



MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY

Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.

4.3 Government Affairs Committee

Purpose: This policy articulates the purpose, structure, and responsibilities of both the MRS Government Affairs Committee and its Chair.

Applies to: Volunteers, Members, Staff

Purpose/Scope

The Government Affairs Committee shall contribute to the development of governmental science and technology policy in materials-related areas by: responding to and initiating opportunities to interact nationally and internationally with government officials and public and private organizations on matters of science and technology policy; serving as a resource for reliable, unbiased technical and professional information; stimulating responsible technical discussion; and facilitating the exchange of information between policy makers, materials scientists, engineers, and the public, and participating in planning events related to those policies. The committee shall also aid the MRS leadership and Board of Directors in identifying policy issues relevant to the Society's interests and in preparing proposed responses with supporting background material for consideration and disposition.

Committee Structure

The Committee shall be comprised of a volunteer chair, volunteer members of the committee, and the MRS Executive Director or designee. Ad Hoc volunteer groups will be formed as needed for specific Government Affairs activities/events, with volunteer lists specifically being maintained for the following recurring short-term/one-time activities:

- **MRS-Optica Congressional Fellows Group.** A list of volunteers, predominantly being former MRS Congressional Fellows, will be maintained to ensure two to three volunteers to assist with the selection of the MRS-Optica Congressional Fellow each year and to assist with Congressional Fellow information sessions at MRS Meetings.
- **Congressional Visit Days Group.** A list of volunteers, predominantly being former MRS Congressional Visit Days volunteers, will be maintained to facilitate volunteer selection for annual MRS Congressional Visit Days.
- **Policy Advisors.** A list of volunteers, predominantly being former members of the MRS Government Affairs Committee and MRS Board with policy expertise, will be maintained for consultation as needed for policy-related issues that arise sporadically.

Chair/Member Appointments

The chair of the Government Affairs Committee shall be appointed by the Vice President of MRS. The committee chair shall appoint members of the committee as well as Ad Hoc groups leads. The Ad Hoc group leads will work with the committee chair to develop a written scope for the Ad Hoc group, and to assign Ad Hoc members, which may or may not be members of the larger Government Affairs Committee. The committee chair shall also identify a Vice Chair, approved by the Vice President, to

assist or serve as acting chair in the event that the chair cannot perform his/her duties in an effective and timely manner.

In order to generate new committee members to replace the old ones, the Committee Chair shall develop recommendations for chairing the committee during the final year of their term and be given the list of current members and the expiration dates of their terms immediately upon being named. The new Chair should work with the outgoing chair, GAC designated project lead(s), and Executive Director or designee to develop and recruit replacement committee members.

The Government Affairs Committee will accept new members on a rolling basis, with a limit of 20 active members at a time. The committee chair will check-in with new members after a six-month period to discuss their level of committee engagement and satisfaction with that engagement.

All members of the committee and ad hoc groups shall be members of the Society, unless approved in each instance by the Vice President, including the specific term of appointment. Over time, committee members should include a diversity of members as appropriate to achieve the mission of the committee.

Term of Service

The Government Affairs Committee Chair shall serve a three-year term, extendable to six years with mutual consent of the Chair and the Vice President, not including time previously served on the committee or any of its subcommittees/working groups. The Chair of the committee may be re-appointed to a second term, at the discretion of the MRS Vice President. Committee members may be re-appointed to a second term, at the discretion of the Government Affairs Committee Chair. After six years on any particular committee, at least a one-year hiatus is required before re-appointment to the same subcommittee/working group.

The committee chair, with the assistance of the Executive Director or designee, shall assure that all persons appointed to the committee and its groups are informed in writing as to the term of their appointment. The committee chair, with the assistance of Executive Director or designee, shall maintain rosters of committee and Ad Hoc group members, normally with staggered three-year terms. Any changes to the rosters shall be forwarded to the committee's Executive Director or designee as soon as possible.

Committee Responsibilities

- Aid the MRS leadership and Board of Directors in identifying policy issues relevant to the Society's interests and prepare proposed responses, with supporting background material, for consideration and disposition.
- Respond to and initiate opportunities to interact nationally and internationally with government officials, coalitions, and public and private organizations on matters of science and technology policy.
- Provide reliable, unbiased technical and professional information to the Board, membership and/or policy makers, as appropriate.

- Stimulate responsible technical discussion and facilitate the exchange of information between policy makers, materials scientists, engineers, and the public, and participate in or plan events related to those policies.
- Accomplish annual charges from the Board of Directors.
- Working with MRS Headquarters Committee Liaison(s), to deliver committee programs/activities and to develop timely and relevant information pertaining to science policy, funding, and government activities.
- Continually recruit and engage new members for the Government Affairs Committee.

Deliverables: N/A; Review every three years or as needed

Who: Secretary/GAC Committee Chair

When: At least 8 weeks before the Board meeting at which amendments should be considered.

To: President

Policy first adopted: May 23, 1973 – Constitution/Bylaw

Last modified: April 2018, December 13, 2018; January 2020; April 2021; Jan 2022; Aug 2022; Aug 2023

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Enacting Legislation: B:2003:42; B:2003:56;B:2005:7;B:2006:34;B:2007:44;B:2012:64;B:2013:42; B:2016:12; B:2018:11 (Consent Agenda); B2018:36 (F18 Consent Agenda);B2019:38 (F19 Consent Agenda); B:2021:08 (S21 Consent Agenda); B:2021:22 (F21 Consent Agenda); B:2022:12 (Consent Agenda); B:2023:09 (Consent Agenda)

Policy revised by: GAC Party responsible for this policy: GAC Committee