2023 MAS Spring Council Meeting
May 8, 2023, 13:00-15:00 EDT, via Google Meets

Patrick Camus (President 2023-2024)
Andrew Herzing (President-Elect 2023-2024)
Owen Neill (Secretary 2022-2023)
Dave Tomlin (Treasurer 2023-2024)
Angela Halfpenny (Director 2021-2023)
Josh Taillon (Director 2021-2023)
Assel Aitkaliyeva (Director 2022-2024)
Thomas Lam (Director 2022-2024)
Katherine Burgess (Director 2023-2025)
Jordan Hachtel (Director 2023-2025)
Steve Seddio (Commercial Director 2021-2023)
Clarissa Wisner (AReS 2022-2025)
John Fournelle (Archivist 2010-2023)
Brad De Gregorio (Awards 2020-2023)
Anette von der Handt (Computer Activities 2020-2023)
Mary Scott (Education 2022-2024)
Abigail Lindstrom (Goldstein Scholar Coordinator)
[VACANT] (Fellows 2022-2025)
Peter McSwiggen (Finance 2021-2024)
Emma Bullock (Membership 2023-2024)
Andrew Herzing (IUMAS Representative)
Joe Boro (Social Media 2023-2025)
Vin Smentkowski (Strategic Planning 2022-2025)
[VACANT] (Topical Conferences 2020-2023)
Donovan Leonard (M&M Editorial Board)

Present on call:
Assel Aitkaliyeva, Joe Boro, Kate Burgess, Pat Camus, Jordan Hachtel, Angela Halfpenny,
Anette von der Handt, Andy Herzing, Thomas Lam, Heather Lowers, Abby Lindstrom, Peter
McSwiggen, Owen Neill, Steve Seddio, Vin Smentkowski, Josh Taillon, Clarissa Wisner
Call to Order: 13:02 EDT (Pat Camus)

Approval of Agenda (Pat Camus)
  o No additions.

Presidential Opening Remarks (Pat Camus)
  o Several committee chairs have departed.
    ▪ Yoosuf Picard has resigned as Topical Conferences chair; please send nominations for a replacement to Pat.
    ▪ Donovan Leonard has resigned as Fellows chair; please send nominations for a replacement to Pat.
    ▪ Joe Boro has replaced Dan Ruscitto as Social Media chair.

Secretary Report (Owen Neill)
  o Abby Lindstrom moved to accept the 2023 Winter Council Meeting minutes, Andy Herzing seconded.
    ▪ Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report (Pat Camus for Dave Tomlin)
  o There have been no significant changes from the Winter Council report.
  o Pat reported that the MAS balance is currently a deficit of $44,317.41,
    ▪ Payments from M&M and corporate sponsors are still incoming.
    ▪ General and sustaining membership fees are down slightly but not grossly out of step with previous years.
  o Total encumbered assets: $933,444.01.
    ▪ Total encumbered assets: $887,931.25.
  o Pat reported that Dave is also working on:
    ▪ Filing MAS’ Form 990.
    ▪ Sending checks to MAS award winners.
    ▪ Invoicing corporate award sponsors.
    ▪ Preparing the MAS Booth (#304) for M&M.

Membership (Emma Bullock)
  o Emma reported that MAS currently has 467 paid members.

FIGMAS (Emma Bullock)
  o No report.

