



**2026 MAS Fall Council Meeting**  
**October 5, 2026, 14:00-16:00 EDT, via Zoom**

|                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Assel Aitkaliyeva    | President 2026-2028              |
| Andrew Herzing       | Past President 2026-2027         |
| Vin Smentkowski      | President-Elect 2027-2028        |
| Jordan Hachtel       | Secretary 2026-2028              |
| Dale Burns           | Treasurer 2025-2026              |
| Aurélien Moy         | Director 2025-2027               |
| Debangshu Mukherjee  | Director 2025-2027               |
| Andres Marquez Rossy | Director 2026-2028               |
| Shize Yang           | Director 2026-2028               |
| Steve Seddio         | Commercial Director 2023-2026    |
| Thomas Lam           | ARes 2024-2026                   |
| John Fournelle       | Archivist since 2010             |
| Brad De Gregorio     | Awards since 2020                |
| Josh Taillon         | Computer Activities since 2024   |
| Katherine Jungjohann | Education Chair since 2026       |
| Michelle Thompson    | Goldstein Scholar Coordinator    |
| Vin Smentkowski      | Fellows since 2022               |
| Rhonda Stroud        | Finance since 2025               |
| Heather Lowers       | International Liaison since 2018 |
| Emma Bullock         | Membership since 2020            |
| Joe Boro             | Social Media since 2024          |
| Anette von der Handt | Topical Conferences since 2024   |
| Ed Vicenzi           | M&M Editorial Board              |
| Will Nachlas         | M&M2027 Co-Chair                 |
| VACANT               | Strategic Planning               |
| Abby Lindstrom       | FIGMAS                           |
| Jessica Riesterer    |                                  |

In attendance: Jordan Hachtel, Vin Smentkowski, Thomas Lam, Assel Aitkaliyeva, Andy Herzing, Annette von der Handt, Aurelien Moy, Brad de Gregorio, Emma Bullock, Jessica Reister, Katie Jungjohann, Ed Vincenzi, Michelle Thompson, Shize Yang, Steve Seddio

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- **Brad: Send out poster awards and checks**
- **Council Chairs: Update table at end of document with expected update frequency**
- **Council Chairs: Work to establish metrics to track society activities**
- **Emma & Jordan: Set up test election and general election for council**
- **Jordan: Distribute business meeting minutes to council for internal approval via email**
- **Jordan: Work on scheduling future meetings for the whole year in advance.**
- **Josh: Set up seminar series for education committee**
- **Katie & Dale: Set up seminar series for education committee**

### **1. Call to Order – Assel Aitkaliyeva**

- a. Assel called the meeting to order and asked for additions to agenda 2:03 pm

### **2. Approve Agenda – Assel Aitkaliyeva**

- a. Jordan motion, Thomas second, unanimous carry for agenda approval

### **3. Presidential Opening Remarks – Assel Aitkaliyeva**

#### **a. General updates**

- i. Assel mentioned that it was her first meeting.
- ii. She mentioned that her first items of business as President had focused on meeting with program chairs and compiling responses
- iii. She noted several general issues that spanned across the chair positions
  1. A major issue was a lack of institutional memory, and people assuming roles without clear direction of how to operate within the role
  2. Another issue was meeting inefficiency by requiring routine updates from all chairs at council meetings, and noted that not everyone needs to update at every meeting
    - a. Assel added a table at end of agenda for chairs to fill in on how often they needed to report
    - b. **ACTION ITEM – Council Chairs: Update table at end of document with expected update frequency**
  3. Noted that sometimes deadlines have fallen through
    - a. With Andy's help she is creating a calendar with key deadlines to help keep accountability
- iv. Assel solicited for ideas regarding student and early career researcher activities and mentoring with help from Katie and Megan Holtz (who has stayed on to help with the education committee)
- v. Noted we need a new strategic initiatives chair
- vi. Assel pointed out that for a "microanalysis" society there was limited quantification of MAS activities. Assel asked committee chairs to create metrics to track their activities.
  1. **ACTION ITEM – Council Chairs: Work to establish metrics to track society activities**

