

Guidelines for the Renewal or Termination of SIAGs

When a SIAG is up for renewal, the Charter Renewal Application asks SIAG officers to provide detailed information about the SIAG's activities during its present term as well as specific plans for future activities. A SIAG that has not been active during its present term will not be automatically renewed. Activities may be of various natures according to the SIAG's interests; examples include organization of conferences, a regular newsletter, SIAG participation in SIAM annual meetings, an up-to-date Web portal, etc. Membership is also a clear indication of the health of a SIAG. If a SIAG's membership is dropping, this may indicate that renewal is not appropriate.

SIAG leaders are expected to respond to questions from the SIAM office in a timely way, normally by email, and to organize regular elections following the SIAG Rules of Procedure.

SIAG renewals are reviewed by both the SIAM Council and Board; the renewals take place effective the beginning of a calendar year. Requests for renewal are due no later than June 1 of the previous year so that they may be considered by the Council and Board at their summer meetings. If the Council or Board decides that renewal of the SIAG may not be appropriate, the SIAG officers will be notified during the summer so that they have the opportunity to provide more information to the SIAM office during the fall. This information will be due no later than November 1. The Council will then be polled by email, and if the Council approves renewal, the Board will make a final decision regarding renewal at its December meeting.

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Pro Forma CHARTER RENEWAL APPLICATION

This CHARTER RENEWAL APPLICATION applies to the SIAM Activity Group on Dynamical Systems. The SIAM Activity Group (or SIAG) to which this renewal applies was originally formed under the aegis of SIAM on December 2, 1988, by the SIAM Council and December 3, 1988, by the SIAM Board of Trustees with its initial operating period beginning January 1, 1989, and ending December 1, 1991. Its charter has been renewed by the Council and Board five (5) times thereafter. This SIAG has 607 members as of June 16, 2004.

According to its Rules of Procedure, the objective of the SIAG is to bring together researchers working on a variety of problems in dynamical systems and to give them contact with people of similar interests but often different backgrounds. By the establishment of this SIAG, cross-disciplinary interactions will be catalyzed among workers with interests in dynamics ranging from fundamental properties of dynamical systems to the development of software for use in the study of dynamics to applications to disciplines such as physics, chemistry and engineering. Also, the SIAG will foster interactions between the academic community working in dynamics and workers in industrial and government settings.

Its proposed functions are to organize activities, including conferences at various times and locations, sessions and minisymposia at SIAM meetings, workshops, and educational forums to (1) promote interaction among applied mathematicians, engineers, physical and biological scientists and others interested in the development of dynamical systems, (2) keep the SIAM membership up to date on progress in dynamics through articles in SIAM News and other media, and (3) facilitate the further development of methods, software, and applications in dynamical systems.

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The SIAG has complemented SIAM's activities and supported its proposed functions. The answers to the questions below indicate how this was accomplished and what the officers propose as the future directions for the SIAG.

1. How is the field covered by the activity group doing? Is it growing, is the focus shifting? What have been the significant advances over the last three years?

Dynamical systems continues to be a vibrant field, with research that spans a spectrum from pure mathematics to very applied research. The clearest benchmarks for the coverage of the field are the programs of the Snowbird SIAG meetings, the research areas of the officers and the content of the website DSWeb. One recent shift in focus has been an increased emphasis upon applications in the life sciences, an area that is now covered by the Life Sciences SIAG which had its first meeting in March, 2002. In response, the Dynamical Systems SIAG will ensure that it maintains strong coverage in other areas. A second area of growth in application areas is research related to networks.

2. How is the activity group doing? Is it remaining vibrant? Is the size of the SIAG stable or increasing? How is the SIAG keeping up with the changes in the field? How are the broader interests of SIAM reflected in the activities of the SIAG?

The activity group is doing well. It continues its successful tradition of recruiting mid-career individuals for the key position of Program Coordinator and using the two candidates for that position as co-chairs of the Snowbird conferences. The website DSWeb has been slower in development than anticipated. Hinke Osinga has taken on the position of Managing Editor for the site from John Guëkenheimer. She is rethinking the editorial organization of the site to make the editorial board become more proactive in soliciting content for the site and working with the SIAM staff on technical aspects of the site. More efforts need to be made to advertise the site and make it more visible from the SIAM web pages.

3. Please list conferences/workshops the activity group has sponsored or co-sponsored over the past three years, and give a brief (one sentence or phrase) indication of the success or problems with each.

The SIAG sponsors the "Snowbird" Dynamical Systems Conferences in May of odd years. These meetings continue to be among the largest SIAG meetings, with attendance that has been over 600 for the last several meetings.

4. Please indicate the number of minisymposia directly organized by the activity group at the last two SIAM annual meetings. When did the SIAG last organize a track of minisymposia at an annual meeting?

At the 2002 SIAM Annual Meeting, the SIAG sponsored five minisymposia. One of them was Part II of a track of two minisymposia. In 2003 the SIAG held its own conference.

5. Please indicate other activities sponsored by the activity group, to include newsletters, prizes and Web sites. Have each of these been active and successful?

DSWeb is a web site sponsored by the activity group to serve as a "portal" for the field. DSWeb includes a quarterly electronic "magazine" that has been edited by Hinke Osinga. The SIAG awards two prizes, the Moser Lectureship and the JD Crawford Prize at the Snowbird Conferences. These prizes were first awarded in 2001, and prize committees for the 2005 awards have been appointed.

6. What activities are planned and proposed for the next period of the charter? Please describe scheduled and suggested future activities in detail.

The 2005 Snowbird meeting organizing committee and the prize committees are hard at work. A priority for the SIAG during the next two years is to ensure that DSWeb become more visible and successful. We may launch a fund-raising campaign to increase the prize funds.

7. How can SIAM help the activity group achieve its goals?

Improving coordination between the SIAM staff and the editorial board for DSWeb would be extremely helpful at this point. In general, it would also be helpful if SIAM would provide SIAG officers, when elected, with a timetable of when actions are required followed by reminders. It is all too easy for busy volunteers to let tasks slip, as we sometimes do. We would appreciate having more communication directed at helping us carry out our duties.

8. How can the activity group help SIAM in its general role of promoting applied mathematics and computational science?

DSWeb is an excellent way to promote applied mathematics and computational science.

This SIAG requests that the SIAM Council and Board of Trustees renew its charter for an operating period beginning November 1, 2005, and ending December 31, 2007.

Signed

John Guckenheimer
SIAG/DS Chair
May 26, 2004
