

Brief Summary

N-S Dialogue & Alberta Colleges Math Conference

Sponsored by PIMS

The North-South Dialogue Meeting and the Alberta Colleges Mathematics Conference were held on Friday May 1 and Saturday May 2, 2009 at Red Deer College. There were 57 registered persons with approximately 12 persons who attended but did not registered (these were RDC faculty from other departments). Approximately 27 persons attended the Saturday morning sessions which consisted of presentation by the Much Learning, Wiley's Wiley Plus, Pearson's Web Assign, and a presentation by Joseph Ling on Web Works.

Based on the feedback forms submitted, the Research sessions were very informative and well attended as were the educational sessions. Several persons suggested that there should be more educational sessions with a focus on pedagogy, others felt that a focus should be on the history and more expository in nature. Finally, there was considerable support for talks bordering on research at the College level. With there being a much greater emphasis on research at the various colleges, it was suggested that this might be a focus for next year's conference. The Mathematics and Art exhibit was mentioned and special thanks to Gerda for her art and design works which were on display during coffee. Finally, it was suggested that we make a greater effort to include the high school teachers/organizations for next year's conference.

At the banquet on Friday night, there was a light jazz group playing while we dined. Afterward, Peter Zvengrowski provided entertainment by way of his 'magic show'. Everyone seemed delighted and very much impressed (and no one was injured).

The organizational meeting was held on Saturday during Lunch, the following suggestions were put forth:

Next Meeting 2010: Held at Grant Mac Ewan Community College in Edmonton (dates to be announced soon)

Math Assessment: Very little time was devoted to this topic, because of the time. In short, many faculty are attempting to implement some sort of math preparedness, or math assessment in order to determine the readiness of the student for calculus (see the attachment);

BIRS Workshop: On Line Tool for Teaching Calculus: The suggestion was put forth to conduct a Saturday-Sunday retreat to Banff in the Fall, for the purpose of assessing the various on-line tools (for assignments, tests etc) in order that we might come to a consensus as to one that we could recommend.

PD Workshop: The idea of a one (or two) day professional development workshop for faculty (most likely for College faculty) be held the day prior to next years conference was suggested. This might take the form of a 'getting up to speed on ??' presentation in various activity areas that are currently in vogue (Data Mining was mentioned as was differential equations). This might stimulate ideas and research.

Newsletter & Communication across the Province: It was suggested that we have a newsletter etc. to provide weekly/monthly updates as to what is happening at the various institutions across the province. After little discussion, it was suggested that each individual might do a 'reply to all' on the various emails that are going around (such as the current email listing that you just received).

Name Change: It was suggested that we make reference to the two streams with the terms 'Educational Sessions' (as opposed to the College sessions) and 'Research Sessions'.

Special Thanks: Thanks to all who attended and helped make this event one of the most successful. And special thanks to the PIMS organization for helping make this possible.

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