligible for scholarships). Miguel made a motion that the minority scholarship committee survey the membership regarding the above mentioned. The motion was approved. Miguel will develop and send out a survey.

5. **Math Contest** – Steve Krevisky passed out results of the 99 contest – #1 Dave Buck MCTC, #2 James Pagliuca GCTC and #3 Spencer Carini MCTC. Steve is currently working on getting prizes and plaques. Steve recommended we consider revising the prize distribution. Kate McLaughlin, who previously helped raise money from Northeast Utilities, is going on sabbatical next year. This year NU did not contribute anything. Steve asked for volunteers to help raise money. He said the winners may be honored at the June board meeting. A motion was made by Kunle O. that MATYCONN decide on a certain amount for prize money and then if we don't raise money from the outside, MATYCONN will make up the difference. Pat H. suggested we keep in touch with business and industry. Miguel G. recommended that funders receive some publicity for their donation. Roger recommended we consider setting a minimum level in the MATYCONN account. Kathy B. recommended we honor the contest winners at a board meeting and possibly ask the board to contribute some money. Two motions were made by Kunle as follows: (1) to expand Miguel's survey on minority scholarship to include questions on the Math Contest prize money and to postpone setting policy on contest prize money until the

survey is completed and (2) for 99 only MATYCONN will give out a total of \$600 in prize money to the 3 '99 winners and MATYCONN will supplement it by at most \$200. Both motions were approved.

6. Math Issues Committee (MIC) – Miguel G. said the committee has continued to meet and he feels the joint efforts of MATYCONN and MIC are going well. Currently they have active representation from most campuses. The Common Numbering project has been completed. Miguel suggested that members submit issues to your MIC campus representative.

7. AMATYC Happenings – After Phil Mahler gave a brief history of AMATYC, he said that they have set up a distance learning committee- it has a website- if you are interested in participating, see Phil. He also said that AMATYC puts out many position papers- this helps in obtaining funding. To be a committee member, email the chair of the committee. The 1999 meeting will be in Pittsburgh in November-it is AMATYC's 25th anniversary. Steve K. said he has a draft of the strategic planning document and he recommends we provide input.

8. Fall 99 Meeting -- Mitchell College offered to host the fall 99 meeting. They will confirm a date soon--possibly October 15 or 22.

9. Membership – Discussion was postponed since Judy Marzi was not present.

10. Election of Officers for 1999-2000 – Kathy Bavelas moved that nominations be closed. Motion was made and passed to elect officers on the nominating form. The elected officers are: Steve Krevisky – President, Bob Lynott – Vice-President, Kathy Cuddy – Secretary, Kunle Olumide – Treasurer, Judy Marzi – Membership, Miguel Garcia – Minority Scholarship, Bonnie Simon and Dan Balaguy – Newsletter Editors.

11. MATYCONN as a Governance Organization – Steve K. said that MATYCONN appeared on a list as a system-wide governance organization.

12. Other Business -- (1) Kathy B. said that MCTC has selected a person for a minority scholarship. She asked that we consider giving a MATYCONN minority scholarship to the MCTC student chosen. Kate M. made a motion to do the above and that we award \$150. Motion passed. (2) The system has established a new basic skills committee consisting of faculty and staff involved in placement testing. Karen Grosz is the only administrator. Kathy B. is the facilitator. (3) Steve K. recommended that we think about program ideas for the fall 99 meeting. He also said he needs help with the math contest. (4) Pat H. mentioned that AMATYC members will be receiving the NASA-AMATYC-NSF Mathematics Explorations I book.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Cuddy

Announcement

In Search of Newton

A Combined Calculus and Physics Curriculum

University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

June 25-30, 2000

A Short Course - Sponsored by the Northeastern Section of the MAA

The mathematics and physics departments at the University of New Hampshire will host a short course on our combined calculus and physics curriculum developed as part of an NSF funded program, NSF-DUE-9752485. The short course will focus on the following aspects of the program now in place:

- Updates and changes to the Physics curriculum,
- Updates and changes to the Calculus curriculum,
- Class format including a detailed examination of the studio format pioneered at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,
- Class materials.

The total number of participants in the workshop will be limited, and the cost per participant is \$50. Preference will be given first to pairs of people from institutions (preferably one person teaching mathematics and one person from another discipline).

The short course will be held on the campus of the University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire. Durham is a small community situated close to the Great Bay and is located close to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. If you would like to know more about the short course or are interested in registering, please contact Kelly Black, kelly.black@unh.edu, or see our web page at <http://www.math.unh.edu/~black/newton/pre-registration.htm>.



