

Society Agility Council
September 6, 2022, 3:30 pm Eastern

Participating	Unable to Participate
Susan Trolier-McKinstry , Chair	Natalie Larocco, MRS Liaison, IES
Shef Baker , Publications	Eileen Kiley, Director of Programs
Babu Chalamala , Topical Staging Subcommittee	
Lincoln Lauhon , Meetings	
Julia Phillips , Topical Curation Subcommittee	
Paul Drzaic , Industry Engagement Subcommittee	
Ashley White , Focus on Sustainability	
Bryan Huey , Spring/Fall Differentiation	
Gopal Rao , Chief Editor for Technical Content	

Action Items

Lincoln	Join Paul on future IES interview calls
Babu	Begin building a TSS group on metals
Julia and Shef	Explore bringing Meetings topics into Publications
Bryan	Work with TCS and TSS on identifying differentiation
SAC members	Suggest candidates for TCS
Gopal	Contact MRS recruiting vendor to discuss activities

SAC Chair Susan Trolier-McKinstry opened the meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Focus on Sustainability

Chair Ashley White reported on FoS activities.

- 2050 Panel Moderator Anthony Ku will submit an article to the *Energy and Sustainability Journal*.
- Materials needs for sustainability and biopolymers is an F22 2050 Panel topic; a symposium will piggyback with this to reach a broader audience.
- A professional development seminar on incorporating sustainability into research.
- Postdocs and students are leading a Task Force to hold a video contest on incorporating sustainability into their own research or affiliation.
- By F22 or S23 FoS hopes to meet with industry and education stakeholders on creating modules to incorporate sustainability into undergraduate curricula.
- Gopal Rao reported that a *Bulletin* issue on sustainability is coming out in April 2023.

FoS doesn't have a lot of staff support. Natalie Larocco, MRS liaison for FoS, has provided great support but is also handling other efforts. Better tracking is needed. This issue will be returned to at the end of the meeting.

Industry Engagement Subcommittee

Chair Paul Drzaic presented slides regarding MRS engagement with international industry companies. The legacy model of meetings is dead; tech companies do vibrant work but don't present at Meetings.

Areas of Engagement: Interviews with stakeholders in large companies

- 1) Dan McClout, CTO at DuPont
Has a charter to re-set DuPont's engagement strategy and has identified people MRS can work with.
- 2) Carolyn Duran, Intel
Has a charter to identify areas to bring innovation.
- 3) Dave Parrillo, Dow
Nothing new; there's not a strong connection with Corning.
- 4) 3M: Paul will be meeting with 3M tomorrow.
- 5) Apple: Paul is searching for the right contact people and will follow up in a week.

Recruiting

The commonality is that industry needs recruiting. Dow recruits at MRS; do other companies?

Is enough benefit derived? Can MRS offer more value to younger members?

Gopal confirmed that recruiting and the online job board are outsourced to a third party. Mock interviews and resume reviews are still within the MRS purview. Something done directly with MRS staff could happen at the Meetings.

Meetings Committee Chair Lincoln Lauhon would like an explanation from MRS on the outsourcing of career development and recruiting. What benefit will MRS derive from expanding the recruiting effort of companies?

Gopal will connect with the recruiting vendor to find out what is and isn't being done in terms of recruiting.

What's needed?

Can something be done to draw postdocs and students?

Does MRS need to provide a menu to constrain or direct?

How to respond to what a company might ask?

Are there projects that could launch pilots, with committee engagement and people ready to act?

Help from others in order to split up Paul's work.

What does MRS want?

Positive engagement from the companies.

People to volunteer, engage, and attend Meetings.

Concerns:

MRS has a tendency to spend too much time studying a project. Can MRS respond within 12-18 months?

If the project starts to fail, Paul needs to provide quick feedback to SAC.

Is MRS in a position to respond?

Can something be done to draw postdocs and students?

Does MRS need to provide a menu to constrain or direct?

How to respond to what a company might ask?

What are the success criteria on both sides?

- Programming that is bottom up is known well in advance.
- If MRS knows what industry wants, we can say what we align with.
- It's useful to know what they want to learn and in what areas.

