
Re: Activity groups and MRCs

4 messages

Brian D Boe <brian@math.uga.edu>

Sun, Mar 13, 2016 at 4:09 PM

To: Secretariat <secret@ams.org>

Cc: "T. Christine Stevens" <tcs@ams.org>, Melissa Colton <mac@ams.org>, Carla Savage <savage@ncsu.edu>, Darla Kremer <ams_secretary@ncsu.edu>

Dear all,

Thank you to Georgia, Steve, and Michel for the information about MRC sessions at the JMM. I now see this is mentioned in the Meetings Manual for Associate Secretaries in the section on JMM Special Sessions. However, I don't see it in the generic JMM block schedule, and I don't see any rooms reserved for this on Melissa's JMM room grid. I don't even see "MRC Banquet" on the second evening of the JMM block schedule.

So just to clarify: I'm supposed to set aside AMS special session rooms for these, both morning (8:00-11:50) and afternoon (1:00-3:50) on Thursday. And the information about these won't be available until after (possibly long after) the date (May 6 this year) for notifying the special session proposers which blocks of time and rooms they'll be allocated for their sessions.

Michel mentioned "three or four" MRC sessions in Seattle. I see on the AMS website that there are four MRCs scheduled for Summer 2016, so I presume that means I should set aside four rooms for MRC special sessions. Chris, since the organizers of the MRCs are already known, would it not be possible to contact them now and ensure that they plan to participate in a JMM special session? Or is that a prerequisite of agreeing to organize an MRC?

Lastly, the Meetings Manual also mentions a Special Session affiliated with "the AMS Short Course." So that sounds like one (?) more room to set aside. Is the short course traditionally given a particular block or sequence of blocks for its affiliated special session, analogous to the "all-day Thursday" for the MRCs?

Thanks,
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On Mar 13, 2016, at 12:45 PM, GEORGIA M BENKART <benkart@math.wisc.edu> wrote:

I asked Chris about this yesterday, and she said that they usually wait until the MRC meets to decide about JMM special session organizers. Perhaps, as soon as the MRCs have met (is that usually June and July?) the information can be sent to the Assoc. Sec. Chris may have some thoughts on the practicality of this time frame.

Best wishes,
Georgia

From: Michel Lapidus <mllapidus@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:14 AM**To:** Steven H. Weintraub**Cc:** T. Christine Stevens; secret**Subject:** Re: Activity groups and MRCs

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<http://math.ucr.edu/~lapidus>

On Sun, Mar 13, 2016 at 5:01 PM, Steven H. Weintraub <shw2@lehigh.edu> wrote:

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So, Brian, I think you should plan on that.

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| Dept. of Mathematics     | Fax: (610)-758-3767 |
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| Bethlehem, PA 18015-3174 USA | http://www.lehigh.edu/~shw2 |
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T. Christine Stevens <tcs@ams.org>

Mon, Mar 14, 2016 at 9:13 AM

To: "brian@math.uga.edu" <brian@math.uga.edu>, secret <secret@ams.org>
Cc: Melissa Colton <mac@ams.org>, "savage@ncsu.edu" <savage@ncsu.edu>, "ams_secretary@ncsu.edu" <ams_secretary@ncsu.edu>, Robin Hagan Aguiar <rha@ams.org>

Hello, Brian,

During the COMC mtg, I realized that I needed to bring you up to date on the MRC Special Sessions at JMM 2017, and I'm grateful to the folks who jumped in with useful information, while I was taking an email holiday yesterday.

Each MRC always has a special session at the next JMM, and it's written into the grant that supports the MRCs. In 2016, as you noted, there are 4 MRC conferences, so there will be four MRC Special Sessions at JMM 2017. Although we know the names of the organizers of the 2016 MRC conferences, they will not be organizing the Special Sessions. Instead, they

will choose 3 or 4 of the participants to play this role, and they will make their choice at the MRC conferences in June.

