

AMS STAC Board/Committee Chairs Call

May 22, 2020

3-4 pm Eastern Time

Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. STAC level awards
3. AMS Annual Meeting overview & reminders
4. Short Course best practices
5. Summary of STAC meeting reports
6. AMS Resources
7. Open discussion

Opening remarks

- Genevieve Fisher, STAC Commissioner, thanked everyone for all the time and effort they put into volunteering as Chair and Vice-Chair. Over 40 people dialed into the conference call--thank you!
- AMS President, Mary Glackin, thanked the STAC Chairs and Vice-Chairs for volunteering and expressed the importance of STAC to AMS. She mentioned AMS is looking into virtual meetings and also reminded people of the meeting theme of the 2021 AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans: [Strengthening Engagement of Communities through our Science and Service](#).

STAC level awards

- Genevieve announced that the AMS Council approved the proposal to offer the STAC level awards annually.
- The process can be found on the STAC webpage, under the "Chair & Member Information" tab <https://www.ametsoc.org/index.cfm/stac/chair-member-information/awards/stac-board-and-committee-awards>
- The nomination must be received by the STAC Commissioner no later than 1 October 2020.
- The STAC level awards recognize individuals whose outstanding contributions further the goals of the STAC. There are three types of awards for which each board or committee can submit a nomination:
 - Outstanding Early Career,
 - Distinguished Scientific/Technological Accomplishment, and
 - Outstanding Service.

AMS Annual Meeting overview/reminders

- Claudia Gorksi, Director of AMS Meetings, provided some updates on meetings.
- For 2020 specialty meetings:
 - Hurricanes, Fire and Forest, Ag & Forest, BioGeo, BLT, SLS, Summer Community Meeting will be moved to 2021.
 - Mountain Meteorology will be virtual in July
- For the 2021 Annual Meeting:

- 2021 Session Topic Proposals 160 submitted, 120 accepted; 2020 -- 167 submitted, 140 accepted; 2019 -- 127 submitted, 113 accepted; 2018 -- 52 submitted, 39 accepted
 - Working with the New Orleans Convention Center, hotels, local government while monitoring recommendations CDC and WHO regarding travel.
 - Working with our attorneys on options if we need to change our contracts and go 100% virtual
 - AMS will be surveying past attendees/authors once we have a better handle on the options. AMS is working to have a plan in place in the early summer.
- We discussed the balance between the benefits of a virtual meeting versus virtual fatigue
 - AMS continues to monitor for New Orleans
 - There was discussion on that the cost for attendees would be different for virtual meetings and further guidance will be available this summer
 - Claudia asked the Chairs to let her know about your experiences with other virtual meetings

Short Course Best Practices

- Short Course Website is in the process of being updated
- Guidelines for Continuing Education is being updated and will be finalized in a few weeks
- Website includes details on deadlines, sample announcement and sample program
- Application for Annual Meeting Short Courses -- Deadline has passed for the 2021 AM (6 April deadline extended to 13 April; 15 Short Course Proposals being reviewed by the AMS Board on Continuing Professional Development)
- Short courses at specialty meetings -- will need to know of interest prior to the hotel contract is signed to be sure there is space at the hotel (12-18 months out.)
- Ricky Sidla (rsidla@ametsoc.org) is the AMS meeting lead for Short Courses
- AMS is revising its short course website and guidelines and Chairs will be notified once it's available
- The Artificial Intelligence Committee has had a lot of experience with organizing short courses and willing to offer advice to others
- Stephanie Armstrong, AMS, mentioned sponsorship, even for virtual courses, can reduce the registration rates

Summary of STAC meeting reports

- Gene discussed the major themes from the STAC meeting reports, which included feedback from 13 out of 22 Boards/Committees for conferences organized by STAC held at the 2020 Annual Meeting (see slides for details).
- Gene asked a few committees to talk about some special sessions organized:
 - Rei Ueyama, Middle Atmosphere Committee, talked about the ozone hole movie they showed during lunch. AMS helped purchase the DVD of the movie and they used their program chair funds to pay for the lunches. They also got sponsors to help offset the cost of the lunch. They had about 25-30 people in attendance. Lessons learned included making sure there is enough food and finding a better time.

- Kerry Cook, Climate Variability and Change (CVC), talked about the committee's experience of inviting a Senator Whitehouse of RI to speak on how scientists can help the country move toward climate policy. Scheduling was a challenge and they had a short window, but in the end, they had 350 people in attendance and was successful.
- CVC also organized a panel session on how to use social media to communicate accurate climate science. They invited panelists who don't normally attend AMS, and they were able to comp their registration for 1 day and contribute to their travel costs.
- David Gagne, Artificial Intelligence talked about an AI Data Science Tech Networking Mixer with other tech focused conferences that was well-attended. They were able to obtain sponsorship from several companies. It was well attended with food for 200 gone. They recommended better promotion and more options for food in the future.
- The Chairs discussed the pros and cons of holding a networking session at the meeting site versus off site at a restaurant.
- Claudia noted that AMS meetings was already addressing much of the feedback from the reports.
- Genevieve reminded everyone If you have specific feedback related to your conference or symposium, please communicate that to your AMS Meeting Planner now so they can incorporate that into planning for your next meeting

AMS Resources (e.g., AMS Community, website, zoom)

- Make sure to check out the STAC Best Practices Document, which includes instructions on how to nominate members
- Encourage your B/C to use the AMS Community. It's an excellent way to communicate and keep all your discussions and documents in one place. You can select the settings to be real-time so you will receive the message as soon as it's sent.
- Fill out this request form to edit webpages:
<https://forms.monday.com/forms/44dfbdeaa6b376c38c392b4aad4c982c>
- STAC Zoom Account--contact STAC Commissioner if you'd like log-in information for STAC zoom account.