#### 4. Secretary Report – Jordan Hachtel

- a. Jordan asked for council to approve [minutes](#) from last meeting
- b. Emma motion, Abby second, unanimous carry for minutes approval
- c. Jordan asked about how to handle business meeting minutes
  - i. Emma said to send it around council for approval then distribute a few weeks before M&M
  - ii. **ACTION ITEM – Jordan: Distribute business meeting minutes to council for internal approval via email**

#### 5. Treasurer's Report – Dale Burns

- a. Dale gave recap of 2026
  - i. Dale noted that we had a good year and we had more from general membership than projected by \$9300 and everything else was on track
  - ii. Expenses were also lower. Dale said that these were carry overs from previous years, so there are still line items that are budgeted for the future.
  - iii. Dale suggested that we are starting to hit a place with the MAS Social at M&M where we need to budget more
  - iv. No surprises at all with operating expenses
  - v. Dale asked to talk about proposed modifications to the 2027 budget
    - 1. We are not spending enough money, and we need to spend more money with initiatives.
    - 2. There is a change in corporate sponsorship with Bruker backing out
    - 3. Abby had a question about the continuation of the funds for Will Nachlas' Standards project
      - a. Dale replied this was budgeted into strategic initiatives
    - 4. Annette mentioned that TC seed money was only \$1500, and that she had previously done work with \$2500 and that given inflation might be important to put it up past that.
      - a. She this money covers expenses until registration money come in, and that student support was going down so having the seed money was critical for early advertisements.
      - b. Dale agreed to this suggestion
      - c. The next TC is in '28 so this change could be done this year or next year
      - d. Dale and Assel suggested that TC could be increased to 3500, and Dale said he would update the proposed budget.
    - 5. Made following proposed changes to budget
      - a. Strategic planning initiative budget to \$20K from \$10K
      - b. MAS social budget to \$15K from \$10K
    - 6. Thomas mentioned the Erst Fund (Ernst fund?) came in at budget, but that there were issues with budgeting issues given fiscal year constraints. Seemed like everything was fine, but Thomas wanted to chat with Dale.
  - vi. Dale discussed the Operations Balance Sheet

1. He noted the checking account was a little low (\$39K) and there are some portal reconciliations issues that are not coming through.
  2. Dale has escalated this to the company and hopes it will be resolved in next week or two
- vii. Dale noted that Bruker no longer sponsoring Duncumb award due to Budget reductions

#### **6. Finance – Rhonda Stroud**

- a. Rhonda was not in attendance but reported offline to Assel that there were no issues

#### **7. Membership – Emma Bullock**

- a. Emma reported on membership
- i. Numbers are healthy, were 6-700 at the time she took over and are now close to 1000 (224 Joint Student Memberships)
  - ii. Emma stated that it was now membership renewal season and that if you renew now it lasts all the way through until December '27
  - iii. Virtual Inc have instituted database strategy that has some issues, and Emma asked if she could do some test emails to council to make sure that everything was working right.
  - iv. Emma and Assel discussed a survey to see how people felt about their MAS survey, and asked Josh for help. Asked council for suggestions on the survey.
  - v. Emma asked for suggestions for emeritus membership from council
  - vi. She noted that elections coming right up and would run throughout the month of November, Emma and Jordan will set up ballot for November elections, goes online November 1<sup>st</sup>, and that we will bill Dale
1. **ACTION ITEM – Emma & Jordan: Set up test election and general election for council**

#### **8. Goldstein Scholars – Michelle Thompson**

- a. Michelle gave an update on the Goldstein Scholars program
- i. Evaluated two applications and would like to proceed with both.
  - ii. Asked how we are going to proceed and how they would be reimbursed
  - iii. Aiming for another call with a deadline of December 1<sup>st</sup>!
  - iv. Abby mentioned when she was goldstein chairs she asked for a 1 page report from their experiments and put the report on the website, and then passed them on to Dale for direct reimbursement
  - v. Michelle said that she was encouraging graphical abstracts for website + social media