Strategic Planning Report (Vin Smentkowski)
  o The strategic planning committee is looking to add new members
  o Vin reported that the following tasks have been completed or are ongoing.
    ▪ The first atom probe instrument has been delivered to John Panitz’ museum in Albuquerque.
    ▪ MAS archival material is being added to the website.
- A proposal to NSF relating to standards (K-ratio database) is in progress.
  - Vin will follow up with Will Nachlas on the status of this proposal.
- Vin discussed options for soliciting new strategic concept proposals from members.
  - There were no proposals in 2021 or 2022, so this may be a good time to revive this effort.
  - Pat suggested using the MAS booth at M&M as an avenue to solicit new initiatives.
  - Vin will prepare a solicitation for new initiatives to be posted to the MAS website and social media.
- Vin reported on ongoing Strategic Planning initiatives.
  - The relationship between MAS and the Science History Institute has expanded, allowing for the preservation of the MAS archives.
  - Several new awards have been created, including post-doc awards at M&M, the MAS Best Student Paper award, the MAS Creative Canvas award, and the MAS Technician Award.
    - Vin suggested that the advertising for the MAS Technician award could be improved in the future.
  - The “Elevate a Paper” campaign is coming on-line.
    - Members proposing a paper to elevate can suggest any paper, not just one they have authored.
  - Vin has been working with Anette von der Handt on the MAS “Meet a Member” feature.
    - Profiles should include both professional and some personal information.
- Goldstein Scholars (Abby Lindstrom)
  - Abby reported that two Goldstein Scholar candidates have submitted applications for the spring round of awards.
- M&M Meeting Updates (Anette von der Handt/Pat Camus)
  - Anette reported on the progress of M&M2023.
    - Over 1000 abstracts have been submitted.
    - The program schedule has been completed.
    - Submission of late-breaking posters is ongoing.
    - Anette is still awaiting statistics about registration and attendees; she will provide these when they become available.
  - Pat reported on his visit to the M&M meeting site on 25 March.
    - Lecture halls are spread across three floors with plenary on the middle floor, allowing for quicker transit between rooms
    - Pat is waiting on response from meeting organizers regarding the cost of the MAS social events, as it is likely to run over budget.
      - The budget for social events will need to be increased for next year.
- Conference amenities are largely within walking distance of the convention center.
  - Tunnels connect most locations.
- Anette asked about whether a poster with MAS past presidents would be displayed at the MAS booth.
  - Currently there are no plans for this, although one could be created.
- Anette also asked whether informational flyers for items such as Goldstein awards or MAS stickers and trinkets would be available at the MAS booth.
  - Pat noted that items costing less than $500 would not require Council approval, so Anette should go ahead and order them.
  - Abby and Assel Aitkaliyeva volunteered to help put together these items.

- Vin reported a glitch during registration where he received an error message during payment, though his credit card records show that registration went through.
  - Anette will discuss this with Maeve Carey at VirtualInc.
- Angela noted that the conference hotels have waitlists for rooms, but that the length of the waitlists appears to change, and people requesting rooms are not always waitlisted.
  - Anette will follow up on this as well.
- Pat reported on plans for M&M 2024.
  - Steve Spurgeon of Pacific Northwest National Lab has agreed to be MAS co-chair.
  - An email to coordinators of proposed sessions has been created and will be sent soon.

- Archivist (Pat for John Fournelle)
  - Pat reported that John is working on taped interviews and compiling more material for society archives.
  - The annual meeting of the Science History Institute annual meeting will take place on 9 May.
    - Pat will attend, and get an update on the status of MAS material held at the Institute.

- Affiliated Regional Societies (Clarissa Wisner)
  - Clarissa reported that there have been four AReS events featuring invited MAS tour speakers.
    - Clarissa will discuss the updated budget with Dave.
    - Local groups have asked for a protocol for inviting speakers not on the MAS tour speakers list.
      - Heather noted that Council had previously decided that as long as
a proposed speaker is an MAS member in good standing, MAS would cover their speaker fees as they would for a tour speaker.

- Clarissa asked for clarification about the protocol for actually booking a non-tour speaker for an AReS event.
- Anette suggested a GoogleForm for requesting non-listed speakers.
- Anette also requested biographical information from AReS speakers to post to the website and on MAS social media.
  o Clarissa will follow up with the speakers.
  o Clarissa also reported that the plans for the AReS breakfast at M&M are currently being finalized.

- Awards (Pat for Brad de Gregorio)
  o Pat reported that Brad is putting together awardee information, including biographical information and a summary article for Microscopy Today.
  o Pat has proposed a Microanalysis Image Award.
    ▪ This prize would be awarded for the best image of microanalysis data.
    ▪ Images from past awardees could be displayed at the MAS booth.
    ▪ Presentation of this award could begin as soon as next year with Council approval.

- Computer Activities (Anette von der Handt)
  o Anette reported that an MAS GitHub repository has been created
    ▪ Thanks to Josh Taillon for setting this up.
  o Anette sent a poll to Council to get an idea about what online meeting platforms would be best suited for future Council meetings.
    ▪ Some members have had problems with GoogleMeets.
  o Anette reported that long-time MAS member Phil Russell has passed away.
    ▪ Anette is putting together an obituary to be posted to the MAS webpage; please send any relevant material to her.
    ▪ Heather suggested reaching out to Donovan Leonard, who knew and worked with Phil.
  o Angela Halfpenny suggested adding a brief description of the roles and responsibilities of each chair position to the website.
    ▪ Anette asked committee chairs to help by sending an improved description of their position to her.
    ▪ Also, please send Anette updated committee rosters.

