



# AMS STAC Chairs Call

---

May 22, 2020



# Agenda

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

# STAC Level Awards

- AMS Council approved STAC level awards could be given annually
- Deadline to submit nomination to STAC Commissioner: October 1
- Three types of awards:
  - STAC Outstanding Early Career Award
  - STAC Distinguished Scientific/Technological Accomplishment Award
  - STAC Outstanding Service Award
- 10 were awarded in 2018 and 12 were awarded in 2020, with all nominations approved by Commissioner

# AMS Meetings Overview

- Update on 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
- Update on Planning 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
  - We will be surveying past attendees/authors once we have a better handle on the options
  - We are working to have a plan in place in the early summer.

# 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](mailto:rsidla@ametsoc.org)) is the AMS meeting lead for Short Courses

## Summary of STAC meeting reports - 1

- 13 out of 22 Boards/Committees responded for conferences organized by STAC held at 2020 Annual Meeting
- 4 out of 13 held joint sessions and overall went well
- 10 out of 14 reported significant student attendance
- Overall B/C take advantage of all opportunities: named sessions, joint sessions, student awards, core science keynotes, lecturer/fellows/award winner talks in program, presenting STAC awards at meeting, short courses, etc
- Some special mentions:
  - Hosted movie during lunch with refreshments (Middle Atmosphere)
  - Hosted talk by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of RI (CVC)
  - Held panel over lunch on how to use social media (CVC)
  - AI Data Science Tech Networking Mixer with other tech focused conferences (AI & others)

# Summary of STAC meeting reports - 2

## Observations/Comments

- Overall meeting was excellent and B/C appreciate AMS staff support
- Horton Lecture-while attendance was 33% higher than last year, attendance was lower than expected. Possibly result of award now becoming mid-career.
- Attendance was expected or exceeded expectations. One issue was for a Presidential session (AI) that was scheduled across from Dr. Neil Jacobs talk

## Issues:

- Security lines
- Rooms either too small or too large
- Venue is very spread out with large distances between blocks of rooms
- Lack of food options for lunch outside venue
- While the app is greatly improved, there are still several issues

## Summary of STAC meeting reports - 3

### Other Comments and Recommendations: Poster Sessions

- Make sure that poster presenters confirm their attendance at the conference a few days prior to its start--that would ensure fewer blank spaces in the poster hall and more vibrant poster sessions.
- Publicity for poster sessions--considering scheduling a slot at the end of the last oral block of a session to give presenters 2-3 mins to describe poster.
- Poster audience: considering implementing the traveling audience approach for the poster sessions, whereby the audience--consisting of all other poster presenters, session chairs, and any other interested moves en bloc from poster to poster, giving each presenter two minutes to present to everybody.



## Summary of STAC meeting reports - 4

- Experiment with using an online question submission system, like the one used for the main Presidential Forum. We had incidents of condescending and long-winded questions that might be filtered by electronic moderation systems. It would be helpful for AMS to provide stronger guidance to session chairs on handling these kinds of questions.
- The Centennial was definitely special, but there were too many special events to attend, which led to lots of conflicts. Is there any way AMS can inventory and reduce the number of special events to make them special again?
- Can we also limit the number of special sessions for senior government officials or know about their sessions further in advance?
- Can AMS provide the program and committee chairs their internal information about session attendance so that we can prioritize sessions for next year?

# Final Comment on Meetings

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

- STAC Best Practices Document
  - Includes how to nominate members
- AMS Community
  - Use to communicate with your members
  - Post/archive documents
- B/C Webpages
  - 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

# Open Discussion