#### **9. Awards – Brad de Gregorio**

- a. Brad gave an update on awards
- i. The new awards committee was announced, consisting of Aurelien, Debangshu, Matthew Jenkins (at large member) and Liz Griffin (MSA StC)
  - ii. Announced poster awards from M&M
    1. Creative Canvas award to Juan Ernesto Neri-Cruz
    2. Poster Awards to Anna Kuleguski and Seyed Golsorkhi

- iii. Brad said that the 2025 Poster Awards were never announced or sent out. Brad working with Assel and the team to rectify the issue and send out checks post-hoc.
  - 1. **ACTION ITEM – Brad: Send out poster awards and checks**
- iv. For the 2027 Paper Awards he is currently going through the award nominations and we have 13 unique ones (a lot of self-nominations or had 0/1 figures). Some people also nominated actual papers. 13 is less than normal. Awards aimed to be selected before thanksgiving
- v. Wanted another member of the award committee and wanted an at-large member with APT experience
- b. Brad discussed M&M Plaques
  - i. Brad found a new vendor for plaques (local to DC area where he's based so he can visit)
  - ii. Getting new plaques for last years awards (which had errors on them)
  - iii. New process much more professional, including a proof stage.
  - iv. New plaques will be nicer and bigger for the major society awards.
  - v. New costs a little higher but not too much so.
  - vi. Brad mentioned that the Duncumb Award losing its funding shouldn't affect the plaque since the sponsor isn't printed on it
  - vii. Steve mentioned sustaining member also produced plaques and that maybe they should be converged to the same vendor,
  - viii. Brad and Steve both decided there were no real benefits that would make converging the plaque vendors worth while
- c. Anette noted that the awards had not been updated on the website since 2024.
  - i. Assel said she would talk to Josh and have him update the website.
  - ii. **ACTION ITEM – Josh: Set up seminar series for education committee**

#### 10. Fellows – Vin Smentkowski

- a. Vin mentioned that he needed new committee members for the fellows committee after Heather stepped down, he suggested Paul Kotula
- b. Vin mentioned that we'd need a new fellows chair when he takes over as president in 2028 and suggested Pat Camus
- c. Proposed revision to MAS Fellow eligibility requirements
  - i. Vin said they'd relax some of the conditions for fellows
  - ii. Vote on revised [Fellows governing document](#)
- d. Called for more nominations

#### 11. Sustaining Members – Steve Seddio

- a. Steve gave an update on Sustaining Members
  - i. New Sustaining Members!!! Oregon Physics LLC (joint sustaining members)
  - ii. Steve working on closing the deal with a company called Ciqtek
  - iii. He will begin renewal push in November then start going hard in Spring

#### 12. Education – Katherine Jungjohann

- a. Katie gave the update on Education
  - i. Megan Holtz joined committee to expand and plan more events

- ii. Katie noted that Meal with a Mentor (MwaM) was a success and went through all plates and wants the same size (100 students + 10 mentors) at M&M 2027
- iii. Katie mentioned that there are MAS opportunities that could be emailed to students on jobs user facilities SCGSR, and fellowships
- iv. Katie wants to join with MSA on pilot mentorship program
  - 1. Creating an event for mock interviews and CV reviews.
    - a. Jordan asked about helping with AI CV reviews and whether we had the resources and up to date information to help with that and
    - b. Katie said it was more about helping make sure an AI assisted CV is actually still defensible, but talking about AI CV reviews could also be a good thing.
    - c. Get real world examples of successful CVs for reference
  - 2. Bimonthly seminars (suggested program): Using volunteer MAS members. Non-scientific but focused on the behind the scenes topics.
  - 3. Katie asked for a budget of \$3400 for the seminars
    - a. Abby motion, Emma second, unanimous carry for budget approval
- b. Katie also said she would need some help to create the seminar and Dale volunteered to help
  - i. **ACTION ITEM – Katie & Dale: Set up seminar series for education committee**

### 13. AReS – Thomas Lam

- a. Thomas gave an update on regional meetings.
  - i. Great Lakes has its meeting this week with Xiabing Hu and Chia-Hao Lee
  - ii. Ed Vincenzi will be a tour speaker for the Mountain region
  - iii. Paul Kotula will be a tour speaker for Biology
- b. Two additional inquiries from Northeastern Ohio and Midwest Microscopy and Microanalysis Society

### 14. FIG-MAS Update – Abby Lindstrom

- a. Abby gave a FIGMAS update
  - i. Had annual meeting at M&M with good attendance (full room)
  - ii. Will Nachlas gave his presentation on purifying and certifying pure single element and mineral standards.

