

International Mathematical Union

Circular Letter #7/2006

Date: June 26, 2006

To: Adhering Organizations
Committees for Mathematics
Delegates to the 15th General Assembly

From: Executive Committee of the International Mathematical Union

Re: Proposed Resolutions
United States of America Committee for Mathematics

The United States of America Committee for Mathematics and the United States of America 2006 General Assembly delegation present the following resolutions for consideration by the 15th General Assembly.

Resolution 1:

The General Assembly of the IMU endorses the new version of the "Best Practices" document of its Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC), posted June 29, 2005 at <http://www.ceic.math.ca>, as well as the March 24, 2005 draft of "Digital Mathematical Library: A vision for the Future", a vision of a distributed collection of past mathematical scholarship that serves the need of all science, and encourages mathematicians and publishers of mathematics to join together in implementing this vision. The ultimate goal is to create an enduring network of digital mathematical literature, most of which can be seamlessly traversed by all scientists engaged in mathematical research and scholarship. The General Assembly endorses in particular all provisions designed to ensure access by mathematicians of the developing world to current mathematical literature.

Resolution 2:

During these continued times of heightened tensions, security concerns and international unrest, the General Assembly continues to urge free scientific exchange and publication, and in particular, free circulation of scientists and mathematicians across international borders. The IMU opposes efforts by governments to restrict contacts, interactions, access and travel in the world mathematical community, particularly when such restrictions arise from holding individual mathematicians liable for the actions of their governments. The General Assembly of the IMU continues to endorse the principle of universality expressed in the International Council for Science (ICSU) ARTICLE 5 of the

STATUTES, as adopted by the 1998 General Assembly, and endorses the additional ICSU Statement on the Universality of Science, dated December 2004.

Resolution 3:

The increasingly central role of the International Mathematical Union as mathematics' premier international professional organization in our evermore interconnected world is undeniable. Indeed the health of mathematics in any individual country depends increasingly on its participation in the global enterprise of cultivating and protecting mathematical scholarship and learning in a global context.

Additionally, the responsibility of the IMU to reach out to the developing world and the opportunities available to do so, the importance of the IMU in encouraging quality mathematics education world-wide, and IMU's role in such projects as retro-digitalization of the body of mathematical scholarship, make a strong case for increased programmatic and administrative resources.

Given its increasingly important and visible international role, the IMU can no longer rely entirely for its administration on the generosity of a small and necessarily transient cadre of mathematicians. Nor is it any longer appropriate or realistic to expect that those few mathematicians, with the temporary support of administrative personnel on whom they themselves rely, carry the burden of what is a shared responsibility of the entire mathematics community.

We propose that the incoming Executive Committee of the IMU study the establishment of a permanent IMU office, with small professional administrative staff, and with the goals of

- 1) increasing the scope, continuity and professionalism of IMU's world-wide enterprises,
- 2) increasing the visibility of those enterprises,
- 3) increasing accountability and transparency of IMU operations,
- 4) supporting the search for external resources for IMU commissions and activities.

The EC should report its findings and recommendations for action, including an appropriate business plan, to the 2010 IMU GA.