

## Society Agility Council Meeting

February 16, 2023, 3:00 pm Eastern

Participants: Susan Trolier-McKinstry, Bryan Huey, Lincoln Lauhon, Beth Stadler, Elizabeth Kocs, Paul Drzaic, Al Hurd, Eileen Kiley, Gopal Rao, Natalie Larocco

### **Agenda**

Introductions

#### Subcommittee Reports

Attendance and Topical Clusters—Bryan Huey

Task Force on Collaborations—Susan Trolier-McKinstry

Focus on Sustainability—Elizabeth Kocs

Industry Engagement Subcommittee—Paul Drzaic

Other

Society Agility Council Chair Susan Trolier-McKinstry opened the meeting and provided an outline of the committee meeting format for new SAC members. New members were introduced.

#### **Differentiation: Bryan Huey delivered a slide presentation on attendance and differentiation.**

Using session and symposium attendance numbers over the past 8 years, Bryan assembled a usable data set to analyze differentiation by Meeting and by topic. He is working on a full summary to present at the next SAC meeting.

Using certain clusters is helpful for marketing and for the Symposium Organizers, but because the data changes yearly, it's difficult to analyze the data to find trends or concerns.

#### Second-level clustering

Developing a code in order to obtain future outcomes. His goal is to show which topics are rising, falling by Spring and by Fall, according to year.

Beth Stadler, who worked on the original project to track symposium topics over MRS long-term history, suggests using word clouds to reveal what terms were used for different Meetings.

Bryan put data from the individual conferences into a single data set, working with pre-identified clusters. Recent cluster names, titles and abbreviations, and subsets were hard to follow. Chief Editor for Technical Content Gopal Rao has this discussion with every set of Meeting Chairs, and every set has a different take on the clusters.

Bryan is planning ahead to automatically identify clusters based on symposium title, key words, and the word cloud idea. This can be automated.

Industry Engagement Subcommittee Chair Paul Drzaic noted that trends are hard to detect. Are there MRS initiatives that can be used to find differentiation, and create new trends?

If the coupling is correct, targeted MRS initiatives that made an improvement are perceived. Once trends are identified, they can be dropped in where certain decisions were made. That requires assistance from people who've been working longer at this level.

Bryan's analysis is normalizing to attendance per session

Percent attended in one given cluster, so he normalizes for the Meeting, location, and time of day.

If the S24 Chairs notice there are no fusion materials in the lineup, but federal funding is available, the process through SAC is for Topical Curation, through Gopal and Lincoln, to identify what should be covered that isn't being covered. Susan would like to see biomaterials added to the spreadsheet  
Has this topic had an impact on the Meeting since it was introduced?

One important aspect is to include certain key things done within MRS over the last 8 years  
Which ones moved the needle? The most mature topics--polymers, biomaterials, flexible materials, soft materials—should be at a steady state and self sustaining.

**Action Item:** Susan asked Bryan to put together his initial thoughts along with the slides in order to have a more focused discussion, adding a slide discussing what the next steps will be.

**Collaborations Task Force—Chair Susan Trolier-McKinstry delivered a presentation.**

#### Strategic Goals of Collaborative Activities

- Extend the reach of MRS beyond member attendance
- Increase diversity by engaging students, Early-Career professionals, and geographic engagement where underrepresented.
- Volunteer engagement is needed

SAC is a key organization responsible for overseeing collaboration with other organizations  
Ways to disengage from unsuccessful collaborations have been proposed.

The Task Force suggested meeting with the Executive Committee to review a series of best practices identified by the TF which include activities for collaborative oversight.

MRS HQ suggested a series of policies based on the TF recommendations. Susan noted that the Task Force intent is captured in some cases in the policy document, but not in others.

The Task Force references to the “Presidential Line” were replaced with the “Executive Committee.”  
Eileen will speak with Todd Osman and confirm whether the discussion with the Executive Committee will take place in person in San Francisco. She'll report back to Susan when she has more detail.

Susan would like to know what documents are needed for that meeting. MRS Immediate Past President Carolyn Duran would like to see a flow chart that will show how this would be accomplished. Lincoln's idea is to have a conversation on how to run things. What is the SAC role versus HQ and the Executive Committee? He also favors flow charts.

SAC is populated by committee chairs. Where SAC is replaced by an operating committee in the policy, and collaborations are going to be reviewed, who needs to weigh in?

- What would it mean to send this to an operating committee?
- A conversation regarding intent is preferable.

- Oversight needs clarification.

Action Item: Eileen will follow up on Susan's request to have a conversation with the Executive Committee and confirm the status of an in-person meeting in San Francisco.

**Focus on Sustainability Subcommittee: Chair Elizabeth Kocs delivered a report.**

New members have joined FoS to create a large, diverse, vibrant group.

S23

An industry-focused panel discussing supply chain and critical materials.

Crossover with the MRS Spring Meeting 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to make sure FoS concentrates on its focus areas.

Hands-on gathering with Carol Handwerker on the education gap.

F23

How to look back on 50 years of energy and sustainability: Who are the pioneers, what have we achieved?

A tribute to the late George Crabtree by Dave Ginley and David Cahen will be published in April.

Eileen is speaking with Shirley Meng on the tribute and will follow up with Elizabeth to make sure this is coordinated with the panel. Susan is pleased to see this translation from Meetings to Publications.

Virtual events with industry are planned.

**Agenda Topics for Upcoming SAC Meetings:**

March--Summaries from the Industry Engagement Council and the Meetings Committee

Post-S23--Topical Curation and Topical Staging Subcommittees; Topical Differentiation