### 15. Nominations – Assel Aitkaliyeva

- a. Assel gave an update Nominations update
  - i. She mentioned Vin would be taking over nominations soon
  - ii. Reiterated Jordan and Emma will get the election ready
  - iii. We need the bios and headshots which appear to already be in our possession from the business meeting.

#### **16. International – Heather Lowers**

- a. Heather was not present, but it was time reach out to EMAS and AMAS presidents for invited speakers
- b. AMAS President Karen Privat gave an update slide that Assel gave us to read.

#### **17. Computer activities – Josh/Assel**

- a. Josh was not in attendance so Assel gave an update
  - i. Josh added Joe as secondary admin
  - ii. Assel said Josh will update the website
  - iii. Assel mentioned to not overwhelm Josh with too many requests so Assel would start a separate email chain to receive the suggested updates so that she could bring one collated list
  - iv. Annette mentioned she and Abby also still had their admin access.
- b. Assel said it might be time to discuss whether the current website platform was sufficient for our current needs.

#### **18. Topical Conferences – Anette von der Handt**

- a. Anette gave an update on TC
  - i. She said there were finally some good news on TCs
    - 1. An EBSD Topical Conference is being organized for 2028, organizing committee Tim Ruggles, Tirzah Abbot, and Ben Britton, proposed Location Northwestern
      - a. Ben Britton proposes a EBSD session for M&M 2027 then use that as lead in/advertisement for the TC
  - ii. Prioritizing an in person meeting, but discussing light option where we stream the major talks to help with outreach for the community.
    - 1. Anette said she would prepare a TC for the Winter Council Meeting in early 2027.
  - iii. She also there could be an APT topical conference run by Tom Kelly.
    - 1. Timeline challenging due to APT&M in Canada next year, but there is interest
  - iv. In terms of EPMA, Heather Lowers said she might be open to hosting another one in Golden Colorado.
  - v. APT&M asked if MAS would sponsor APT&M, and Anette brought this to the council at their behest.
  - vi. Highlighted the different levels of sponsorship (from \$13.5k to \$3.5k)
- b. Anette asked for more committee members, had somebody on the hook from Purdue, but asked for other volunteers.

#### **19. M&M Journal Update – Ed Vicenzi**

- a. Ed gave an update on M&M journal and presented some slides from John Mansfield's update to the MSA council
  - i. Guest Edited Issues: APT and AMAS issues
  - ii. M&M is rolling back to standard publication dates (rather than rolling deadlines) to handle the special issues
  - iii. Highlighted that 87 countries have submitted to M&M

- iv. Highlighted the high impact factor 3.9
- v. Ed noted that the Micrographia section has a lower impact factor separately from M&M that they are thinking to break into a different journal. If it was M&M would go to 4.3 and Micrographia would be 1.6.

## **20. M&M Updates – Assel Aitkaliyeva**

- a. Assel gave an update on M&M
  - i. She said that we should start trying to identify the M&M 2028 program co-chair
  - ii. 2027 Conference is on track, MSA chooses program co-chairs early on (two years early), while MAS chooses late (one year early). Assel mentioned we should get the 2028 program cochair selected early so they could follow on with 2027 cochair.
  - iii. Assel asked for us to think about potential nominations.
    - 1. Vin asked for people who are going above and beyond in organization
    - 2. Jordan mentioned Shelly Conroy would be a good potential program chair and Andy mentioned she was also a Heinrich award winner
    - 3. Assel asked if it was an elected or appointed position, and Andy said it was appointed.

