2023 MAS Fall Council Meeting
4 October, 2023, 13:00-15:00 EDT, via Zoom

Patrick Camus (President 2022-2024)
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)
Pete McSwiggen (Finance 2021-2024)
Emma Bullock (Membership 2023-2024)
Heather Lowers (International Liaison)
Joe Boro (Social Media 2022-2025)
Vin Smentkowski (Strategic Planning 2022-2025)
[VACANT] (Topical Conferences 2020-2023)
Donovan Leonard (M&M Editorial Board)

Present on call:
Assel Aitkaliyeva, Emma Bullock, Kate Burgess, Pat Camus, Brad de Gregorio, Angela Halfpenny, Anette von der Handt, Andrew Herzing, Thomas Lam, Abby Lindstrom, Heather Lowers, Peter McSwiggen, Owen Neill
Call to Order: 13:07 EDT (Pat Camus)

Approval of Agenda (Pat Camus)

Secretary’s Report (Owen Neill)
  o Abby Lindstrom moved to accept the 2023 Summer Council Meeting minutes, Angela Halfpenny seconded.
    ▪ Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report (Pat Camus for Dave Tomlin)
  o Pat reported that Dave is working with MSA on finalizing the portal reconciliations for Q2, 2023, and on finalizing MAS’ 2022 F990 form for the IRS.
  o Dave reported that the Society currently has $47,132.76 in charitable funds.
    ▪ Total balances for each charitable fund are:
      ● Chodos (Student Activities): $15,306.78.
      ● Fiori (AReS): $16,389.52.
      ● Goldstein (Early Career Scholars): $15,436.46.
  o As of 21 September, 2023, the Society’s asset balances show the following:
    ▪ Total unencumbered assets: $876,248.85.
    ▪ Total encumbered assets: $923,381.61.
    ▪ MAS liquid assets: $163,794.10.
    ▪ Schwab investment accounts: $712,454.75.
    ▪ A portion of the current PayPal balance ($19,861.67) will be reallocated to the MAS bank account, as the PayPal account is rarely used.
  o As of 21 September, 2023, the MAS operating budget shows the following:
    ▪ Total income: $72,068.40.
      ● $57,350.00 was budgeted.
    ▪ Total expenses: $129,250.00.
      ● Operating expenses: $53,572.57.
        o $72,500.00 was budgeted.
      ● M&M meeting expenses: $36,107.56.
        o $56,750.00 was budgeted.
  o Dave suggested the following changes to the proposed 2024 budget:
    ▪ Increasing the budget for the MAS Social from $8,000 to $10,000, due to rising event costs.
    ▪ Increasing the comps for meeting registrations from $10,000 to $11,000 due to rising travel and lodging costs.
    ▪ Decreasing the amount budgeted for IUMAS from $16,000 to $0, as no IUMAS meeting will be held in 2024.
    ▪ Angela suggested that the amount budgeted for MAS booth expenses for M&M2024 (item ME01) be increased from $250, as that amount may be insufficient.
      ● Anette von der Handt agreed, and suggested the amount be increased to >$600 based on 2023 booth expenses.
o Anette is working on tabulating these expenses and will send the final total to Dave.
  ● Pat suggested that the amount be $1000 to cover future expenses, and will inform Dave of the change.
  ● Dave also mentioned that he can get some items printed by the show decorator if we can get them to the decorator by 1 May.
    ▪ Emma Bullock moved to accept the 2024 budget as amended previously, Abby seconded the motion.
    ● Motion carried.

o Dave’s tasks going forward are as follows:
  ▪ Follow up with MSA regarding the Q3 portal reconciliations and how they have been affected by the new format for M&M meeting registration.
  ▪ Finalize the M&M2022 meeting co-share with MSA, and complete the transfer of funds.
  ▪ File the F990 form.

o Finally, Dave expressed some concerns about the security for the debit card for the Chase account.
  ▪ Dave is looking into getting a Chase credit card, which is more secure, and canceling the debit card.

● Membership Committee (Emma Bullock)
  o Emma reported that as of 4 September, MAS has ~1049 paid members.
    ▪ Of these, 241 members are MAS-only.
    ▪ This is an increase from 621 members (51 MAS-only) in October 2022.
    ▪ This includes ~266 students with either joint or MAS-only membership.
    ▪ Having M&M attendees enroll or renew membership in a society during meeting registration has had a very positive impact on MAS membership.
  o Following up on a question from the MAS Business Meeting at M&M, Emma also reported that students are not automatically enrolled in both societies during registration, but instead can choose to join one society or both.

