



2025 MAS Winter Council Meeting
18 February, 2024, 13:00-15:00 EST, via Zoom

Andrew Herzing	President 2024-2026
Patrick Camus	Past President 2024-2025
Assel Aitkaliyeva	President-Elect 2025-2026
Owen Neill	Secretary 2023-2025
Dale Burns	Treasurer 2025-2026
Katherine Burgess	Director 2023-2025
Jordan Hachtel	Director 2023-2025
Megan Holtz	Director 2024-2026
Jessica Riesterer	Director 2024-2026
Aurélien Moy	Director 2025-2027
Debangshu Mukherjee	Director 2025-2027
Steve Seddio	Commercial Director 2023-2025
Thomas Lam	AReS 2024-2026
John Fournelle	Archivist since 2010
Brad De Gregorio	Awards since 2020
Josh Taillon	Computer Activities since 2024
Mary Scott	Education since 2022
Abigail Lindstrom	Goldstein Scholar Coordinator
Vin Smentkowski	Fellows since 2022
Pete McSwiggen	Finance since 2021
Heather Lowers	International Liaison since 2018
Emma Bullock	Membership since 2020
Joe Boro	Social Media since 2024
Angela Halfpenny	Strategic Planning since 2023
Anette von der Handt	Topical Conferences since 2024
Stuart Wright	M&M 2025 Co-Chair

Present on call: Assel Aitkaliyeva, Emma Bullock, Kate Burgess, Dale Burns, Pat Camus, Brad de Gregorio, Jordan Hachtel, Angela Halfpenny, Anette von der Handt, Andy Herzing, Megan Holtz, Thomas Lam, Abby Lindstrom, Heather Lowers, Pete McSwiggen, Aurélien Moy, Debangshu Mukherjee, Owen Neill, Jessica Riesterer, Steve Seddio, Vin Smentkowski, Josh Taillon

- Call to Order: 13:03 EST (Andy Herzing)
- Approval of Agenda (Andy Herzing)
 - Pat Camus moved to approve the agenda for the 2025 MAS Winter Council meeting, Abby Lindstrom seconded.
 - Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- Presidential Opening Remarks (Andy Herzing)
 - Andy suggested resuming regular email updates from the President to the MAS membership at large.
 - Andy asked that Council pass suggestions for content in these updates to him.
 - Andy suggested that committee chairs make use of the MAS Google calendars associated with the committee chair email accounts.
 - These calendars can be used for record keeping, and to ease transitions between chairs.
- Secretary Report (Owen Neill)
 - Abby moved to approve [the minutes of the 2024 Fall Council Meeting](#), Angela Halfpenny seconded. :
 - Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
 - Owen Neill announced the winners of the 2024 MAS Council election.
 - President-Elect (2025 – 2026): Assel Aitkaliyeva.
 - Treasurer (2025 – 2026): Dale Burns.
 - Directors (2025 – 2027): Aurélien Moy, Debangshu Mukherjee.
 - Owen thanked everyone who voted for their participation, and thanked Emma Bullock for her assistance in administering the election.
 - Owen described a suggested change to Article VI, Section 4 of the MAS bylaws.
 - During the last election, the candidates finishing 2nd and 3rd in the voting for the Director positions were separated by only one vote.
 - Had there been a tie between these candidates, there would have been no clear winner of the Director election.
 - The MAS bylaws, specifically Article VI, Section 4, contain no provision for how to deal with this contingency.
 - Owen noted that any bylaws change should explicitly refer to ties that prevent a clear winner from being identified.
 - Pat noted that MSA had no provisions for dealing with ties in its bylaws either.
 - Andy offered that a vote within the MAS Council to decide between the

tied parties could be used to solve this.

