

Program Committee for National Meetings

General Description

- Committee is standing
- Number of members is eight, including the Secretary and Associate Secretary, who serve *ex officio*
- Term is three years

Principal Activity

The Committee selects hour speakers for the Annual Meetings. This does not include Colloquium or Gibbs Lecturers or joint AMS-MAA speakers. The number of speakers is agreed in consultation with the Associate Secretary in charge of the meeting, who ordinarily participates in the selection. The invitations are issued in the name of the Committee by the Secretary.

Other Activities

The Committee participates in the choice of organizers and subjects for special sessions but ordinarily leaves the administration of this part of the program to the Associate Secretary. With respect to special sessions, the Committee should be aware that there are special interest groups in SIAM, IEEE, ACM, and possibly other organizations which are sources of special sessions and which should be solicited. One such group is the IEE Information Theory Group. See EC/BT minutes of 1-2 May 1981, item 5.3.

The Committee generates symposia.

The Committee is available to assist the Associate Secretary, as by referring, in difficult cases concerning the acceptance of contributed papers.

The following action of the Executive Committee resolves certain points about jurisdiction over programs.

Committee Charges Concerning Programs. The EC approved the following two rules, which will be incorporated in the charges to the relevant committees.

Each Society Committee, particularly the Science Policy Committee and the Committee on Employment and Education Policy, is responsible for the selection of those elements of the program, such as lectures and panel discussions, which fall within Society jurisdiction and within its charge.

In the event of possible overcrowding of the portion of the program within the responsibility of the Society, the resolution of conflicts rests with the Program Committee (or with the cognizant Committee to Select Hour Speakers).

These two items supplement existing charges to the Program Committee for the scientific content and to the Joint Meetings Committee for mechanics of joint meetings. The two new elements had the approval of the relevant committees and the ABC.

Equal Opportunities for Women

The Business Meeting of the January 19, 1972 passed the following resolution:

Resolved that:

1. The American Mathematical Society will work actively for equal opportunities for women in the following areas:
 - A. employment at all levels: this will include the search for a recruitment of qualified women.
 - B. advancement and tenure in academic positions.
 - C. admissions to graduate schools.
 - D. graduate and postdoctoral fellowships and assistantships.
 - E. membership on advisory boards and panels; and
2. The Society will include more women on
 1. Society programs and panels, including invited speakers and section chairman.
 - B. Society committees and governing boards.

The Council of August 29, 1972 instructed the Secretary to call part two of the resolution regularly to the attention of individuals in charge of various parts of Society programs.

The Secretary proposes to do this by distributing this sheet from time to time as follows:

Colloquium Editorial Committee
Committee on Summer Institutes
Committee on Applied Mathematics
Organizing Committees for Institutes, Seminars, and Symposia
Associate Secretaries

He asks in turn that the Associate Secretaries see that their Section Program Committee and the organizers of informal sessions and chairmen of invited twenty minute papers receive copies.

Miscellaneous Information

The Committee has found it effective to conduct its business by mail and conference telephone call.

The following passage is extracted from the report of the Committee on Committees in recommending the establishment of the Program Committee:

Fifty minute talks should emphasize very high level exposition and should be designed for fully trained mathematicians. The emphasis in choosing speakers should be on the quality of talk, even though this may result in more repetition of speakers than is now the practice. Nevertheless, the search for good young speakers should be pursued. The Program Committee should make systematic efforts to gather suggestions for speakers. They should consider the possibility of having a form printed in the *Notices* to be used by members to make suggestions.

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

January 03, 2017 Council Minutes, Item 3.5

Summer meetings were removed from the description of the Principal Activity.

Council minutes of August 19, 1975, pp. 4-5.

EC/BT minutes of 20-22 November, 1981, item 5.1

updated 10/31/90; 12/16/92; 8/24/94; 5/04/95; 4/06/99; 8/1/01; 11/13 Note, Misc Info, membership

Past Members

A list of current and past members is available here:

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