

Dear MAA-SE Section meeting registrants,

I am writing in my role as chair of the Southeastern Section of the MAA to share the unfortunate news that our annual meeting, scheduled for Thursday through Saturday of this week, will be cancelled. This was an extremely difficult decision. Ultimately, we took guidance from many experts who point to the importance of “flattening the curve” of the epidemic (i.e., delaying and lowering the peak disease prevalence) by practicing social distancing and avoiding large gatherings. Evidence shows that such actions can avoid overwhelming health care systems and greatly reduce deaths.

We have cancelled the meeting out of an abundance of caution, to protect faculty and students at the 70-plus campuses represented at the section meeting, recognizing that even one infected person attending our meeting could result in a massive jump in the number of cases in our region, and lead to campus shutdowns and other high-cost negative consequences. In our discussions, the Executive Committee also noted that students and untenured faculty in particular might feel pressured to attend this meeting, even if doing so exceeded their own personal risk tolerance.

We apologize for the inconvenience and disappointment this causes you and your students. We are preparing to refund all registration fees, and to provide opportunities for workshops and talks to be delivered online. The plenary speakers and many others are eager to make the most of their preparations, and we want to find meaningful ways to connect even during this time of physical separation. Details of these opportunities will be posted on the [meeting web site](#) and [MAA Connect](#), and communicated by email in the coming days.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I express our deep gratitude to our hosts at High Point University, who cooked and cleaned and planned and prepared for us. Thanks also to Andy Miller, who prepared the program, Brad Fox who built the meeting web page, and the many organizers of special sessions, workshops, Math Jeopardy!, and other student activities. The section has many dedicated members, and I am so grateful to each of you.

With best wishes for your health and happiness for the rest of the semester and beyond,

Laurie Heyer
MAA-SE Section Chair