- Andy noted that a run-off election among the full membership would be time consuming and might not generate much response.
 - Owen responded that this was viable, but could create the appearance of self-dealing within Council.
 - Josh Taillon asked whether Skypunch, the software platform used for MAS elections, allows for ranked-choice voting.
 - Owen said that he believed Skypunch can do ranked-choice voting, which Emma confirmed.
 - Josh suggested that ranked-choice voting be used, followed by a coin flip if ranked-choice voting still does not identify a clear winner.
 - Andy agreed with Josh's suggestion.
 - Owen will bring language for this to the next Council meeting for review.
- Treasurer's Report (Dale Burns)
 - o Andy thanked Dale Burns for stepping into the Treasurer's role.
 - o Dale gave a brief report on MAS' finances, as of 31 December, 2024.
 - Dale will receive portal reconciliations for the beginning of 2025 next week.
 - Total income: \$96,109.09 (\$67,350.00 projected).
 - Total expenses: \$85,357.59 (\$114,450.00 projected).
 - Operating expenses: \$34,876.18 (\$56,950.00 projected).
 - Meeting expenses: \$50,481.41 (\$57,500.00 projected).
 - MAS made a net profit of \$10,751.50 for 2024.
 - Total liquid assets: \$174,086.60.
 - Total charitable funds: \$47,925.76.
 - Schwab investment account: \$853,032.53.
 - Total encumbered assets: \$1,075,044.89.
 - Total unencumbered assets: \$1,027,119.13.
 - o Dale reported that both MAS insurance policies have been signed and renewed.
 - o Dale will be working on Q4 portal reconciliations and filing the MAS 990 form with the IRS.
 - Membership (Andy Herzing for Emma Bullock)
 - o As of 5 February, 2025, MAS has 402 members, including 12 "Accounts Payable" memberships representing corporate memberships.
 - The impact of current funding uncertainties on the membership numbers is not currently known.

- Hardship waivers for membership fees for members in good standing are available.
 - Andy and Emma will look into ways to advertise the waivers to membership.
 - o Andy asked that any ideas for Emeritus or Honorary membership be sent to Emma.
- FIGMAS Update (Abby Lindstrom)
 - o FIGMAS is convening session A08 on microanalytical standards and reference materials at M&M2025.
 - o Abby noted that one invited speaker had to cancel, but a replacement has already been identified.
 - Andy added that session conveners would be well served by identifying backup speakers or good posters that could be moved into platform spots in case other speakers are lost.
 - o Abby reported that there had been discussions about FIGMAS holding a standards-focused Topical Conference, but that this idea has been put on hold for the time being.
- Strategic Planning Report (Angela Halfpenny)
 - o Angela reported that there had been no updates from MSA or the MAS liaison regarding the accessibility and inclusion initiatives discussed previously.
 - As such the initiative is on hold while further information is being gathered.
- M&M 2026 Co-Chair (Steve Seddio)
 - o Steve Seddio reported that M&M2026 will be held in Milwaukee
 - o Planning for the meeting has been severely delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - o 36 symposium submissions have been proposed for M&M2026.
 - Of the 36 sessions:
 - 14 are Analytical Science sessions.
 - 6 are Biological Science sessions.
 - 2 are Interdisciplinary Science sessions.
 - 14 are Physical Science sessions.
 - This is down from 60 in 2025 and 55 in 2024.
 - The goal is to have 32 symposia
 - o Sessions that may be of most interest to MAS members include:
 - Microscopy and Microanalysis for Real World Problem Solving

- Diffraction in the SEM: EBSD, ECCI and Related Techniques
- Quantitative microanalysis of terrestrial and planetary samples by electrons, x-rays, ions, and lasers
- Advancements in Forensic Chemistry: Microscopy and Microanalysis Techniques
- o Andy asked what caused the delays in planning.
 - Steve noted poor communication and health issues among co-chairs, but also that the situation is improving.
- o Andy asked how many sessions will be held in 2025.
 - Steve responded that there will be 36 symposia, with many proposed symposia being cut from the program.
- o Andy asked why the number of 32 symposia was targeted.
 - Steve responded that this number was dictated by the size of the convention center.
- o Heather noted that having fewer proposed sessions was not necessarily worrisome if the proposed sessions are of better quality.
- o Abby asked why the number of proposed symposia for M&M2026 was so much lower than in previous years.
 - Steve said that there was some suggestion that Milwaukee was not considered a prime venue.
 - Debangshu noted that M&M2020 was supposed to be held in Milwaukee before being moved to virtual due to the pandemic, and did not see a shortage of session proposals.
- o Jordan Hachtel posited that having fewer sessions may actually be better, as in the past having too many symposia made it difficult for some sessions to be filled out, and left them with only a few talks and posters.
 - Steve responded that this was true, but also added that MSA is not hitting the targeted number of biological sciences symposia.
 - Jordan noted that there was talk that the biological sciences symposia had become overly focused on results rather than focused on analytical technique, which was not to everyone's liking.
 - Jessica Riesterer confirmed Jordan's comment, adding that M&M was losing attendees to other meetings such as the Biophysical Society.
 - Pat added that he had heard similar complaints about the electron beam symposia becoming too focused on results rather than technique.
 - Steve said that the real-world problem solving symposium could act as a catch-all for more results-focused papers, allowing the other symposia to focus more on technique.
 - Debangshu agreed with Pat, noting complaints about M&M becoming an "MRS-lite" meeting.