At Paul's suggestion, Lincoln will join the next IES interview conversation.

Susan recommended that the topic of better marketing for MRS activities be taken offline in order to proceed with the agenda.

Recommendations from Susan:

Connect to DuPont and Intel with a single activity each.

Can they obtain volunteers who will follow through?

Topical Curation Subcommittee

Chair Julia Phillips reported that TCS is now a functioning subcommittee with a well-defined calendar of events outlining when it will be engaged for Spring and Fall symposia review and recommendations..

She credited Gopal and others with helping to establish this.

F23 Review

A strong list of proposals.

Progress is still needed to bring in topics that weren't included in submissions.

A declared cluster needs an anchor symposium that's broad enough for those who regard MRS as their Society home to submit proposals to.

Does what is advertised match what actually happened?

Some of the applications that discussed industrial engagement had no industry representation; this refers back to Ashley's observation on metrics and tracking.

Which of the invited speakers and symposium organizers on the lists actually present talks?

Industry might be identified in the proposal but might not speak. This needs to be tracked.

Partnering is a way for MRS to broaden our draw from fundamental to more applied, but there's not a lot of evidence that it happens in Spring and Fall.

The review with the F23 Chairs just finished. Gopal noted that they are taking the TCS report to heart.

Missing Topics in F23

Metals

MRS needs to find a Meeting Chair with a metals background and a group of committed people to bring it back into the fold.

Babu suggested that metals might be an appropriate topic for Topical Staging Subcommittee. TSS has been forward-looking, but can also go back for missing communities.

Susan sees this opportunity for TSS to pick up an area and make a targeted effort to bring it in.

She recommends that TSS work with Bryan Huey on differentiation and codifying Spring and Fall to identify possibilities for anchor symposia working through the Meetings.

If there is additional thinking on how differentiation was done in the past, Julia would like TCS to be included. New TCS member Beth Stadler worked on differentiation and would be a good liaison for this. Make it deliberate so that Bryan isn't duplicating work and so this can be refreshed over time. Susan appointed Bryan to take charge of this.

Translating Meetings Topics Into Publications

Publications Committee Chair Shef Baker expressed concern about translating topics to pubs. The interest in energy and sustainability isn't translating as strongly into publications as had been hoped. The *Energy and Sustainability Journal* doesn't connect well with Meeting sustainability. *MRS Advances* maps well to the Meetings. This is a goal of TCS that hasn't been tackled yet. A significant topic for submissions to JMR is metals. This isn't from Meetings or from members, but Publications Committee Chair Shef Baker suggested that these communities could be sponsored. He'll pursue that conversation with Julia.

Lincoln praised the evolution of this mechanism for more top-down programming.

TSS and Metals

Lincoln asked what is forward looking for metals? What does the future look like? If they aren't coming in organically, SAC needs to seek it out.

The following names were suggested so that Babu and TSS can reach out to start building a metals task force:

Ian McCue, Northwestern

Susan Sinnot, knows a lot about TMS which only does Spring meetings; Fall would be promising.

Alison Beese runs a robust additive manufacturing

Topical Staging Subcommittee

Chair Babu Chalamala gave an update on TSS activities.

- TSS has a *Bulletin* issue for F23.
- Data Management wanted to work with TSS on AI staging.
- Quantum has a new chair who is trying to bring in industry.
- TSS is working on setting expectations on where to bring industry in.
- TSS would like to get a JMR focus issue with quantum. New people are needed for Quantum Staging.
- Babu had a discussion with the Autonomous Materials representative but they haven't connected again. This discussion will include Shef, Babu, and the Autonomous Materials representative.

Term Ends

After 6 years as the chair of FoS, Ashley will email Susan on the transition process.

Julia's 3-year term will be coming to an end in another year. She and Susan have begun the conversation on a replacement for TCS Chair. She would like input from SAC on potential good members for TCS;

October Meeting Agenda Items

- How to cross-fertilize Pubs and the rest of TCS and TSS
Begin with Shef on how to translate information topics, content, and volunteer engagement
- Report on the Collaborations Task Force
- Differentiation