● FIGMAS (Emma Bullock)
  o FIGMAS sponsored Symposium A03 at M&M2023.
    ▪ Emma reported strong turnout for both the platform and poster sessions.
  o FIGMAS also held its annual business meeting at M&M2023.
    ▪ At the business meeting, John Fournelle suggested that FIGMAS host a mini-Topical Conference on microanalytical standards as part of M&M2026 in Milwaukee.
    ▪ This TC could be hosted at UW-Madison on either the weekend before or after M&M2026.
    ▪ Pat noted that the weekend before M&M2026 would have scheduled M&M activities, which could create conflicts.
      ● Emma agreed, and suggested that the TC would most likely take place on the Friday and Saturday after M&M.
• Strategic Planning Committee (Angela Halfpenny for Vin Smentkowski)
  o Angela will take over for Vin as Strategic Planning chair starting in 2024.
  • Angela reported that she is working with Vin to transfer all information about current and proposed strategic planning initiatives.
  • The committee roster for 2024 is also being finalized.

• M&M Updates (Pat Camus)
  o Anette reported on M&M2023.
    • Anette reported that there were 1346 meeting attendees, with 869 exhibitors.
      • Attendance was slightly diminished from pre-pandemic levels, but the number of exhibitors increased significantly, which is a promising sign that meeting attendance is returning to normal.
      • The IUMAS-8 meeting in Banff, Alberta may have also drawn off some attendees who would otherwise have come to M&M.
    • Both plenary speakers were very well received.
    • One issue encountered during the leadup to the meeting was that the paper abstracts were not publicly available until very close to the opening of the meeting.
      • Microscopy and Microanalysis’ ongoing transition from Cambridge to Oxford University Press may have contributed to this delay.
  o Pat reported that Steven Spurgeon of the University of Washington will be the MAS co-chair for M&M2024 (Cleveland, OH), and Stuart Wright from Gatan/EDAX will be the MAS co-chair for M&M2025 (Salt Lake City, UT).

• Archivist (Pat Camus for John Fournelle)
  o John will be meeting with Pat and Anette later this month about archival material.

• Awards Committee (Brad de Gregorio)
  o Brad reported that he is convening the new awards committee for 2024.
    • Assel Aitkaliyeva and Thomas Lam, the incoming third-year directors, and Aurélien Moy (at-large member) will be members; a fourth at-large member is still to be announced.
    • Once convened, the committee will begin reviewing Best Paper nominees from M&M2023.
  o Brad has ordered the MAS-branded rally towels, to be given out as rewards for those who submit meeting award nominations.
    • Brad will submit a request to Dave for reimbursement once they arrive.
  o Brad also reported that there was a complication with the poster judging process at M&M2023, as the posters were only available for a day rather than all week, as had been the case previously.
    • Because of this, the poster judges had to rush or submit incomplete evaluations so the poster awards could be given at the MAS social.
• Brad asked whether it would be a good idea to announce the poster award winners after the meeting, rather than at the MAS social.
• Pat asked whether the change to have posters only available for a single day (rather than for the whole meeting) was a permanent change or unique to M&M2023.
  • Anette responded that this change was made by the meeting managers without informing MSA or MAS.
  • This decision was apparently a cost-cutting measure, aimed at saving spending on poster boards.
  • The decision was not well-received, either by the program committee or by attendees.
  • Anette has suggested to meeting management that in the future posters return to being available all week, with discussions to be had on where to cut costs elsewhere.
• Pat agreed with this change, as it would lower the pressure on judges to get their award recommendations done early, and allow them to spend more time on the evaluation process.
• Heather also agreed with this change, regardless of whether the posters were displayed the whole week, as the extra day would allow judges to give more in-depth consideration to their decisions.
  o Angela suggested that students be limited to submitting a single abstract for a travel award.
    • Students are limited to one award per meeting, but some students had submitted multiple abstracts.
    • Brad agreed, and suggested a stipulation that the first submitted abstract from the student will be the one that is evaluated for the award, in an effort to get students to pick their best paper for consideration.
  o Pat reported on the Microanalysis Image Award, proposed by himself and Andy Herzing.
    • These awards would be images acquired using any technique that provides microanalytical data.
      • This would be a departure from more traditional image awards, such as false-color electron images.
    • Award-winning images would be displayed at the MAS booth.
    • Images can be displayed in either letter or A4 sizes.
      • Brad suggested allowing square images as well, as this is the format in which many microanalytical images (such as X-ray maps) are often displayed.
    • Pat asked whether something like one of the MAS-branded rally towels could be given to award winners.
      • Brad said that there should be enough towels for this.
    • Pat is considering taking out a small ad in Microscopy Today to try and boost submissions for this award.
• Computer Activities (Anette von der Handt)
  o Josh Taillon will be taking over for Anette as Computer Activities chair in 2024.
    ▪ Anette will begin transferring materials and the MAS Webby account to Josh later this fall.