- Abby also agreed, noting that the regular quantitative microscopy and microanalysis sessions which used to run regularly have not been available at recent meetings
 - Anette von der Handt noted that the EPMA-focused session was usually organized by Paul Carpenter, but he has stepped away from this and no one else has filled in.
- Vin also agreed that having too many sessions does dilute them, and that having the same people running consecutive sessions may get repetitive and cliquey.
- Heather noted that in the past, MAS had relied on members submitting the types of symposia that they had wanted to see, but recently there has been a vacuum in this area that has not been filled.
 - Heather suggested formalizing the MAS co-chair role, and surveying membership to see what people want and to identify people to lead sessions based on that.
- Andy suggested a strategic planning initiative to expand MAS' role in defining the program ahead of the meeting.
 - Steve asked whether the goal of this initiative would be to always have an analytical session focused on quantitative X-ray microanalysis, and another analytical session focused on diffraction-based techniques.
 - Heather suggested that this initiative would benefit from more outreach to members, particularly those on the biological sciences side.
- Jessica described some offshoots in the life science community sponsored by Chan Zuckerberg, focused on the volume electron microscopy and X-ray tomography communities.
 - A quarterly talk by Ru-Ching Hsia, which spun off from the diagnostics FIG was heavily attended.
 - Members of the Bioimaging North America (BINA) community, which is focused more heavily on light microscopy but does also work with electron microscopy, have expressed that they are afraid to reach out to M&M attendees for fear of being seen as poaching MAS/MSA's members.
 - Andy noted that there was some talk at MSA about reaching out to BINA.
- Steve listed the biological sciences sessions that have been proposed for M&M2026;
 - 3-D Structures.
 - Tissue Cleaning, Expansion Microscopy, and Volumetric Imaging.
 - Disease Research and Diagnosis.

- Super-Resolution Microscopy.
 - Cryo-EM for Biological Sciences.
- Archivist (Andy Herzing for John Fournelle)
 - o Andy reported that the Science History Institute reached out to Andy and John Fournelle, with representatives from MAS and SHI meeting on 7 March.
 - Andy asked for ideas from Council about how SHI could better meet the needs of MAS' members.
- AReS (Thomas Lam)
 - o Thomas reported that he had created a tour speaker letter template and was working on a new promotional slide deck to send to AReS members.
 - Heather said that she has a more recent slide deck than what Tom had presented and would send it to him.
 - o Thomas said that he was working on options for supporting students involved in student PMC at M&M2025.
 - o Thomas also said that a student council speaker will be supported in addition to the usual AReS tour speakers.
 - The first speaker will attend the meeting of the Southeast Microscopy Society on 13-15 May, 2025.
 - Masashi Watanabe will also speak at this meeting.
 - o Thomas will also coordinate a meeting with Andy and representatives from the various AReS.
- Awards (Brad de Gregorio)
 - o Brad announced the Best Paper Awards from M&M2024.
 - Birks (Best Contributed Paper): Michael Colletta, Cornell University.
 - Castaing (Best Student Paper): Yueyun Chen, UCLA.
 - Cosslett (Best Invited Paper): Zsanett Pinter, CSIRO.
 - Macres (Best Software/Instrumentation Paper): Richard Wuhner, Western Sydney University.
 - Winners have been notified and Brad will be following up to get information for ordering plaques and photographs.
 - o Brad reported that the Awards Committee reviewed 4 Duncumb Award packages for this year, including two which rolled over from last year,
 - The committee recommends either of the following candidates for the Duncumb Award
 - Marc De Graef (top rated suggestion).
 - Masashi Watanabe.

- Other packages will roll over to next year.
- o Brad is waiting to hear from AMAS about their ECS award winner, who should get an invited speaker slot at M&M2026.
- o Brad will start working on travel awards and ordering plaques for winners.
- Computer Activities (Josh Taillon)
 - o Josh reported that the website has been updated with biographies for new Council members.
 - o Andy asked Josh to set up a reminder for for the Call for Papers for M&M2026 when that is available.
- Social Media (Andy Herzing for Joe Boro)
 - o No report.
- Education (Andy Herzing for Mary Scott)
 - o No report.
- Fellows (Vin Smentkowski)
 - o Vin reported that the Fellows Committee has been advertising their program in order to bring in nomination packages for new Fellows, but have not received any new nominations.
 - o Vin tested the submission protocol with dummy submission and found no problems.
 - o Vin reminded Council that a candidate for Fellowship needs to have provided significant service to the microscopy community as well as to MAS.
 - o Pat asked how many fellows could be awarded per year,
 - Vin said that he has not calculated the number, but also noted that the number of current nominations is unlikely to be anywhere near it.
 - o Owen asked whether posthumous nominations would be accepted.
 - Vin responded that the governing documents of the Fellows Committee did not specify.
 - Pat said that the initial class had posthumous Fellows, but that going forward, the number of Fellows elected was meant to be based on living members.
 - Heather added that part of the purpose of the Fellows program was to add advocates for MAS, which electing posthumous fellows would not do.
 - o Heather asked whether the fluctuations in membership induced by linking membership renewal to M&M registration would require the number of Fellows, determined as a percentage of membership, be reevaluated.

