

## Minutes of the 2020 SIAG-NWCS virtual business meeting held on June 22, 2020

The virtual business meeting was announced to the SIAG-NWCS mailing list on June 15, 2020. 28 SIAG members joined the meeting on Zoom on June 22.

The slides prepared by Nicole Gawel were presented and discussed. Specific items of discussion included:

- i) participation to the NWCS conferences appears to be quite steady, historically higher when the conference is held in Europe
- ii) ideas to increase membership
  - remind members that they can nominate up to 2 students to join SIAM for free (students can join for free if: 1. They are at a university that is an academic member; 2. They are at a SIAM Student Chapter; 3. They are referred by a nonstudent SIAM member)
  - advertise outreach membership; members in outreach countries can join for up to three years, so they can save on wire transfer fees
  - expand reciprocity agreements with mathematical societies in other countries
- iii) membership from industry, government, laboratories is lower than in other activity groups; among the ideas suggested to increase membership from outside academia was to try and increase visibility of these members is to try and recruit somebody for the officers positions, and also to make more of an effort to invite members from outside academia for plenary talks at our meetings
- iv) with the new SIAM rules, it has been a very difficult task to ensure diversity in the prize committee members, given the current size of the activity group

The second topic of discussion was the NWCS20 Bremen conference. The two conference co-chairs, Jens Rademacher and Andre Nachbin, were both present at the business meeting, as well as some members of the organizing committee. Andre led the discussion on this item; he reminded everybody of the difficult decision to cancel the NWCS20 meeting because of the current health crisis. The organizing committee unanimously suggested to have Bremen as the location of the 2022 NWCS meeting, and to wait for the business meeting to confirm this choice. There will be no webinars for the plenary talks, but the two prize lectures (Benjamin Prize lecture by M. Hofer, and Kruskal Prize lecture by V. Zakharov) will be held by webinars. The dates (most likely during the week of July 27-31, when the NWCS20 conference would have been held) will be announced soon. Jens mentioned the reasons why it was not simply decided to move the meeting online (the time zones, the technical difficulties, the budget). As to the latter, there was a substantial amount of costs that already occurred, but most of them had been channeled through SIAM, which graciously agreed to uphold those costs. Jens said that he would be very happy to run the conference in 2022 in Bremen, and to volunteer for the program director position.

The final topic of discussion was the nomination for the new group of officers. A nominating committee has already been appointed, the members are: Beatrice Pelloni, Andre Nachbin, Katie Oliveras, Annalisa Calini, Gianne Derks and Peter Miller). Everybody can use the form <https://www.siam.org/forms/siam-activity-group-leadership-form> to self-nominate, or nominate others. The committee will take everybody's recommendation and make a decision on the slate, we will need to have two nominations for each of the four officer positions that we have. The elections will be run online in the fall.