- Social Media (Joe Boro)
  o Joe has succeeded Dan Ruscitto as Social Media chair, and is gaining familiarity with MAS’ social media spaces.
  o Joe reported that he is working on some ideas to boost engagement, particularly with younger members.
    ▪ This could include a monthly “What is it made of?” question, where users
could submit an idea for a sample or material to be measured.
  • Joe will have a longer report for Summer Council.

• Education (Pat for Mary Scott)
  o Abby is starting to work on Meal with Mentor logistics with Mary.

• Fellows (Pat Camus: Chair is vacant)
  o Pat will review pending Fellow application packages.
  o Members should send nominations for a new Fellows chair to Pat.

• Finance (Peter McSwiggen)
  o Peter reported that the financial markets have stabilized somewhat.
    • The total value of MAS investments has increased from ~$682,000 on 1 January, 2023 to ~$713,000 on 1 May.
    • The market continues to be erratic, as it has since the start of 2021, but there are indications that things have bottomed out and may begin to recover.
  o The current distribution of MAS investments is 30% in large cap funds, 10% medium and small cap funds, 10% international funds, 40% in bonds and 10% in cash.
    • At some point in the near future, cash will be moved to bonds, rebalancing at 45% bonds and 5% cash.
    • Uncertainty surrounding the US debt ceiling needs to be resolved before proceeding.

• International Liaison (Heather Lowers)
  o Heather reported that the EMAS 2023 meeting is taking place in Kraków, Poland from 7-11 May.
  o Andy Herzing reported on the IUMAS8 meeting, taking place in Banff, Alberta from 11-16 June.
    • There are still a few opening slots for registration for IUMAS8.
    • Andy and Josh will be leading an MAS-sponsored workshop on open-source data processing software as part of IUMAS8.
      • Code and data from this workshop will be uploaded to the MAS GitHub archive.
      • With speaker permission, talks from this workshop will be recorded and hosted online by MAS.
      • Vin suggested having the workshop content available publicly, not just to MAS members.
      • Josh noted that open access is also important, and that walling off scientific content is antithetical to this ethos.
      • Anette noted that member-only content on the MAS site is tricky to maintain because the membership database is handled off-site, so having the content open to the public is actually logistically easier.
- Microscopy and Microanalysis Journal (John Mansfield)
  o No report.

- Student Council at M&M2023 (Pat Camus)
  o MAS is a Platinum Sponsor for the M&M Student Council meeting, and will be involved in three constituent activities.
    ▪ Anette and Pat will conduct a webinar for students on 18 May about the M&M meeting.
    ▪ MAS will be conducting another webinar about MAS career opportunities.
      ● This webinar will focus on students and early career scholars.
      ● Anyone interested in speaking as part of this webinar should contact Pat.
    ▪ MAS will participate in a panel discussion on student networking opportunities as part of the students’ Pre-Meeting Congress at M&M.
      ● Anyone interested in being part of this panel should contact Pat.

- Sustaining Members (Steve Seddio)
  o Steve reported that there are currently 20 sustaining members paid through 2023.
    ▪ This is down from 25 sustaining members in 2022.
    ▪ VirtualInc shows several members missing rather than unpaid.
      ● Steve will follow up to try and find out why.
    ▪ Pat asked whether the decline in sustaining membership was due to company mergers or delays in payment.
      ● Steve indicated that this was likely due to delays in payment.
      ● However, some companies that have recently merged (e.g. Gatan and EDAX) have paid separately; this may not continue.
      ▪ Steve has reached out to companies focused on sample prep (e.g. Struers, Buehler), but has not received a response.

- Topical Conferences (Pat Camus: Chair is vacant)
  o No report.
  o Members should send nominations for a new Topical Conferences chair to Pat.

- Nominations Committee (Andy Herzing)
  o Nominations are open for Secretary, two Directors and the Commercial Director.
  o Andy will have a full list of nominees to report at Summer Council.
  o Members should send potential nominees to Andy or the Nominations Committee.

- Other Business: ASTM/ISO (Pat Camus for Nestor Zaluzec)
  o Dues for ISO membership were included in the MAS budget, but the arrears were not.
  o MSA may be willing to pay some of the ISO membership fees.
Nestor will discuss this with MSA.

