**Minutes for the Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC) Chair Annual Meeting**

**99th AMS Annual Meeting**

**Paradise Valley Room at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Phoenix**

**January 6, 2019, 11 AM to 3 PM**

**Attendees:**

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| **Name** | **Board/Committee** |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Air-Sea Interaction |
| Robb Randall | Committee on Applied Climatology |
| Philippe Tissot | Committee on Artificial Intelligence Applications to Environmental Science |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Atmospheric & Oceanic Fluid Dynamics |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Board on Atmospheric Biogeosciences |
| Jeff Collett | Committee on Atmospheric Chemistry |
| Geoffrey Stano | Committee on Atmospheric Electricity |
| Xianglei Huang, Jens Reddeman | Committee on Atmospheric Radiation |
| Cecilia Miner, Matt Fronzak | Committee on Aviation, Range, and Aerospace Meteorology |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Boundary Layers and Turbulence |
| Kerry Cook | Committee on Climate Variability and Change |
| Alison Nugent | Committee on Cloud Physics |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Coastal Environment |
| Mohan Ramamurthy | Board on Data Stewardship |
| Jenni Vanos, Kristie Ebi | Board on Environment and Health |
| Nazila Merati | Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies |
| Kristie Franz, John McHenry | Committee on Hydrology |
| James Campbell | Committee on Laser Atmospheric Studies |
| Scott Landolt | Committee on Measurements |
| Tom Galarneau | Committee on Mesoscale Processes |
| Sarav Arunachalam | Committee on Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Meteorology and Oceanography of the Southern Hemisphere |
| Amy Butler | Committee on Middle Atmosphere |
| Alison Nugent | Committee on Mountain Meteorology |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Planned & Inadvertent Weather Modification |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography |
| Liz Satterfield | Committee on Probability and Statistics |
| Ali Tokay, Scott Collis | Committee on Radar Meteorology |
| Jana Houser | Committee on Severe Local Storms |
| Kathy Sherman-Morris | Board on Societal Impacts |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Space Weather |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Committee on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones |
| *(Unable to attend)* | Board on Urban Environment |
| Becky-Adams-Selin, Clark Evans | Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting |

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**Photo of attendees at 2019 STAC Chair Meeting**

**STAC Leadership**

Commissioner: R Bruce Telfeyan, [rbt48@cox.net;](mailto:rbt48@cox.net) and/or [r\_bruce.telfeyan@us.af.mil](mailto:r_bruce.telfeyan@us.af.mil)

Past Commissioner: David Stensrud, [david.stensrud@psu.edu](mailto:david.stensrud@psu.edu)

Incoming Commissioner: Genene Fisher, [genene.fisher@noaa.gov](mailto:genene.fisher@noaa.gov)

Future Incoming Commissioner: Ankur Desai, [desai@aos.wisc.edu](mailto:desai@aos.wisc.edu)

**Key AMS Leaders who attended a portion of the meeting and made remarks:**

AMS President: Roger Wakimoto (UCLA)

Incoming AMS President: Jenni Evans (Penn State University)

Incoming AMS President Elect: Mary Glackin (The Weather Company)

Weather, Water, Climate Commissioner (CWWCE): Pam Emch (Northrup-Grumman)

**AMS Staff Members who attended a portion of the meeting and made remarks:**

Executive Director: Keith Seitter, [kseitter@ametsoc.org](mailto:kseitter@ametsoc.org)

Director of Meetings: Claudia Gorski, [cgorski@ametsoc.org](mailto:cgorski@ametsoc.org)

Policy Program Director: Paul Higgins, [phiggins@ametsoc.org](mailto:phiggins@ametsoc.org)

Associate Executive Director: Brian Papa, [bpapa@ametsoc.org](mailto:bpapa@ametsoc.org)

Director of Digital Products and Design: Brian Mardirosian, bmardirosian@ametsoc.org

Minutes Recorder for meeting: Gwendolyn Whittaker, [gwhittaker@ametsoc.org](mailto:gwhittaker@ametsoc.org)

**Overarching Slides for Entire STAC Chair Meeting:**

This PowerPoint file (STAC Chair Meeting 2019.pptx) was projected to guide us through the presentations and discussions for much of the meeting.

