Summary of the 1st meeting of the Mathematics Scientific Advisory Council, held on December 1, 2012 in Amsterdam. Present at this meeting were: Frank den Hollander, Leiden University, Vijay Nair, University of Michigan, Tom Ward, University of Durham, and Roderick Wong, City University of Hong Kong, on behalf of the Council, and Laura Hassink, Hylke Koers, Laura Schmidt, Valerie Teng-Broug, and Leo de Vos, on behalf of Elsevier.

**Communication with the mathematical sciences community:**
Communication needs to be more effective, and at the right level of detail. This is intended to not only inform and keep the community up-to-date on Elsevier’s efforts to support the fields of mathematics and statistics but also to de-mystify processes, and specific parts of its business.

Regular communication should inform and keep the community updated on Elsevier’s efforts to support the field of mathematical sciences, and also be used to improve transparency into parts of the business. To be more effective, these communications should be at an appropriate level of detail and should avoid corporate jargon. Where societies and associations are concerned, more interactions and partnerships will strengthen these relationships. It is wise to continue sponsorships and awards to further strengthen partnerships and involvement but it was felt that at the moment these are not well-publicized. Such sponsorships should especially target Africa and other low GDP countries. Additional author workshops are very welcome, especially in those regions.

Consideration should be given to sponsoring additional conferences in addition to individual awards.

**Content innovation:**
Partnership and development of apps geared to mathematics and statistics will enhance usability, readability and searchability of content. Projects like MathJax and the development of the MATLAB Viewer and STIX fonts are going to benefit researchers in the long-term. The “Article of the Future” develops the linear paper format into more of a mind-map. Elsevier should publicize the content innovations/Article of the Future initiatives better; these are initiatives where small societies struggle and where Elsevier can have a valuable impact. Whilst the usefulness of a search-functionality for mathematical equations really depends on how clever the search is; mind mapping is likely to be more valuable.

**Ethics:**
Ethics is extremely important and the council was not aware of some of the Elsevier initiatives. Again Elsevier should strive to raise more awareness about the issues and actions taken to combat publishing misconduct. Regarding the proposed EMS code of ethics: the question was whether Elsevier should (already) endorse the EMS code of ethics or not. The council mentioned that it is still early days and there are still some questions in the community as to how this would work in practice. Since Elsevier already has some internal ethical standards and works with COPE to realize an industry-standard code of ethics, it should be cautious in endorsing any further codes, and wait for a unified signal from the other societies.

**Open Access:**
The overall opinion was that article-fee based publication models are not desirable in mathematical sciences, for both ethical and economic reasons. In most cases funding for mathematics and statistics is too limited to allow for publication charges; what little funding there is tends to be allocated to things such as attending conferences an area where, unlike publication, there is no option but to pay. Models like delayed access and initiatives such as the new open archive policy are more desirable and suitable to this community at this time. However, it is still important to provide options to different authors with different publication needs, especially as new government and funding agency mandates on open access come into play.
**Peer review:**
Finding good reviewers and receiving reviews in a timely fashion is increasingly becoming a problem in many disciplines. In our field it is felt the best solutions to motivate good and timely reviewing involves the investigation and testing of alternative models beginning with pilot programs on certain journals. Does technology allow us to do peer review in a completely different way? To guarantee a particular standard is maintained, training and tutorials could be a way to grow pools of referees in certain communities. It is also important to make very clear what is required from Editors, authors and reviewers. Publishers should provide clearer guidelines both in general to promote increased transparency about editorial policies and explicitly in the form of referee guidelines and expectations. An effort also needs to be made to thank reviewers. Publication times do matter in mathematics and statistics and the reviewing times of some journals should be a point of focus and improvement by Elsevier.

**Editor role and rotation:**
Following the society model, Editors should be rotated on a more regular basis. This will help to retain the objectivity of the journals and prevent inappropriate editorial conduct. The Council also felt that Editors should only be paid a nominal fee for their tenure at the journal, to avoid any type of conflict of interest, or dependency on such payments.

**Pricing:**
Elsevier needs to further address the need for more flexible bundling and alternative bundling models, and improve transparency about the process and its business model. Whilst it was noted that the outlying journal prices were addressed, it was felt that there was more that could be done in this regard to improve the image of the Elsevier brand.

**Summary of the responsibilities of the Council are:**
- To evaluate and advise on product development;
- To recommend and evaluate mathematics-specific tools and services;
- To oversee the development of cooperative programs between the mathematical sciences community and Elsevier;
- To advise on the allocation of funds to awards and prizes for the community, whether for specific subfields or broader communities;
- To evaluate general policies for the program;
- To recommend and assess reward schemes;
- To provide feedback on the quality and standards of Elsevier publications.

**List of current Council members:**
Frank den Hollander, Leiden University
Vijay Nair, University of Michigan
Steve Krantz, Washington University in St. Louis
Cedric Villani, Institut Henri Poincaré
Tom Ward, University of Durham
Roderick Wong, City University of Hong Kong