• Social Media (Pat Camus for Joe Boro)
  o Joe reported that he is migrating much of MAS’ Twitter presence to Threads, and is considering getting rid of Twitter entirely due to that platform’s recent instability.
  o Joe will be working on a monthly History of Microscopy post, and will talk to Anette and Josh about making a space on the MAS website for it.

• Fellows Committee (Pat Camus)
  o Pat reported that Vin Smentkowski will be taking over as Fellows Committee chair in 2024.
    ▪ Vin is collecting information on nominations for Fellows from Donovan Leonard and Tom Kelly.
  o No Fellows were selected in 2023, which means there will be an increased number of selections over the next few years to maintain the ratio of Fellows to total membership, as specified in the MAS bylaws.

• Finance Committee (Pete McSwiggen)
  o Pete reported that while MAS’ investments had been increasing, the markets took another downturn in the summer.
  o This downturn was marketwide, and as such no change in the Society’s investment strategy would be prudent at this time.
  o Pat asked whether the performance of MAS’ investments could be plotted relative to the performance of the stock market as a whole.
    ▪ Pete will look into this in the future.

• International Liaison (Heather Lowers)
  o The AMAS meeting will take place on 5-9 February, 2024 at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia.
  o The EMAS meeting will take place 12-15 May, 2024 at Brno University of Technology in Brno, Czech Republic.
    ▪ The AMAS meeting will now be taking place in even years, which may lead to conflicts with EMAS.
  o Heather and Pat are both planning to attend the AMAS meeting; Pat may also attend EMAS.

• MSA Student Council (Pat Camus)
  o Pat reported that MAS will again be a Platinum-level sponsor for the Student Council events at M&M 2024.

• Microscopy and Microanalysis Journal (Pat Camus for John Mansfield)
Pat is looking for a new MAS liaison, as Donovan Leonard’s term has expired.

- **Topical Conferences (Anette von der Handt)**
  - Anette has taken over the vacant Topical Conferences chair position, and will continue on in that role into 2024.
  - Anette reported that she is looking for potential leaders for new Topical Conferences.
    - There has been some interest in both virtual TC’s and a possible EPMA/QMA TC, but nothing concrete yet.
  - Pat added that Pat Trimby from Oxford Instruments had shown interest in a possible EBSD TC.
    - Anette will follow up.

- **Nominations Committee (Andy Herzing)**
  - The positions up for election in 2023 are Secretary, 2 Directors and Commercial Director.
  - The nominees for the 2023 election are:
    - Secretary: Owen Neill (University of Michigan – incumbent).
    - Director: Megan Holtz (Colorado School of Mines), Dieter Isheim (Northwestern University), Aurélien Moy (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Jessica Riesterer (Oregon Health and Science University).
    - Commercial Director: Steve Seddio (Thermo Scientific), pending bylaws change.
  - A change to the MAS bylaws will also be voted on by membership.
  - Emma and Owen will start putting together the ballot for the election.
    - A test ballot will be sent out to Council in mid-late October, and the full ballot will be sent to membership for voting on 1 November.
    - Voting will close on 1 December.

- **Other Business (Pat Camus)**
  - Pat reported that the ISO/ASTM process with Nestor Zaluzec is still ongoing.
  - Andy reported that the proposal from the FIB/SEM meeting discussed in previous council meetings is on hold.
    - While the FIB/SEM program committee had approached MAS about holding the meeting under the Society’s auspices, they are currently planning to proceed with the next meeting through McMaster University.
    - However, if this turns out not to be possible, they may reopen the possibility of having MAS as the societal sponsor for the meeting.

- **Adjourn: 13:56 EDT (Pat Camus)**