

Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC) Report

March 2016

David Stensrud, STAC Commissioner

Ward Seguin, STAC Past-Commissioner

Bruce Telfeyan, STAC Future-Commissioner

The 2016 AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, appeared to be very successful, with strong member attendance and great participation by STAC boards and committees. The STAC Commissioners attended every STAC board and committee (B/C) meeting that was held during the annual meeting dates and can report that the boards and committees are active and engaged. Individuals on STAC care greatly about what they do and want to help their science community.

On the Sunday prior to the start of the AMS Annual Meeting, STAC held its own Annual B/C Chair meeting. Twenty of the thirty-six B/Cs were represented at the meeting. We began with introductions, overviewed the STAC best practices document

<https://www2.ametsoc.org/stac/index.cfm/chair-member-information/stac-board-committee-best-practices1/>

and then asked our chairs to think about what STAC does well, what can be improved and what is missing. They used post-it notes to write down their comments and we separated the notes for each of the three questions. The chairs were then divided into three groups and asked to find common themes from all the input provided. Each group chose a leader to report back to the larger group. The Commissioners answered questions when asked, but largely stayed out of the discussions. Below is the input that was received and should be of interest to AMS as these are the viewpoints of members who are actively involved in STAC leadership positions.

Last, the B/C chairs were concerned with the long wait associated with the approval of new B/C members. In discussions with Keith Seitter we learned that STAC Commissioners have the authority to approve new members and simply report these approvals to AMS Council. This distinction had not been recognized previously. Thus, from now on STAC Commissioners will review and approve new members soon after receipt of nominations from STAC B/C chairs and provide an annual membership report to Council. We greatly appreciate Keith clarifying this important point.

Input from STAC B/C Chairs during Annual STAC Meeting

What works well:

Moving STAC meeting to Sunday
Very happy with assistance from AMS staff in organizing meetings
Smartphone apps for annual meeting
STAC Newsletter
Best practices document
Information on STAC web pages
Using small post-it notes

What needs improvement:

Logistics:

Tools to help STAC B/Cs coordinate with each other
Increase student awards and travel funds (more than \$1500)
Webmaster training needed
Building social media for STACs to connect on Twitter, FB
Additional funding for speakers
Continue to collect data and evaluate on membership
How to adapt current tools for STAC B/Cs to encourage grassroots input

Process:

Speed the process of new STAC members
Award nominations process (provide CV without informing individual of nomination)

Communication:

Better communication from AMS and Commissioner to STAC B/Cs
Better communication across STAC B/Cs
Informal meeting of STAC Chairs – added discussion

AMS Culture:

Improve diversity of membership, continue measures to track
Better inclusion of STAC regarding policy
Raise awareness of STAC among members (ribbons on AMS name badges)

What is missing?

Diversity

Engage more with agencies about finding leaders
Process of nominating STAC members more based upon who you know – how to make it a more open process
Conference call capability at STAC Annual Meeting
STAC B/C Chair conference call outside of Annual meeting
Ways for members to more easily contact STAC
New member training, welcome package, thank you for serving
STAC social hour

Coordinating or guidelines for judging student presentations/posters
Coordination across STAC, also with AGU
Identify those who are interested in STAC
Award on technical achievement
Moving date of AMS annual meeting

Notes from Open Discussion

How to coordinate STAC activities at Annual Meeting and during the year? – meeting themes, joint sessions, etc.

Open nomination process for committee membership
Retention of nominations for several years
Develop affiliation groups for STAC to use in communication lists

STAC Commissioner can approve new B/C members immediately (member elect), send email to Chair and new member and Chair contacts Brian to add person to STAC membership list