## **21. Additional discussion items – Assel Aitkaliyeva**

- a. Assel discussed that her priority was to start developing better documentation to clarify roles and assist with transitions for all the roles in council, calling it “Onboarding”
- b. She provided lists of past officers (that could potentially be reached out to) and the current council roles
  - i. [MAS past officers](#)
  - ii. [MAS council roles](#)
- c. Assel asked review the frequency and format of committee reports at Council meetings
- d. Assel mentioned that she received a report of lessons learned from MSA about strategic initiatives
  - i. Suggested to take the [strategic initiatives](#) document and use it to shape a pilot program surrounding this new strategic initiative approach
- e. Assel asked about whether we should develop our own strategic initiatives or solicit them from the community.
  - i. Dale asked how we would generate engagement
  - ii. Assel said we would send out email blasts to try and give people options
  - iii. Andres mentioned that he works with Strategic Initiatives at MSA, and that they have a monthly newsletter soliciting ideas, and the committee makes sure that proposals are aligned with MSA goals. Andres volunteered to participate on the council.
  - iv. Dale said he did think that getting ideas from communities that the council vetted was the best idea
  - v. Jordan mentioned that it could possibly be tough to establish scope, so giving clear guidance about what kinds of initiatives could and couldn't be accepted

- vi. Ed said that an example initiative would be the perfect thing out and highlighting Will Nachlas' standards would be a good example
- f. About the potential quantification of society activities she reiterated that we would need new metrics and produced some demo visualizations about the metrics
  - i. Shize said that visual tables were actually a much nicer way to report these things and that he liked the visualization
  - ii. Emma mentioned that there would be gaps in membership metrics due to the changing databases and some glitches in reporting, but going forward would be smoother.
  - iii. Thomas also approved the ideas.

## 22. Next Meeting

- a. Winter council meeting in January/February
- b. Assel mentioned that she would like to schedule all the council meetings far in advance to ensure maximum attendance. Asked Jordan to start on scheduling.
  - i. **ACTION ITEM – Jordan: Work on scheduling future meetings for the whole year in advance.**

## 23. Return to Budget

- a. Dale revised the budget during the meeting and presented the new budget.
- b. Key features: MAS Social from 10k to 15k, TC from 1.5k to 3.5 k, strategic initiatives from 10k to 20k, bimonthly education seminar new 3.4k.
- c. Vin asked about visiting presidents travel budget, and which line item it would fall under.
  - i. Andy said that it wasn't used this year because EMAS/AMAS presidents didn't travel, but it is in meeting registration comps
- d. Assel asked what happens if we went over, and the Dale said it wouldn't be a big deal, he would use it as justification of adjusting the line item next year.
  - i. Jordan said that it made sense to leave it and see if it goes up, Thomas also mentioned that ARES is in the same boat where they can use the line item going over budget as justification for changing the value
- e. Andy asked if there was enough in the M&M meeting Awards budget to cover the loss of Bruker's sponsorship of the Duncumb award.
- f. Dale asked for a budget approval
  - i. Emma motion, Abby second, unanimous carry for budget approval

## 24. Adjourn

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.

| Committee        | Winter          | Spring          | Summer          | Fall            | Proposed approach |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Awards</b>    | Upload + report | Upload + report | Upload + report | Upload + report | Every meeting     |
| <b>Education</b> | Upload + report | Upload + report | Upload + report | Upload + report | Every meeting     |

|                                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Fellows</b>                  | Upload          | Upload          | Upload          | Upload          | Written status every meeting; discussion only when needed                      |
| <b>Membership</b>               |                 | Upload + report | Upload + report |                 | Spring and Summer; otherwise as needed                                         |
| <b>Social Media</b>             |                 | Upload + report | Upload + report |                 | <b>Spring</b> and <b>Summer</b> based on M&M planning needs                    |
| <b>AReS</b>                     | Upload + report |                 | Upload + report |                 | <b>Winter</b> and <b>Summer</b> ; otherwise as needed                          |
| <b>International Activities</b> |                 |                 |                 | Upload + report | <b>Fall</b> is the key meeting for EMAS/AMAS coordination; otherwise as needed |
| <b>Sustaining Members</b>       |                 |                 |                 |                 | Reduced frequency, need to identify specific meetings                          |
| <b>Finance</b>                  |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>Nominations</b>              |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>Goldstein</b>                |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>Computer Activities</b>      |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                |
| <b>FIG-MAS</b>                  |                 |                 |                 |                 |                                                                                |