

Committee	<b>Full Government Affairs Committee (GAC)</b>
Date/Time	<b>Tuesday, 25 January 2022 / 3:00 pm eastern</b>

Loucas Tsakalacos, Damon Dozier, Alex Chortos, Elias Garratt, Sean Hearne, Jen Nekuda Malik, Juan Claudio Nino, Colleen Scott, Linda Olafsen, Chris Shuck, Steve Smith, Kris Uher (recording secretary)

<b>Participants</b>		
<b>Next call</b>	February 22, 2022 3 pm ET	
<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Due</b>
<b>Damon/Kris</b>	Send 2022 GAC timeline	Complete
<b>Kris</b>	Schedule remaining calls for 2022, 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month	Complete

### Welcome

Loucas welcomed everyone and reminded them of the importance of attending meetings and being active in committee work.

### 2021 Review

Damon reported that the in 2021 GAC developed communications to help advance policy goals of the materials community, and provide timely information on federal programs and other activities of importance to MRS. Examples of letters sent include:

- Letter to OSTP on Afghanistan Evacuation
- Appropriations letters for DOD, DOE, NSF, NDAA funding
- Response to Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping

A complete list of communications can be found here: <https://www.mrs.org/advocacy-policy/policy-issues>

Through Materials Voice, personalized letters addressed to member's representatives on Capitol Hill were made available to express support for basic research funding, increased funding for DOD basic research, and the US Innovation and Competition Act. In addition, the popular postcards that highlight the value of materials successes driven by federal research investment continued.

### 2022 Outlook

Loucas, Boris, Josh and Damon met to plan activities for 2022. First order of business was to schedule full GAC meetings for the remainder of 2022. GAC will continue with meetings on the last Tuesday of every month, at 3 pm ET. Kris will send Zoom Meeting Invitations (action item). Grassroots Advocacy and Policy Outreach Working Groups will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 3 pm ET, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 3 pm ET, respectively.

### Activities

Damon has a working relationship with Kai Kazumi, OSTP, and will be inviting him to attend the MRS Spring Meeting in Hawai'i. Kai is especially interest in semiconductors and anyone interested in engagement with OSTP and semiconductors should reach out to Damon.

MRS co-sponsors a **Congressional Fellowship** providing members with an invaluable opportunity of public policy learning. Fellows contribute effective use of optical and materials science knowledge in government and broaden

awareness of the value of scientist- and engineer-government interaction among our memberships, the federal government and the public. Rachel Starr, Columbia University, is the 2021-2022 MRS/Optica Congressional Fellow. Since Ashley White has stepped down, Damon is leading the efforts of selecting a fellow for next year. If anyone is interested in being involved, contact Damon. (Jen Nekuda Malik expressed interest and will follow-up with an email)

#### *Signature Events*

**CVD** (Congressional Visit Day) late April/early May – deadline to send first round of invitations is Feb. 21. A fall CVD is also being considered.

**Government Agency Leadership Summit** – possibly late May depending on CVD dates. Looking to possibly expand participation by including other professional societies (ACERS, AiCHE, etc..)

May 8 - 13 is the **2022 MRS Spring Meeting** in Hawai'i. There are no concrete plans for face-to-face meetings in Hawai'i. The status of federal travel restrictions is unknown but if they are lifted, face-to-face meetings may be possible. A record number of abstracts for S22 have been received and a majority of the speakers prefer to present in person.

Damon will provide the GAC with the 2022 timeline following today's meeting (action item).

#### **Working Group Reports**

##### *Grass Roots Advocacy Working Group*

Final throes of completing a white paper on fusion materials which will be ready for a final look by GAC leadership and full GAC soon. MRS will be adding some graphics to the paper.

##### *Policy Outreach Working Group*

The Policy Outreach Working Group agenda is focused on CVD and the Government Agency Summit. There is no status on USICA and the Build Back Better Bill has failed to pass. There have been conversations about breaking the Bill up into smaller pieces. In particular, MRS cares about the funding for NSF, DOE, DOD.

#### **Meeting Wrap Up**

Loucas thanked Sean for spearheading the fusion materials white paper. Jeffrey Aguiar reported that he is reviewing a draft paper on space materials and will send it along shortly.