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**Introductions & Group Photo**

New and departing B/C Chairs were acknowledged. ***(Refer to the STAC Chair Meeting 2019.pptx, attached just above here)***

* Thanks and appreciation given to departing Past STAC Commissioner, David Stensrud for his six years of service as STAC Commissioner
  + Dave was instrumental in obtaining AMS Council approval of the biennial STAC-level awards
  + He opened the way for year-round additions of new members to boards and committees and increased the amount of money available from AMS to support the very large conferences (such as Tropical, Radar, and METSAT)

**STAC B/C Best Practices (Bruce Telfeyan)**



Bruce reviewed all fourteen sections of the Best Practices and then addressed questions from those in attendance. He stressed that all prospective new board and committee members must be required to read the Best Practices. He emphasized that this is a living document and is typically updated about four times per year and shared to all STAC members through the Community.

*Question*: Not all STAC committees have members with skills needed to keep web pages updated - can AMS staff help here?

Bruce Telfeyan: IT/web support has always been a challenge for boards and committees – it is really prudent to have a member of each board and committee serving as the webmaster

Ward Seguin: I’ve found the best way has been to mock up what I want and send that to Brian Mardirosian

On committee member recruitment, several Chairs noted using speed networking events (Becky Adams-Selin) and social media.

Clark Evans: social media is democratic, you can use it to expand diversity, get more voices

Kerry Cook: we have awards at our meeting for presentations & posters - in our evaluations for these we note whether someone may be a good student member for the committee

Question: committee leadership is challenging when terms are three years but there’s a 4-year meeting cycle

Bruce Telfeyan: liberally use extensions - Commissioner has power to waive the 6-year limit

*Question*: why not adjust the terms?

Bruce Telfeyan: need some standard, and the 3-year term serves well. Exceptions are one-off.

Genene Fisher: restart the clock on terms as needed - as people step up to Chair, for instance

**Introduction to the AMS Community,** [**https://community.ametsoc.org**](https://community.ametsoc.org),

* Jordan Stillman, AMS Member Community Coordinator

***(Refer to the STAC Chair Meeting 2019.pptx, attached on page 3)***

Jordan gave a thorough overview of the AMS Community and its capabilities to assist boards and committees in carrying out their large varieties of efforts to support the AMS and our science.

**Perspectives on key challenges from three STAC Chairs**

Three STAC Chairs had been asked to share their experiences in leading their board/committee:

**Ali Tokay (Committee on Radar Meteorology):**

***(Refer to the STAC Chair Meeting 2019.pptx, attached on page 3)***

Dr. Tokay highlighted the following points in particular:

The AMS conference is every other year, alternating with ERAD. So the ERAD co-chairs are invited to be non-voting members of the AMS committee, which helps with overall coordination and planning;

He tries to have the AMS committee have an odd number of members, to avoid deadlocked votes on new members;

The committee's conference chair and co-chair structures are flexible: they usually end up split 50/50 between STAC committee members and others;

They always have a whole week meeting, not at the AMS Annual Meeting;

The meeting co-chairs and AMS HQ staff work on determining location (with cost a big factor);

One of the biggest hurdles is sponsorship: attendees tend to remember conferences through the social events at the conference. AMS funding is not adequate for this, while the European conference has more funding than necessary for social events (he noted that at one ERAD conference the prize for best paper was a Mac Notebook - this does not happen at AMS);

They do a survey after each conference and his conclusion is that no-one is ever happy (i.e., respondents thought Seattle was too expensive, but then said that the less expensive site in New Mexico didn’t have enough features/amenities);

They have historically held meetings in Europe (multiple times), also had one Australia, with Japan upcoming. The AMS registration fee structure is a challenge in Japan;

His earlier experience earlier as a member of the committee very much helped once he was Chair. It was during his time as a member that he began to have ideas about what he could do if he were Chair (i.e., the symposium in Phoenix in 2019, and then again in 2021;

The committee has its meetings at AMS Annual meetings, as well as at their own meetings;

The biggest challenges he saw early on included:

- Budget/sponsorship - He challenged AMS to increase budget for bigger conferences (and succeeded)

- Bringing in new members - Under the old way, names were brought up in a meeting, then voted on. They now require a CV and letter of interest from the potential new member themselves.

- Extensions to committee membership - they no longer have automatic extensions, but if a member wants to extend, they submit a CV and a letter of interest outlining what they have been doing on the committee last over the last three years. They also outline what they want to do during a second term.