Elaine's

Notes from Statewide Committees

Connecticut's statewide meeting on the **Community-Technical College Common Numbering process** was hosted by Naugatuck Valley on September 24, 1999. Work on common numbering is to be completed by June 2000. The Mathematics meeting, chaired by Kathy Bavelas (Manchester CTC) had the highest number of participants of all the disciplines, 26, with representatives from all 12 community-technical colleges present. As a first draft, attendees agreed upon a numbering system that would have 4 digits for each course number. The thousands digit indicates a course under the new common numbering process as opposed to a course under the previous system, a 1 or 2 in the hundreds place indicates a first or second year course, numbers in the tens place indicate fields that differentiate groups of mathematics courses, and units digits represent courses within fields, some courses being sequential. Thanks to the previous **Common Numbering Committee**, there is already agreement on 80% of the content of the majority of mathematics courses. Agreement still needs to be reached however on common content for the remaining courses, common names for similar courses, and core course descriptions. These issues have been and continue to be of utmost priority for the present **Math Issues Committee**. All campuses are encouraged to attend future meetings or to provide input (see below for meeting information).

The **Math Issues Committee** (formerly Common Numbering Committee), chaired by Miguel Garcia (Gateway CTC), has been meeting regularly to discuss common content/topics (within 80%) and other math issues of importance to our system. Campuses that do not regularly send representatives to meetings are encouraged to do so. Future meeting dates: Friday, November 5, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, CCSU, topics – common numbering and CSU transfer/tech prep; Friday December 10, 10 - 11:30 a.m., Gateway, topics – common numbering, placement test exemptions and basic skill definitions.

CSU Math Basic Skills Committee includes representatives from UConn and the CTC's. This semester, meetings have included CTC participants from Gateway, Manchester, Naugatuck Valley, Middlesex, and Tunxis. Future meeting dates include November 5 and December 3, CCSU Marcus White Living Room, 1 - 3 p.m.; contact Elaine Dinto (nv-dinto@commnet.edu or 203-596-2152) for further information. The Committee is presently working on a quick-reference form to aid math faculty and admissions personnel with student transfer, and a list of core courses acceptable for transfer among the three systems. Campuses that do not participate in these meetings are encouraged to send representatives or to provide input.

NOTE: Currently, the CSU system accepts intermediate algebra as elective degree credit but not as mathematics credit.

As of Fall 2001, the CSU System will no longer accept for mathematics credit any courses that do not carry an intermediate algebra prerequisite. This may affect some of the community-technical college mathematics courses that have traditionally transferred, such as the statistics and liberal arts courses.

To: Luene Corwin

Cc: Patricia L. Hirschy; Karen Grosz

Subject: Tech prep meeting

8 of the 12 colleges were represented on Friday morning with 13 folks from the C-Ts present.

I would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Pat Hirschy from Asnuntuck who recorded the brain storming session on the board and kept the discussion focused. Pat has been taking all the minutes for the Math Common Numbering /Math Issues and has distributed them by college mail before each meeting for the past 2 years. She has volunteered to bring her laptop to our Common Numbering meetings as well as the monthly Math Issues meetings and thus continues to take notes, distribute them and remind all of the meetings. It has been a very time-consuming task and will continue to be so. Without her careful minutes we would in no way be as far along in our many math talks as we are today. (Pat—hopefully the following notes are correct—since you were at the black board)

All in attendance were concerned that we seem to have lost the intent of the Tech Prep program as originally conceived which was to encourage student consideration of post-secondary education (by students who have potential but may not have considered college as an option) by having college and high school faculty collaborate to bring more exciting material, applications and pedagogy into the high school classroom. We thought we were supposed to offer a college experience and raise levels of expectation not water our curriculum down.

We were concerned about why we are where we are—what are high schools getting from this program and what are we getting at the C-T level? We felt we had been asked to "launder" credits.

Thus after much discussion we offer the following rationale for the two options we propose for consideration.

Rationale: encourage collaboration with high school/CTC faculty; offer an opportunity for high school students to experience college level mathematics; offer an opportunity for students to receive transfer credit.

For both of the following options we have a residency requirement. To receive the math credit, students must take at least 12 credits at one of the CT CTCs and have a gpa of 2.0 or higher upon completion of 12 credits.

OPTION 1

Students will take 3 years of an integrated math (college prep) or 2 full years of algebra and a year of geometry.

Upon completion of the above student will take our placement exam and it must show that the student is ready for a CTC math course that has intermediate algebra as a prerequisite.

Student will complete a CTC math course at a CTC with intermediate algebra as a prerequisite and earn a C or better. (The math course can be 3 of the 12 credits needed for the residency requirement).

Transcript will then indicate student has 3 TRANSFER credits for the algebra 2 or integrated 3 course that the student took in high school.

OPTION 2

Students will take 3 years of an integrated math (college prep) or 2 full years of algebra and a year of geometry.

In the student's senior year in high school the student will take a fourth year of math. This senior math course will be a CTC developed or commercially developed math course whose prerequisite is algebra 2 or integrated math 3 (algebra/trig). This course will have some high school /college math faculty co-teaching and other forms of faculty collaboration.

Student must take college placement test in junior year to show readiness for the senior course.

The senior year math course must have a C or better for its final grade.

Upon satisfying the residency requirement, the student's transcript will show 3 transfer credits for the math course taken in the student's senior year.

Luene--See you in the AM. kathy

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