

Committee **Full Government Affairs Committee (GAC)**
 Date/Time **Tuesday, 25 May 2021 / 3:00 pm eastern**

Loucas Tsakalacos, Damon Dozier, Jeff Aguiar, Daniel Becerra, Josh Caldwell, Mayra Castro, Jennifer DiStefano, Sean Hearne, Sean Langan, Jen Nekuda Malik, Linda Olafsen, Suyog Padgaonkar, Chris Schuck, Colleen Scott, Steve Smith, Margo Staruch, David Steuerman, Erin Ratcliffe, Ashley White, Kris Uher (recording secretary)

Participants		
Next call	June 22, 2021 @ 3 pm ET	
Responsibility	Action Items	Due

Welcome New Members

Loucas welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned it over to Damon for new committee member introductions. Colleen Scott, Mississippi State University, recently joined GAC and will be a member of the MRS Grassroots Advocacy Working Group. Mayra Castro, Springer Nature, has joined GAC and will also be a member of the MRS Grassroots Advocacy Working Group. Sean Langan has also joined GAC and will be a member of the MRS Policy Outreach Working Group.

Washington DC Update

Damon reported that there are a few DOE leadership nominations: Dr. Geraldine Richmond, Under Secretary for Science, Andrew Light, Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, and Sam Walsh, General Counsel. Steve Binkley is the Principal Deputy Director in the Office of Science at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Tanya Daasis Chief of Staff for the Office of Science. Also, President Biden announced that he is nominating Jill Hruby to lead the DOE Nuclear Security Administration and Frank Rose to be Hruby’s principal deputy.

The White House initial skinny budget includes \$7.4B in the Office of Science to better study climate change impacts. Both the House and Senate are petitioning to raise this amount. The full budget proposal will be released on May 27 but there are no insights as to what final numbers will be.

A number of other bills, largely aimed at combating competitiveness with China, have been added to the Endless Frontiers Act which has been renamed to the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. Joe Manchin (D-WV) believes that the legislation narrowly focuses on expanding NSF and ignores promotion of U.S. technology development under the DOE umbrella and has introduced an amendment to the bill. Another amendment was introduced which would have brought back the Fair Access to Science and Technology Research (FASTR) Act dealing with public access. FASTR required agencies with annual extramural research budgets of \$100 million or more to provide the public with online access to research manuscripts stemming from such funding, following a 12 month waiting period. The Public Access Policy ensures that the public has access to the published results of funded research and requires scientists to submit final peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance and be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the date of publication. The U.S. Innovation and Competition Act contains a provision that would bring a mandatory appropriation of \$52B for semiconductor manufacturing and R&D. Because that number is so large, there are efforts to reduce that funding.

Washington DC is going to lift COVID restrictions fully by the end of June and there are rumors that the federal government may extend restrictions longer. This can affect GAC and future CVD events.

Grass Roots Advocacy Working Group

Damon provided a report, in Boris Adaytkin's absence, on Grass Roots Advocacy Working Group updates.

Work continues on projects to produce white papers on two topics:

- Global materials R&D – will report on the current state of materials R&D investment globally and how the U.S. compares.
- Semiconductors –

The main purpose of the white papers is to provide more understanding of how material science affects future research and innovation. The white papers will be used on informational materials/postcards to help communicate the value of materials success stories. Previous examples can be found here: <https://www.mrs.org/advocacy-policy/materials-success-stories>

Policy Outreach Working Group

Josh Caldwell reported on Policy Outreach Working Group updates. Letters have been sent to program managers of government agencies who participated in the government agency summit to gauge interest on a summit (remote or in-person) focused on the US Innovation and Competitiveness Act. CVD current plans do not include a large-scale CVD but rather use of zoom meetings which can be more nimble and allow for greater participation.

Loucas concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation. He noted that the MRS Fall Meeting is being planned as a hybrid meeting but it is unknown which elements will be in-person or virtual.

Adjournment

The Zoom Meeting ended at 3:33 pm ET.