

Committee: Government Affairs

July 12, 2023, 3:00 pm Eastern

Participating: Loucas Tsakalacos, Dan Becerra, Bill Hammetter, Bishnu Khanal, Jen Nekuda Malik, Linda Olafsen, Steve Smith, Natalie Larocco, Paula Mahar, Glenn Ruskin (*Note: Josh Caldwell voted in advance.*)

GAC Chair Loucas Tsakalacos thanked the members for joining the meeting and outlined the purpose of the meeting was to review proposed revisions/updates to the GAC charter and vote on the proposed revisions/changes.

Washington Principal Glenn Ruskin delivered a PowerPoint presentation (attached) outlining the rationale and need to update the Charter and explained the proposed changes:

- The main reasons for updating the GAC Charter are outlined on page 2 of the attached PowerPoint
- GAC proposed updates are contained on pages 3-5 of the attached PowerPoint

The meeting participants discussed each of the proposed changes and several key themes emerged as additional considerations for the proposed changes:

- Consider making the GAC bi-monthly meetings mandatory for GAC members.
- Strongly supported the retention of active GAC members who took “time off” the GAC after two, three-year terms as Ad Hoc Volunteer Members. We do not want to lose these members. It was noted they could serve as ad hoc members in such a situation until they are eligible again for full membership.
- Revisit the 5 MRS members who expressed interest in joining GAC after the Board approves the revised GAC Charter.
- MRS Congressional Fellows who near the end of their Capitol Hill service in September of each year will be invited to join the GAC as members. This will greatly enhance GAC effectiveness to have this fresh expertise.
- To prevent all GAC members from “timing out” and rotating off the roster simultaneously, the terms of the current active GAC members and new GAC members will have staggered terms so that no more than 1/3 of the membership rotates off at one time.
- GAC members actively seek recruits for GAC membership to keep a robust and active 20 person roster.

After discussion of the proposed changes a motion was made and seconded to approve the revised GAC Charter: Josh Caldwell (in absentia), Daniel Becerra, Bishnu Khanal, Juan Claudio Nino, Linda Olafsen, Steve Smith, Loucas Tsakalacos. The motion carried.

Other topics discussed included future GAC collaborations with MRS Publications and MRS Topical Staging Task Forces on matters such as responding to relevant federal agency Requests for Information; updating existing Materials Success stories and adding additional topics, etc. Paula will send out the list of the Topical Staging Task Forces.

GAC Meeting Schedule

GAC meetings will be scheduled on a bimonthly basis. Invitations will be sent out in advance so the meetings are on GAC member calendars. This new schedule will ensure that the meetings are more

fruitful, are not repetitive and will help with increasing attendance and engagement in the meetings. Activities will be proposed and members will be asked to help with tasks.

Communicating with House and Senate Members and Staff

Glenn will draft a communication for the Spring CVD participants to send to their 38 legislative contacts. The communication will push F24 appropriations and ask for special consideration for R&D appropriations.

Upcoming GAC Activities

Loucas reminded the members that future meetings will include preparations for events going into the fall and into 2024. He also asked that Glenn check with the staff of the House Science, Space & Technology Committee to see where they are on the three topics they discussed with GAC leadership at the CVD – AI, Quantum and the next round of CHIPS.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm Eastern.

Materials Research Society
Government Affairs Committee
Proposed Charter & Structure Updates
July 12, 2023

Steps Leading Up to Proposed GAC Updates

1. Fall MRS Meeting – Materials Voice Kiosk Results

- Low member engagement – 63 MRS members – generated ~190 letters
- MRS staff, GAC leadership & paid students staff the kiosk

2. Low Activity Level of Grassroots Advocacy Working Group

- Low GAWG member attendance at meetings
- Departure of GAWG Chair Boris Dyatkin

3. Ad Hoc Grassroots Advocacy Reimagining Team Created

- Angela Cleri; Jen Nekuda Malik, Linda Olafsen, Christopher Shuck & Colleen Scott
- Key Recommendations:
 - Seek Greater MRS member direct engagement with their elected officials (i.e. CVD matchups)
 - Discontinue Materials Voice, MRS Meeting Kiosk – repurpose funds
 - Create Updated Materials Research Success Stories
 - Continue MRS engagement with key coalitions – CNSF, ESC, TFAI, CNSR – seek opportunities to leverage MRS positions
 - Explore MRS Meeting Opportunities to engage MRS members & MRS Webinars, i.e. federal agencies

4. Broader GAC Examination of MRS 2023 Activities

- Conversations with Loucas Tsakalacos February/March RE: Key GAC responsibilities, structure, members, etc.

5. Staff Review of GAC Charter – Propose Updates to Reflect Input from Ad Hoc Grassroots Reimagining Team and Reflect Reality of Current GAC Operations

Proposed GAC Updates

- **Create a vibrant and engaged GAC by eliminating members who have not attended any GAC meetings in the past 10 months or longer.**
- **Revitalize GAC to consist of no more than 20 members**
- **Officially appoint/reappoint core group of active GAC members to 3-year terms starting January 1, 2023.**
- **Create special category of Ad Hoc Volunteer Experts for involved GAC members who have “timed out” – keep them engaged and providing input/advice**

Proposed GAC Updates

- **Restructure GAC to reflect reality and have a strong operating committee to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency:**
 - **Schedule of meetings to be bi-monthly (1 every two months)**
 - **Sunset Advocacy Subcommittee (doesn't exist/not needed)**
 - **Sunset Grassroots Advocacy Working Group (not needed, especially with MRS Publications involvement – see below)**
 - **Sunset Policy Outreach Working Group and create Policy Outreach Lead (can be handled by full GAC with designated lead for CVD, Federal Agency Summits, etc.)**
 - **Maintain MRS-Optica Congressional Fellows Review Group**

Proposed GAC Updates

- **Policy Outreach Lead to:**
 - **Assist GAC with technical aspects of white papers, Materials Success Stories, MRS Policy Statements, Webinars/Briefings, Requests for Information, etc.**
 - **Engage with MRS Publications to Leverage Expertise of MRS Membership**
 - **Leverage materials created for multiple purposes – CVD handouts, MRS Success stories, Materials 360, MRS Bulletin, etc.**

Questions/Comments/Reactions?