

# Annual Report of the Irish Committee for Mathematics Education

## September 2023

**Members:** Ann O'Shea (Chair), Julie Crowley, Ronan Flatley, Jim Grannell, Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Ciaran O'Sullivan, Kirsten Pfeiffer, Rachel Quinlan.

Martin Kerin, who was the secretary, resigned from the committee in 2023 because he has taken up a position in the UK. The committee thanks him for his work, and wishes him every success.

The committee held one meeting during the academic year 2022/23. The committee has been working on the following topics:

- **Textbook quality assurance:** The group which was formed to study the quality of second level mathematics textbooks ( Mary Hanley, Ronan Flatley and Jim Grannell) have continued their work and have written reports on a large selection of textbooks. A subcommittee of ICME (Jim Grannell, Rachel Quinlan, Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, Ronan Flatley and Ann O'Shea) has been formed to decide on how to move forward on this matter.
- **Links with the IAMTA:** The President of the IAMTA invited Jim Grannell to address the annual IAMTA conference in Athlone in Nov 2022 on the resources development project. The IAMTA Vice President had discussions with Jim on the structure of notes for the teachers and agreed to organize a group of teachers to work with us in producing the notes. Martin Kenneally, retired Director of the Centre for Policy Studies, UCC joined the group to help with resources relating to applications in economics and finance. Oliver Mason, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Maynooth University joined the group to help with applications in biology. The Committee is especially grateful to Martin for the huge amount of time he has devoted to the project.
- **Developing links between mathematicians and researchers in mathematics education:** Julie Crowley and Ann O'Shea organised an online reading group meeting in November 2022. The seminar discussed the article *Live lectures or online videos: students' resource choices in a first-year university mathematics module* by Howard, Meehan and Parnell. It had 15 participants from 9 universities. Suggestions are welcome for the next topic of discussion.
- **Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy Consultation:** The committee made a submission to the recent consultation on the Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy.
- **Primary Syllabus Consultation:** The committee contacted the NCCA in relation to the draft Primary Syllabus. In April 2023, Ann O'Shea and Leo Creedon met with the NCCA about this matter. We subsequently sent a list of comments on the draft syllabus. At the meeting the NCCA expressed the wish to work more closely with the IMS in future. As a first step, we were invited to write a short document about the foundational nature of mathematics in STEM education. Our committee prepared and submitted this in May.
- **International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI):** As the IMS is now the Irish adhering body for the IMU, it is also the adhering body for ICMI - a commission of the IMU.

The IMS executive has appointed the Chair of our committee to be the Irish country representative to ICMI, replacing Maurice O Reilly who had carried out this role for the past number of years. We would like to thank Maurice for his work and for his help during the transition. IMS members will receive regular updates on the work of ICMI.

The committee welcomes feedback on these ideas as well as suggestions of other areas where we could be of help.

Ann O'Shea

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