- Regarding the size of the committee, he calculates based on # of abstracts (a different approach than Bruce Telfeyan’s rule of thumb “how many committee members can you effectively manage”).

- Student members - he wants student members to serve two years, with two at a time, on staggered terms

His wish list:

* Increase the Atlas award to every year, with the committee nominating one candidate every other year
* A committee-based AMS email address [“AMS Communities” support staffer Jordan Stillman noted that she can easily provide this now]

*Question* from Ken Holmlund: any activities in the emerging area of radar climatology?

Dr. Tokay: send us email so we can discuss radar climatology

**Philippe Tissot (Committee on Artificial Intelligence Applications to Environmental Science):**

***(Refer to the STAC Chair Meeting 2019.pptx, attached on page 3)***

Dr. Tissot began by noting he very much liked Dr. Tokay’s idea of all members submitting a CV and letter of intent for extensions - would like to get away from automatic 3-year renewals.

Comment from Kristie Franz: they held monthly conference calls over the past year, hammering on the concept that every member needed to be on subcommittees - this set an expectation, and they had some members self-selecting to step down).

Comment from Nazila Merati: I think you have to have a heart to heart - people’s lives can change.

Dr. Tissot then polled the group on the size of their committees, noting the variation.

Dr. Tokay: There needs to be some metric.

Rebecca Adams-Selin: Why, if what we have now works for us?

Dr. Tissot: Having a vice chair really changed/improved things for us. This year we have a third (another vice-chair). Creating a team really works.

Returning to his presentation, Dr. Tissot noted the following in particular:

- It’s a very young field - and there is a need to establish the history of the field.

-They use a lot of email lists, so maybe using the AMS Community will be helpful

Challenges:

-Diversity (sectors, career stage, gender, etc.). With gender, they are doing poorly (noted that this is somewhat due to the field itself - “tech companies” have a reputation - but really we have to do better, it’s our responsibility.

Comment from Kerry Cook: women are asked to serve on too many committees - but how about looking at student members?

-Web site: promise to do better

-The committee use of live broadcasting (panel and core science talks) and social media (Twitter, listserv) have not been very successful

**Becky Selin-Adams (Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting):**

***(Refer to the STAC Chair Meeting 2019.pptx, attached on page 3)***

Dr. Selin-Adams noted in particular:

-It is a large committee (~23 members) but the size works well;

-She teams with the vice-chair;

-Possibility of STAC committees sharing member applicants if any get more than needed

-They plan to establish a subcommittee for social media

-One diversity area they are working on is research vs operations;

*Question*: Do any government members have problems (employer restrictions) using w/Google & Dropbox?

Dr. Adams-Selin: only military members have problems with this

**Discussions with AMS Staff and Leadership:**

1. **Claudia Gorski, AMS Director of Meetings**

Summarized impacts on 2019 Annual Meeting so far from US government shutdown. Noted the challenges of not being able to communicate with people who can’t use/access their work email.

*Question:* Could AMS require two email addresses from session chairs, etc?

Claudia Gorski: explained this will be done going forward.

1. **Ward Seguin (Chief Editor, Glossary of Meteorology--GoM)**

*(Refer to the STAC Chair Meeting 2019.pptx, attached on page 3)*

Noted that many queries/requests to Glossary are not from professionals in the field, and may pertain to colloquial expressions. Publications Commissioner advised him not to include colloquial expressions.

Explained new form for those submitting terms/updates to terms (info requested includes proposed wording, references, background material - all aimed at making it easier for those who will review the proposal).

For his STAC contacts, he noted the need for him to have a phone number in addition to active email addresses.

Mentioned he will work with the Publications Commission regarding the idea of asking journal authors to review existing Glossary terms (as new articles are published, authors would be asked to review relevant terms).

Questions/comments from several Chairs on how Glossary Chief Editor can best communicate with the STAC committees: suggestions included always courtesy copying the vice-chair, or emailing the entire committee. It was noted that AMS email aliases for the Chairs would be helpful.

Some committees designate a point person for requests from the Glossary Chief Editor - Kerry Cook asked if Ward needs to know who the point person is, or if she as Chair can be the conduit. Ward: whatever you tell me you want to do.

1. **Brian Mardirosian (Director of Digital Products and Design)**

In introducing Brian, Bruce mentioned the challenge of getting conference and symposium summaries.