It's for this reason that the names of the special session organizers are not available until late June or early July. Last year, Ellen Maycock sent the names of the special session organizers to the Meetings staff on July 1, and I'm sorry to hear that that information wasn't relayed to Michel until much later. This year, I will make a point of copying you on that information.

In any case, the plan is to have the four MRC Special Sessions on Day 2 of JMM, each meeting both morning (8:00-11:50 a.m.) and afternoon (1:00-3:50 p.m.). Although the special session organizers are usually given an opportunity to tweak the titles in late June, we can expect them to be named:

- 1) AMS Special Session on *Lie group representations, discretization, and Gelfand pairs* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)
- 2) AMS Special Session on *Character Varieties: Experiments and New Frontiers* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)
- 3) AMS Special Session on *Algebraic Statistics* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)
- 4) AMS Special Session on *Mathematics in Physiology and Medicine* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)

Meanwhile, the "MRC banquet" is actually an MRC reception. It's a private event (by invitation only). It does not appear in the printed or online JMM program, but obviously we still need a room for it. It's scheduled at 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Day 2 of JMM.

As for the Special Session associated with the Short Course, this is the first time I've heard of this possibility. There was no such Special Session in Seattle, and the option of organizing a Special Session isn't even mentioned in the manual for Short Course organizers. If you wish, I will give you the names of the organizers of the 2017 Short Course (which fell into place a couple of weeks ago), and you can ask them about their intentions.

Finally, I have a request to make: It's possible that you will receive a proposal for a Special Session on a topic that overlaps with the topic for one of the MRC Special Sessions. For example, in Seattle there was an MRC Special Session on Financial Mathematics and a regular Special Session on Problems and Challenges in Financial Engineering and Risk Management. It's perfectly fine for that to happen. It's helpful, however, if the organizers of the two special sessions know about the overlap. That way, they can coach to their speakers to make sure that they submit their abstracts for the correct special session. For JMM 2016, we had to spend some time tracking down and moving abstracts that had been submitted for the wrong session.

Thanks,

Chris

From: Brian D Boe [mailto:brian@math.uga.edu]

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 4:09 PM

To: secret <secret@ams.org>

Cc: T. Christine Stevens <tcs@ams.org>; Melissa Colton <mac@ams.org>; savage@ncsu.edu; ams_secretary@ncsu.edu

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Carla Savage <savage@ncsu.edu>

To: "ams_secretary@ncsu.edu" <ams_secretary@ncsu.edu>

Sun, Mar 27, 2016 at 1:31 PM

Carla D. Savage, Professor
Secretary, American Mathematical Society
Department of Computer Science
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC 27695-8206

Forwarded conversation

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There were three or four MRC special sessions last year (at the Seattle JMM) but the information about those came very late (in mid-to-late September). I had left room for them but it would be much better if the MS AS in charge of the JMM were to receive the information by early May or early June, as was done in the past.

I would welcome proposals from MRC or other activity groups at sectional meetings as well but see no reason why the organizers of such activities should not follow the standard procedures and send their proposal by the published deadlines (and with the require information). There is compelling reason in my opinion to have to write to MRC organizers or other activity groups organizers separately to request their participation. We have got enough to do, as it is, and if they are eager to participate, they should just conform to the usual rules, which is very easy to do.

With best wishes,

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On Sun, Mar 13, 2016 at 5:01 PM, Steven H. Weintraub <shw2@lehigh.edu <mailto:shw2@lehigh.edu>> wrote:

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From: **T. Christine Stevens** <tcs@ams.org>

Date: Mon, Mar 14, 2016 at 9:13 AM

To: "brian@math.uga.edu" <brian@math.uga.edu>, secret <secret@ams.org>

Cc: Melissa Colton <mac@ams.org>, "savage@ncsu.edu" <savage@ncsu.edu>, "ams_secretary@ncsu.edu" <ams_secretary@ncsu.edu>, Robin Hagan Aguiar <rha@ams.org>

Hello, Brian,

During the COMC mtg, I realized that I needed to bring you up to date on the MRC Special Sessions at JMM 2017, and I'm grateful to the folks who jumped in with useful information, while I was taking an email holiday yesterday.