- Vin said the Committee would consider this.
- o Andy noted that the disparity in nominations for the Duncumb Award and for Fellowship was interesting, given the similarity in nomination process and selection criteria.
 - Jordan asked whether it would be allowable to submit the same materials used in a Duncumb Award nomination in a Fellowship nomination.
 - Andy observed that there was a lot of overlap between the two packages, so it would not take much work to tweak one to fit the other.
 - Vin said he would follow up with Jordan offline.
- Finance (Pete McSwiggen)
 - o Pete showed how the value of MAS' portfolio, as well as the MAS' contribution to it, has changed over time.
 - o The value of MAS' investments was \$881,517, as of 14 February.
 - This is up 3.4% since the beginning of 2025.
 - Over the course of 2024, the value of MAS' investments has grown from \$765,148 to \$853,033.
 - This is an increase of \$87,885, or 11.5%.
 - This represents a growth of ~75% to MAS' initial assets.
 - MAS' funds are still heavy on cash, due to the still high rates being paid on money market deposits.
 - Rebalancing will take place if and when return rates drop below 4%.
 - o Andy announced that Pete is planning to step down as Finance Chair.
 - A replacement has been identified and will be announced shortly.
- International Liaison (Heather Lowers)
 - o The abstract deadline for the EMAS 2025 meeting has been extended to 22 February.
 - The meeting will take place on 11-15 May in Mataro (near Barcelona), Spain.
 - Stuart Wright is giving an invited talk.
 - o The Asian Pacific Microscopy Conference took place on 2-7 February in Brisbane, Australia.
 - o The 2026 AMAS meeting will take place on 9-13 February in Albert Park (near Melbourne), Australia.
 - Potential workshops beforehand may include cryo-EPMA, soft X-ray analysis, advanced indicator minerals, CL (practical and hands-on), cultural heritage microanalysis, and workshops at the synchrotron.

- o The IUMAS-9 meeting will take place on 31 May – 3 June, 2026 in Xi'an China.
 - An organizational meeting will take place on 11 March.
 - IUMAS will fund one student from each member society to attend the meeting.
- Sustaining Members (Steve Seddio)
 - o Steve reported that there are currently 12 paid Sustaining Members, all joint members with MSA.
 - This is on track to have the same level of Sustaining Membership as 2024.
 - Steve said that he expects us to retain the 20 joint Sustaining Members and 2 MAS-only Sustaining Members.
 - o MSA is sending reminders to Sustaining Members, and Steve will begin reaching out to Sustaining Members in March.
 - o Steve added that he is working to find contacts from Shimadzu and another SEM company that had booth presence at M&M2024, in hopes of adding them as Sustaining Members.
- Topical Conferences (Anette von der Handt)
 - o Anette described her suggestions for some proposed virtual Topical Conferences.
 - No TC's have been conducted in some time, the most recent being QMA-2019 (before the pandemic) and the EBSD TC which ran virtually in July 2022.
 - This is partly due to the effort required to organize in-person TC's, which require significant lead time.
 - Uncertainties in funding have exacerbated the difficulty in holding in-person TC's.
 - While there is some fatigue with online events, virtual TC's can be conducted with less lead time, less strain on the organizers, and lower costs.
 - o The first virtual TC suggested by Anette would be focused on sample preparation.
 - This TC would have less need for in-person demonstrations, would attract a relatively wide audience, and would be a good way to jump-start the TC program.
 - Abby volunteered to help organize this TC.
 - Angela noted that a TC focused on sample preparation might attract companies like Struers and Buehler to become more involved with M&M.
 - o Anette also noted that a TC focused on lab software solutions could be popular.
 - The software tools workshop that took place at IUMAS-8 would provide a

good template.