Brian explained that his new department, Digital Products and Design, groups all the developers and communicators into one department.

He noted that STAC web pages, all Commission pages in fact, are out of date and will be updated this year. The look will be refreshed, and the pages will be easier to use. STAC chairs will be contacted in February for training via webinar.

*Question* from Nazila Merati: Can AMS provide us any best practices for Twitter, other social media?

Brian: we have an open position for full-time social media person, so best practices will come along with that. Noted also importance of chairs reaching out and engaging with those who already actively using social media, given importance of logos and direction from AMS.

*Question*: Is the AMS seal logo available with a transparent background?

Brian: Yes - it will be available this week.

*Question*: what about committees creating their own web pages?

Brian: I’d discourage that for consistency, and ease of maintenance. Ward: but I used to send you mock-ups.

1. **Brian Papa (Associate Executive Director**)**:**

Spoke about Centennial activities on behalf of Stephanie Armstrong (Associate Executive Director). Noted that the best source of info on the celebration portion of the Centennial are the web pages. First aspect is Engagement - you can engage, or encourage others to engage in activities such as “AMS Stories” or the photo contest. Second aspect is History, including the oral history project for which interviews are being done at the Annual throughout the week. The third aspect is Future Challenges: community suggestions on these will be voted on, culminating in a town hall at the 2020 Annual Meeting in Boston.

Also noted that all BAMS content now online, and that individual issues can be sponsored, and noted that the Centennial Monograph organized by the Publications Commission is well underway and the aim is to have bound volumes for sale at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

*Question* from Genene: For next year’s meetings, what should our focus be?

Brian: try to incorporate some historical aspect and the big challenges.

1. **Bill Gail (Chair of Centennial Committee):**

Explained that aim of committee is to create a vision for the future - for AMS’s second century. A lot of thinking being done about additional functions for AMS, beyond the current Meetings, Publications, Policy, and Education) Examples include: a platform to link AMS members to volunteer opportunities; partnerships (social collaboration tools) with other orgs; framing around career paths - AMS could provide end-to-end career support; local collaboration networks (the chapters are underutilized currently); an historic resources network.

1. **Roger Wakimoto (AMS President):**

Outlined impacts of US government shut-down on 2019 Annual (loss of people, financial impact). Noted that new at the Annual are sessions proposed by the community, and the integration of Fellows and Award winners into program.

1. **Jenni Evans (Incoming AMS President):**

Announced her theme for the 2020 Annual Meeting is linking information to knowledge to society - societal and overarching impacts.

1. **Mary Glackin (Incoming President-Elect):**

For her 2021 Annual Meeting theme she is in listening mode, thinking of a theme around how to improve engagement with communities at all levels (from local storm warnings to national policy makers).

**Overviews from other AMS Commissioners**

We invited the leaders of the AMS Commissions with the best opportunity for collaboration with STAC to make brief presentations to give all a better feel for the work done by them. The goal was to increase STAC member awareness of the larger AMS and to look for possible areas of collaboration.

**Pam Emch (Weather, Water, Climate Enterprise Commissioner (CWWCE)):**

Compared ToR for STAC Commission vs CWWCE. Wants to better coordinate actions such as statements, have more representatives on respective committees from each Commission.

Unfortunately, Maureen McCann (Commission on Professional Affairs) and Yvette Richardson (Planning Commission) were unable to join with us.

**Closing Remarks:**

Past STAC Commissioner: [Bruce Telfeyan](about:blank) reviewed accomplishments of the past two years including increased recognition for departing chairs (a plaque from AMS) and members (a certificate of appreciation) as well as the successful implementation of the STAC-level Awards Program.

Departing Past STAC Commissioner: [David Stensrud](mailto:david.stensrud@psu.edu)’s accomplishments were again highlighted and applauded.

New Incoming STAC Commissioner: Ankur Desai is the former Chair of the Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology and excited to be joining the STAC leadership team.

STAC Commissioner: [Genene Fisher](mailto:genene.fisher@noaa.gov) looks forward to working productively with all 36 board and committee chairs and the 468+ member/volunteers within STAC. She will continue to assist in every way possible to help advance our science.

**Adjournment at 3 PM**

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R. BRUCE TELFEYAN

Past STAC Commissioner