Each MRC always has a special session at the next JMM, and it's written into the grant that supports the MRCs. In 2016, as you noted, there are 4 MRC conferences, so there will be four MRC Special Sessions at JMM 2017. Although we know the names of the organizers of the 2016 MRC conferences, they will not be organizing the Special Sessions. Instead, they will choose 3 or 4 of the participants to play this role, and they will make their choice at the MRC conferences in June.

It's for this reason that the names of the special session organizers are not available until late June or early July. Last year, Ellen Maycock sent the names of the special session organizers to the Meetings staff on July 1, and I'm sorry to hear that that information wasn't relayed to Michel until much later. This year, I will make a point of copying you on that information.

In any case, the plan is to have the four MRC Special Sessions on Day 2 of JMM, each meeting both morning (8:00-11:50 a.m.) and afternoon (1:00-3:50 p.m.). Although the special session organizers are usually given an opportunity to tweak the titles in late June, we can expect them to be named:

- 1) AMS Special Session on *Lie group representations, discretization, and Gelfand pairs* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)
- 2) AMS Special Session on *Character Varieties: Experiments and New Frontiers* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)
- 3) AMS Special Session on *Algebraic Statistics* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)
- 4) AMS Special Session on *Mathematics in Physiology and Medicine* (a Mathematics Research Communities Session)

Meanwhile, the "MRC banquet" is actually an MRC reception. It's a private event (by invitation only). It does not appear in the printed or online JMM program, but obviously we still need a room for it. It's scheduled at 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Day 2 of JMM.

As for the Special Session associated with the Short Course, this is the first time I've heard of this possibility. There was no such Special Session in Seattle, and the option of organizing a Special Session isn't even mentioned in the manual for Short Course organizers. If you wish, I will give you the names of the organizers of the 2017 Short Course (which fell into place a couple of weeks ago), and you can ask them about their intentions.

Finally, I have a request to make: It's possible that you will receive a proposal for a Special Session on a topic that overlaps with the topic for one of the MRC Special Sessions. For example, in Seattle there was an MRC Special Session on Financial Mathematics and a regular Special Session on Problems and Challenges in Financial Engineering and Risk Management. It's perfectly fine for that to happen. It's helpful, however, if the organizers of the two special sessions know about the overlap. That way, they can coach to their speakers to make sure that they submit their abstracts for the correct special session. For JMM 2016, we had to spend some time tracking down and moving abstracts that had been submitted for the wrong session.

Thanks,

Chris

From: Brian D Boe [mailto:brian@math.uga.edu]**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2016 4:09 PM**To:** secret <secret@ams.org>**Cc:** T. Christine Stevens <tcs@ams.org>; Melissa Colton <mac@ams.org>; savage@ncsu.edu; ams_secretary@ncsu.edu-----
From: **T. Christine Stevens** <tcs@ams.org>

Date: Mon, Mar 14, 2016 at 9:43 AM

To: "shw2@lehigh.edu" <shw2@lehigh.edu>

Cc: secret <secret@ams.org>, Robin Hagan Aguiar <rha@ams.org>, Diane Boumenot <dmm@ams.org>

Hi, Steve,

Thanks for your thoughts about the AMS Activity Groups.

Within the math community, there seem to be at least two successful models for "special interest groups." One is the SIAM model, in which the activity groups have their own stand-alone meetings, distinct from the general SIAM national meeting. The other is the MAA model, in which the activity groups hold sessions as part of the national MAA mtgs (altho recently there has been one MAA activity group that has a stand-alone meeting).

You seem to be suggesting that AMS could try the latter model. That's certainly a possibility, and I'm happy to brainstorm about it. But it would need a lot of input from the Secretariat, to make sure that what we planned was do-able and appealing.

Thanks,

Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven H. Weintraub [mailto:shw2@lehigh.edu]

Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2016 5:37 AM

To: T. Christine Stevens <tcs@ams.org>

Cc: secret <secret@ams.org>

Subject: Activity groups and MRCs