

Meetings Committee Zoom Meeting
June 27, 2024 (Thursday) at 11:00am ET

Able to Participate

Loucas Tsakalacos, MTGC Chair
Stan Chou
Ken Haenen
Eileen Kiley, MRS
Gopal Rao, MRS

Unable to Participate

ACTION ITEMS listed below and highlighted in the minutes	
Name	Action
MRS HQ	Verify S22 # of Symposia for accuracy and update Meeting Statistics table
MRS HQ	Schedule next meeting

AGENDA:

Welcome
Q2 Meetings Committee Update
Meeting Statistics
PDSC Update (Ken)
MASC Update (Stan)
Broader Impact and Non-Symposium Programming
Differentiation
iMatSci

MINUTES:

MTGC Chair Loucas Tsakalacos opened the meeting.

Q2 Meetings Committee Update

- Met with Differentiation and Industry Engagement
 - implemented language around TRL
 - symposium on Aerospace Materials from Boeing added to S25 program
- Subhash Shinde preparing a proposal for a S25 Semiconductor Packaging and Microsystems Integration workshop
- Four (4) MRS-endorsed meetings approved
- Developing a proposal for Standing Room Only virtual event
- Ongoing discussions for NSF PREM virtual session at F25
- S24 feedback
- PDSC and Advisory Board approved the S25 program
- F24 Call for Papers closed on May 24
- Mid-Year Progress Report submitted to the MRS Board on June 26

Meeting Statistics

- Presented Spring/Fall Meeting data from S19 through S24
- Spring 2024
 - 4,200 total onsite participation, including staff and vendors
 - Reduced attendance number had almost a direct correlation to a funding decrease in South Korea that prevented in-person participation
 - regulation has since changed, with a rebound seen in abstract submissions for F24
 - have increased promotional and marketing efforts to South Korea and Asia more broadly for F24 and S25
 - Attendee to Paper ratio is at almost 1 (0.99)
- Fall 2024
 - 5,510 abstracts received, which is the highest since F19
 - expect 400-800 late-breaking abstracts, so conservatively anticipating 6,000 total abstracts, which is a very healthy number
 - broadening the scope of Symposia
 - Korea submitted 670 abstracts, which is second only to U.S. submissions

PDSC Update

- Seeking new members to replace those who rolled off at the end of 2023 and early 2024
 - invited Prineha Narang to join, who accepted
 - Invited Jonathan Rivnay to join; awaiting his response
- Challenge is that some members are very active while others are not
 - expectations are clearly communicated prior to joining
 - consider requesting written feedback from those who can't attend a meeting
 - Loucas noted PDSC is one of the most important subcommittees in MRS and offered his help to reinforce strong participation
 - avoid increasing the size of the group in an effort to stimulate more active participation since this may lead to increased passivity by assuming fellow members will do the work
- Reviewing F25 proposals next
- Recommend conversation with Meeting Chairs early on in the process and reinforce throughout
- Discussion on Roles
 - Meeting Chairs
 - charged with making a good program based on proposals that have been submitted
 - often must reduce because too many proposals were received
 - Program Development Subcommittee (PDSC)
 - ensure a balance with clusters
 - detect holes in the program and seek proposals to fill the void
 - suggest having a broader anchor symposium if less than three (3) submissions received for a Symposium topic
 - Topical Curation Subcommittee (TCS)
 - have TCS Chair meet with Meeting Chairs early in the process to explain what TCS does and how they can assist with the process

MASC Update

- S24 Survey Highlights
 - attendees enthusiastic about the meeting and had a good experience
 - Posters were rated a little lower, with comments on the time of Poster Sessions

- App feedback is very positive; increased from 29% to 70% positive
- Technical Readiness Levels (TRL) were introduced in this meeting's surveys and were rated Fundamental (TRL 1-3) most often
 - o noted that it's most difficult to break through TRL 5
- 10% decrease in non-presenting attendance (from 18% to 8%), which MASC surmises is due to a funding decline
 - o stagnant funding in the U.S.
 - o South Korea funding issue as discussed in the Meeting Statistics section above
- cost challenges
 - o educate the community about costs and funding challenges
- smaller attendance in similar Symposia
- trends are very similar in last 4 meetings
- Feedback on S24 Meeting Chair Debrief
 - Discussion on Differentiation
 - difficult for Meeting Chairs to decline a current meeting's abstracts when better suited for the alternate meeting (i.e., submitted for Spring but better suited for Fall, and vice-versa)
 - Meeting Chairs weren't aware of Differentiation in the past and HQ has increased awareness
 - don't always have flexibility in meeting Differentiation goals due to abstracts received/what they have to work with
 - S24 Meeting Chairs had positive engagement with PDSC, including conversations early on in the process
 - consolidate more topics
 - o declining an abstract / Symposium Organizer is difficult
 - o ask declined Symposium Organizer to be an invited speaker at the consolidated Symposium

Broader Impact and Non-Symposium Programming

- Summary of the breadth of programming for S24 and F24 reviewed
 - Awards Lightning Talks – working to increase attendance
 - Essentials of Getting Your Work Published – very popular with Early Career attendees
 - Women in MSE breakfast – always fills
 - IGEN Workshop – funded by NSF
 - 2050 Panels – have been quite popular over the years
 - Meet the New Research Hires – expand
 - F24 is still in development, but robust slate of topics for this meeting
 - o encouraged to pair anything with a technical tie to the appropriate Symposium
 - S25
 - o may offer a Semiconductor Packaging and Microsystems Integration workshop
 - o possible re-establishment of an iMatSci workshop or event
 - o secured lead organizer from Boeing for an aerospace session

Differentiation

- Determine the focus
 - ongoing discussions with Bryan Huey, who leads the Differentiation efforts
 - focus had been on data analysis (i.e., where we've been)
 - SAC has recommended a Phase 2 to propel the Differentiation initiative forward

- work with the Meeting Chairs to curate the Symposium list from the outset with Differentiation in mind
- authorization for Meeting Chairs to move a Symposium to the alternate MRS meeting if that is a more suitable fit (i.e., from Spring to Fall or vice-versa)
- gauge TRL from the outset with abstract submissions
- utilize communications we already have to increase awareness
 - more repetition needed to cement the information vs. announcing
- leverage presence in Spring Meeting locations
- be as proactive as possible to advance the strategy that was somewhat paused during the pandemic
- Meeting Chairs are aware that the MRS Board & HQ want Differentiation
 - guidelines are currently too vague
 - seeking more concrete guidelines (i.e., x number of Symposia that represent TRL 2)

iMatSci

- subgroup of Industry Engagement subcommittee, which Paul Drzaic leads
- currently evaluating
 - requires significant resources with the current structure
 - re-think the requirements to have minimal resource impact
 - determine how fundraising can be less staff-intensive
 - past format was academic pitches to Venture Capital firms; shift to panel discussions is one potential option.
- aiming to re-launch at S25 in Seattle
- Paul Drzaic is working on a proposal

Wrap-up

- Targeting the last week of September for the **next meeting**

Loucas adjourned the meeting.