- Other Business: FIB SEM meeting proposal (Pat Camus)
  - A request was made by Keana Scott at NIST for MAS’ support for the annual FIB-SEM meeting, which was previously supported by MRS.
    - The full text of the request is included below as Appendix 1.
  - Pat said that he will be convening a committee to investigate the feasibility of supporting this meeting, and the best practices for doing so if possible.
    - This committee will investigate the legal and financial ramifications of MAS support for this meeting.
    - In theory this could be run as a “super” Topical Conference, although the meeting has in the past been organized differently.
    - The support needed would be less financial and more regarding help with organizing the meeting and providing a legal entity under whose auspices the meeting could take place.
      - An entity like MAS would be needed, for example, to sign agreements with vendors and the venue.
      - MRS received a fee for this assistance.
    - A decision will be needed before 2024.
  - Heather asked why MRS decided to end their support for this meeting.
    - Pat was not sure, but MRS has moved away from small meetings in general, and this may be part of that general realignment.
  - Heather asked whether realigning MAS activities towards smaller, more focused meetings might be an option worth pursuing.
    - Josh suggested that smaller, more focused meetings may provide more value to the attendees than larger, more diffuse conferences.
    - Kate Burgess noted that attracting new members, particularly students, may be more difficult if MAS’ presence at larger meetings decreases.
    - Jordan Hachtel agreed, as expecting students to attend more than one meeting may not be reasonable.
    - Steve suggested that such a change in focus may make MAS less attractive to Sustaining Members, who value the exposure larger meetings bring.
    - Thomas Lam said that web/online meetings might help alleviate the issues with student attendance by bringing down the costs and eliminating travel.
    - Steve asked whether any of this would impact shared resources with MSA (membership services, awards, etc.).
      - Heather responded that shared resources could be affected, but that this could be managed.
    - Heather also noted that student attendance at TC’s has been decent, so recruitment opportunities would still exist.
    - Angela said that more limited, focused audiences may be difficult to justify for those with limited travel/meeting budgets
• Also, “siloing” meetings may hinder interdisciplinary collaborations.
  • Joe brought up the idea of MAS participating in other conferences (e.g.
    MRS, GSA, MS&T) as a sub-member, possibly sponsoring a session in
    other meetings to boost society profile.
    • Heather added that MAS did sponsor a session at AGU several
      years ago
    • This could be done again if someone was willing to run the
      session at such a meeting
    • The cost for MAS to exhibit or sponsor a session at such a
      meeting would need to be determined and budgeted.
  • Thomas volunteered to represent MAS at American Ceramic Society
    meetings.
  • Anette noted that having a presence at other meetings would allow MAS
    to get closer to the “end users” of the microanalysis techniques that MAS
    promotes.
  • However, Anette also noted that an MAS presence at such a meeting
    would require people to be dedicated to manning the MAS exhibition
    booth, rather than actually attending the meeting.
    • Could MAS support representatives who traveled to those
      meetings to represent MAS?
  • Jordan asked whether some of the MAS booth display items could travel
    to these other meetings as well.
  • Josh noted that grad student travel plans often center on conferences for
    data presentation (e.g. MS&T, AGU, etc.) rather than technique-focused
    conferences like M&M.
    • Having a presence at other meetings would allow MAS to target
      potential new MAS members who would be interested in
      microanalysis but would not otherwise attend M&M.
  • Anette suggested creating a list of conferences in other disciplines at
    which MAS would benefit from having a presence.
  • Pat will put together a committee for legal ramifications of the FIB-SEM
    proposal; other issues will be discussed further within Council.

• Adjourn: 14:37
Appendix 1: FIB-SEM Meeting Proposal from Keana Scott (NIST)

FIB SEM Meeting

I [Keana Scott] am reaching out to you see if MAS would be interested in supporting (not financially) the FIB SEM meeting as a part of MAS satellite meetings.

The backstory:

FIB SEM meeting (https://fibsem.net) is an annual 1 to 2 day meetings focused on bringing FIB users together, provide a very friendly venue for conversations and exchange of FIB related topics. The meeting has been going on annually since 2008 and Nabil Bassim (McMaster U.), Ken Livi (JHU), Sam Stambula (McMaster U), and I are the organizers. Since about 2010, we have been working with MRS as our meeting manager but MRS is no longer supporting small meetings such as ours starting next year and we are looking for another entity to provide the support that MRS has been providing for the last 10+ years.

FIB SEM meeting is financially solvent but we are not incorporated and that is the main problem we are trying to get around with this proposal. The meeting is free to attendees and financially supported by the vendors. What MRS has done for us is the following:

- MRS keeps the FIB SEM funds in one of their accounts.
- Sponsor payments are sent to MRS for the FIB SEM xxxx meeting (xxxx is the year).
- MRS signs the caterer and venue contracts on our behalf, providing us some legal coverage.
- MRS reimburses the organizers or pays directly for meeting expenses.
- FIB SEM pays MRS annual fee (~$1500) for this service.
- FIB SEM receives annual financial statement once a year from MRS.