

American Mathematical Society
Workshop for Department Chairs and Department Leaders
Thursday, January 14, 2021

AGENDA

The 2021 AMS Department Chairs Workshop will feature three main sessions. Each session will begin with a 15-minute presentation, and will be followed by small group conversations. With the breakout rooms, we are hoping to foster an intimate environment in which you can share your concerns and challenges, and get useful feedback.

11:00 am -11:15 am Welcome & Introductions

Karen Saxe, Associate Executive Director, American Mathematical Society

11:15 am - 12:30 pm Session 1: Leadership Development During Challenging Times

Leader: Kevin Knudson, University of Florida

The demands of the past year forced chairs into survival mode, dealing with the everyday tactical challenges of running a department in exceptional circumstances. Yet the larger goals remain and there is still opportunity to enhance your own leadership skills as you guide your colleagues into what we hope will be a brighter future. In this session we will discuss managing short- and long-term priorities and engage in some exercises to help you identify where to target your efforts.

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm LUNCH BREAK

1:30 pm -2:45 pm Session 2: The Logistics of Remote Teaching and Learning

Leader: Jennifer Zhao, University of Michigan-Dearborn

The pandemic has forced most institutions to teach courses remotely or in a hybrid mode. Most faculty and students don't have much experience teaching or learning remotely. In this section, we will discuss several topics related to remote teaching and learning, and share successful and unsuccessful remote teaching/learning practices with each other. The topics for discussions include: student engagement; maintaining integrity; good tools to use; online assessments, and communicating/connecting with students.

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm Session 3: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and How COVID is Affecting Efforts

Leader: Luca Capogna, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

While we understand that a diverse community of mathematicians can contribute to research and education through multiple perspectives, at the same time we are faced with the virtual absence of several groups from our mathematics communities. Across the nation many departments and organizations are finding ways to increase participation of underrepresented minorities in mathematics, and maintain a civic dialogue around issues of diversity and inclusion in the mathematical sciences. In this session we will look at some of these initiatives, and discuss among participants ideas and suggestions that may be effective in your department.

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm Wrap-up led by Jennifer, Kevin, and Luca

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Happy Hour in Gather Town