## Minutes Mathematical Sciences Faculty Meeting March 23, 2010

Present: Eisenbarth, Goldwyn, Hoffman, Klingler, Lin, Locke, Long, Magliveras, Mullin, Naudot, Niederhausen, Peitgen, Popova, Qian, Schmidmeier, Schonbek, Steinwandt, Voss, Wang, Yiu.

Lee Klingler has e-mailed everyone a draft of an ad for a math education position at the full professor or associate level. Markus Schmidmeier is not convinced we are moving in the right direction in focusing on math education. Classroom management courses may be sufficient.

Heinz-Otto Peitgen said that although he and Richard Voss are not part of the math education community, in the last 15 years they have built the M.S.T. and M.S.T. Middle School programs, and have produced about 50 M.S.T.'s in Broward County alone. Many of these now hold administrative positions. Most functions in the Broward school district which need mathematical talent are filled by our graduates. It has changed middle school teaching in Broward. Peitgen and Voss have looked at what is being taught in middle schools and what deeper knowledge teachers need to be more creative, developing eight courses in this curriculum. Lead teachers with classroom experience are helping. An independent evaluator has found statistical correlation between courses taught by our graduates and student improvement, not just in the FCAT, but also in the Broward benchmark test. Palm Beach County is asking for the same thing and working on a proposal. Collaboration between our program and the College of Education has so far failed because they have little focus on math education, but solid evidence exists that math teachers are more effective when they have both mathematical and pedagogical backgrounds.

Fred Hoffman agreed. The math education community in the MAA and AMS has been growing stronger. A math educator in our department, someone who knows mathematics as well as education, will enhance our position on grants. We need a sustainable program, not one just built on Peitgen and Voss. Any grant proposal needs to prove sustainability.

We discussed whether to allow applications at the assistant level as well as full professor and associate. Heinz-Otto said someone at the associate level or higher, preferably with grant history, would have more influence in funding.

The faculty voted to run the ad as written. We decided to schedule interviews for late summer so Heinz-Otto would be here.