- This could also focus on software tools beyond vendor-supplied options.
 - o Andy said that both topics were good ideas, and work well in virtual format.
 - They would also be of broad interest beyond MAS' current membership, and would potentially bring in new students and members.
 - o Heather asked about ways to expand the scope or format of TC's to allow more people to participate in organizing them (i.e. whether a TC could partner with a Sustaining Member to use a vendor's site as a venue).
 - Heather gave an example of partnering with an instrument company to host a WDS101 TC.
 - Such an arrangement would benefit the Sustaining Members with exposure, and would take some burden off of members to organize the event.
 - Anette noted the need to balance catering to new or inexperienced instrument users with the need to have content that would be useful to experts.
 - For example a WDS101 course might work better as a part of a larger TC rather than as the TC itself.
 - o Thomas noted that microscopes now come with the ability to do live 3-D measurements, which could be a useful addition to a software package TC.
 - Anette said that this was a good idea, and can be used to bring in more and new SM's who make such software.
 - o Anette suggested adding short mini-presentations to TC programs (5-10 minutes instead of 15-20 minutes).
 - This might work better for technique-based presentations, as well as with the virtual format.
 - o Anette also suggested using voice-to-text tools to capture and transcribe the question-and-answer and discussion sections that often occur at TC's.
 - Anette noted that old abstract volumes have transcriptions of post-talk discussions, which voice-to-text tools could record and make searchable.
 - o Vin said that he would be willing to help organize both proposed TC's, and noted that there is a market for basic instruction for newer users which TC's could help serve.
 - o Andy will follow up on these issues with Anette.
- Nominating Committee (Assel Aitkaliyeva)
 - o Assel and the Nominations Committee will be soliciting candidates for the following open positions:
 - M&M Editorial Board Representative.
 - Goldstein Award Coordinator.

- Secretary.
 - Directors.
 - Assel said that two Director candidates have been identified, and that they are hoping to identify at least 1-2 more.
- o Andy said that a potential replacement Goldstein coordinator has been identified.
 - John Mansfield has identified a potential Editorial Board representative, but this is still tentative.
- M&M 2025 Update (Andy Herzing for Stuart Wright)
 - o Andy reported that session organization for M&M2025 was on track.
 - o FIGMAS will be leading Symposium A08: Next Generation Microanalysis Standards For EPMA and SEM-EDS Calibration.
 - JEOL has agreed to sponsor this session.
 - o The plenary speakers will be Bridget Carragher and Juan Carlos Idrobo.
 - o The schedule of talks will be released 4-6 weeks earlier than last year.
 - o Andy also reported concerns about decreased attendance due to restrictions on government employees.
 - Andy reiterated the suggestion that symposium organizers identify potential replacement speakers in the event of cancellations.
 - Abby noted that Symposium A08 had lost one invited speaker, but that the organizers were able to find a replacement.
 - o There will be a pre-site visit to Salt Lake City in March to tour the venue and select a site for the MAS social.
 - Andy said that he might not be able to go, but that Stuart Wright would be able to go in his place.
 - o Emma asked about ways to make the MAS booth more comfortable and visually appealing.
 - Andy said that he was working with Dave Tomlin to create new background graphics for the booth.
 - Andy said he would also be asking the meeting managers for better seating options for the booth.
 - Andy asked Council to think about poster options or interactive activities that might improve the booth.
 - o Emma also noted the need for Exhibitor ribbons for council members who will be working at the booth outside of the normal open hours for the exhibit hall.
 - Pat suggested talking to the organizational desk to make sure ribbons are distributed correctly.
 - Andy said he would follow up.
 - o Anette asked if it would be possible to get the physical dimensions of the booth to

determine how much space would be available and how much would need to be filled.

- Anette also asked about the deadlines for printing booth graphics.
- Pat said that some exhibit panels will have consistent content from meeting to meeting, while others would rotate.
- Andy said he would follow up with Dave.

- GSA Connects (Andy Herzing)

- o Heather explained that GSA is the Geological Society of America, which hosts a very large annual meeting with >10,000 attendees.
- o Andy added that the deadline to submit symposia for this meeting has passed, but suggested that having a presence at this meeting in 2026 might broaden MAS' reach.
 - Heather agreed that having an MAS presence at meetings like GSA, AGU, MS&T, MRS, etc. could be useful, and might come with a reduced registration rate for the MAS members working at the meeting.

- Next Meetings (Andy Herzing)

- o The MAS Spring Council meeting will be held sometime in May.
- o The MAS Summer Council meeting will be held shortly before M&M2025.

- Adjourn (Andy Herzing)

- o Pat moved to adjourn the meeting, Abby seconded.
- o Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.
- o Meeting was adjourned at 14:53 EST.