

Colloquium Lecture Committee

General Description

- Committee is standing
- Number of members is three
- Term is three years

Principal Activities

The Committee selects Colloquium Lecturers for the Annual Meeting. The invitation is issued in the name of the Committee by the Secretary.

The Committee presents their suggestions to the EC for review. The suggested names must be accepted by the EC before invitations are issued.

Other Activities

Members are appointed by the President.

Miscellaneous Information

The Committee conducts its business by regular mail, electronic mail and telephone. Such expenses may be reimbursed.

On 18 May 1984 (as reported in the November 1984 ECBT Minutes), the Executive Committee approved the following report of a subcommittee (P.R. Halmos and M. Hochster) of the EC.

COLLOQUIUM LECTURERS, GIBBS LECTURERS, PRIZE WINNERS

A report of a subcommittee of the EC

Certain of the Council's decisions (the selection of the Colloquium and Gibbs lectures and the selection of the recipients of the Society's prizes) have traditionally been delegated to special committees and then routinely approved by the EC. The procedure has not been totally satisfactory. (In most cases the EC gave rubber stamp approval, sometimes recommending committee didn't even produce its nominee's CV.)

As a compromise between, in effect, doing the work of the special committees (undesirable interference) and merely being informed of their decisions (insufficient supervision), the subcommittee recommends that the EC in the future use a system of combined input and pre-approval, as follows:

The special committees should submit to the EC their semifinal short list of choices (ordinarily two or three names for each slot), together with a one-page summary of the documentation justifying each name on the list, and to do so before receiving preliminary acceptance from the suggested nominees. The system should not be inflexible: if, for instance, the special committee feels strongly that there is a single obvious choice, it will suffice that that fact be communicated to the EC. For the Gibbs Lecturers, it would be desirable for the selection committee to provide some insight into the mathematical component of the proposed lecturers' work, not merely his credentials within his own area.

The EC may comment on each name ("acceptable", "unacceptable", "excellent"), and possibly even suggest another name or two for the special committee's consideration. The

final choice is to be left to the special committee. The EC is to be informed of it, but need no longer approve it.

Note to the Chair

Committee chairs should be informed, at the beginning of each fiscal period, of the budget of their committees and cautioned to remain within the budget. Such items as travel reimbursement, accommodations, and meals for guests of any kind fall within these budgets.

Work done by committees on recurring problems may have value as precedent or work done may have historical interest. Because of this, the Council has requested that a central file system be maintained for the Society by the Secretary. Committees are reminded that a copy of every sheet of paper should be deposited (say once a year) in this central file. Confidential material should be noted, so that it can be handled in a confidential manner.

Authorization

Council, Jan 1995 (divided the Colloquium Editorial Committee into two parts: Colloquium Editorial and Colloquium Lecture).

Updated: 6/95, 3/99; 8/09;10/13 Misc Info, Note to Chair, membership

Past Members

A list of current and past committee members is available here:

<http://www.ams.org/about-us/governance/committees/colloqlect-past.html>

Past Lectures

<http://www.ams.org/meetings/lectures/meet-colloquium-lect>