

Committee	Full Government Affairs Committee (GAC)	
Date/Time	Tuesday, 23 March 2021 / 3:00 pm eastern	
Participants	Loucas Tsakalacos, Damon Dozier, Jeff Aguiar, Daniel Becerra, Josh Caldwell, Jennifer DiStefano, Boris Dyatkin, Elias Garratt, Sean Hearne, Jen Nekuda, Juan Nino, Dio Placencia, Erin Ratcliff, Cathy Tway, Clarissa Towle, Suyog Padgaonkar, Steve Smith, Dave Steuerman, Jeremy Ward Kris Uher (recording secretary)	
Next call	April 27, 2021 @ 3 pm ET	
Responsibility	Action Items	Due

New GAC Roster and Appeal for Recruitment

Damon Dozier thanked everyone for trying the new format of a Zoom video meeting.

Damon noted that a number of committee members have cycled off and he and Loucas are trying to find individuals who have a passion for advocacy to join the committee. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested or if anyone has a specific interest in one of the advocacy areas, they should let Damon or Loucas know.

Also, the committee would like to add a vice chair to work with Loucas and Damon. Interested parties need not be a current members of GAC but must be a MRS member.

Washington DC Update

There are a few areas of interest following the passage of the Economic Relief Bill. Agency funding for the DOE Office of Science was not in the final bill. Some provisions to bolster pandemic-related research activities include: 1) Money to sequence and track COVID-19 variants 2) \$6M for NSF which is not necessarily directed towards any particular effort except having to do with STEM education. 3) \$1M for the National Institutes of Standards and Technology.

Partners from CVD were very impressed with the presentations and materials provided which were a product of our workgroup's efforts. Thanks to Jen Nekuda for coming up with the idea for the postcard.

Jennifer Grandholm was sworn in as the Secretary of Energy, becoming the second woman to lead the U.S. DOE. David Turk is the Deputy Secretary of Energy. Chris Fall is no longer the Director in the Office of Science - U.S. DOE and Steve Binkley is filling in temporarily as the Acting Director. Tanya Das has been named Chief of Staff, Office of Science and has agreed to do an interview for *Materials 360*.

Sen. Schumer has proposed increased funding for the NSF for research in areas like AI, machine learning, robotics, and the manufacturing of semiconductor chips to make the US more competitive with China. The proposed bill is based on the Endless Frontiers Act which calls for a new directorate to focus on technology.

Similar to the previous administration, President Biden is expected to release a 'skinny' budget proposal for 2022. The budget proposal will begin the process of Congress approving funding the government in the fiscal year that starts in October. Biden has signed an EO to review products like semiconductors and identify policy recommendations to fortify supply chains.

Chips for America Act will increase U.S. investment in the semiconductor industry to secure America's competitive edge in this industry.

Research Funding Opportunity Sessions

Jeremy Ward reported that virtual RFO sessions are being planned for the weeks following the S21 Meeting. The target is four presentations over two weeks. Vanessa Chan, UPENN, was named Chief Commercialization Officer for the U.S. DOE office and is interested in reaching out to industry-based membership specifically for commercialization efforts. Currently, seeking Air Force international representation and have not heard back yet. Dio Placencia noted that he can help find someone and will follow up with Jeremy on the best way to proceed.

BESAC Presentation (Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee) event is confirmed for April 26 and a DOE Commercialization presentation for April 28 has not yet been confirmed. Eric Stach, former MRS Board Secretary will be involved.

Grassroots Advocacy Working Group

Materials Voice did not have great participation in the Fall Virtual environment. Boris Dyatkin noted that in-person presence or a coordinated drive is needed to be successful. For these reasons, Materials Voice will be taking a hiatus for the Spring Meeting. Once 302(a) allocations are complete, more work on advocacy will be done.

CVD

Damon noted that there have been discussions about further developing the work that Sarah Vorhpal did on the materials science success stories and COVID-19 efforts. Jen Nekuda suggested that this information be put in postcard format as well.

Other

Josh Caldwell asked that with CHIPS becoming a hot topic, if it made sense to go back to show how federal investments have helped advance materials science. Dave Steuerman noted that there is a big push for foundries and innovations in the way science is funded. Currently there is a chasm between labs and universities, new technologies, and processes in the manufacturing sector.

The remaining GAC meetings will be held using Zoom. Kris will send updated Meeting Invitations which will include the Zoom links.

Adjournment

The call ended at 3:44 pm ET.