

STAC Semi-Annual Teleconference Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, Aug 24, 2016

Call in number: 866-939-8416, Participant Code: 6408038#

Attendees (X indicates dialed in):

Commissioner	Dave Stensrud	X
Past Commissioner	Ward Seguin	X
Incoming Commissioner	Bruce Telfeyan	X
Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies	William F. Roberts	X
Board on the Urban Environment	Jorge Gonzales	X
Committee on Air-Sea Interaction	R. Justin Small	X
Committee on Aviation, Range, and Aerospace Meteorology	Cecilia Miner	
Committee on Hydrology	John Eylander	X
Committee on Measurements	Bruce Baker	X
Committee on Mesoscale Processes	Thomas Galarneau Jr.	
Committee on Mountain Meteorology	Dale Durran	X
Committee on Satellite Meteorology, Oceanography, and Climatology	Phillip Ardanuy (representative)	X
Committee on Severe Local Storms	Curtis Alexander (representative)	X
Committee on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones	Patrick Harr	X
Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting	Rebecca Selin (representative)	X
Committee on Artificial Intelligence Applications to Environmental Science	Valliappa Lakshmanan	
Committee on Atmospheric Chemistry	Jiwen Fan	
Committee on Atmospheric Electricity	Eric Bruning	X
Committee on Atmospheric Radiation	Jui-Yuan Chiu	X
Committee on Boundary Layers and Turbulence	Jeffrey Mirocha	X
Committee on Cloud Physics	Jennifer Small Griswold	
Committee on Coastal Environment	Andre van der Westhuysen	X
Committee on Laser Atmospheric Studies	Timothy Berkoff	
Committee on Middle Atmosphere	Edwin Gerber	
Committee on Planned and Inadvertent Weather Modification	Masataka Murakami	
Committee on Radar Meteorology	Ali Tokay	X
Committee on Space Weather	Richard Behnke	
Board on Data Stewardship	Mohan Ramamurthy	X
Board on Atmospheric Biogeosciences	Kyawtha Paw U	X
Board on Environment and Health	John Balbus	X
Board on Societal Impacts	Daniel Nietfeld	X
Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology	April Hiscox	X
Committee on Applied Climatology	James Angel	X
Committee on Climate Variability and Change	Sumant Nigam	
Committee on Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution	Paul Bieringer	
Committee on Meteorology and Oceanography of the Southern Hemisphere	Penehuro Lefale	
Committee on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography	Ryan Fogt (vice chair)	X
Committee on Probability and Statistics	Bob Glahn (representative)	X
Committee on Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics	Tiffany Shaw	

Welcome:

Dave Stensrud welcome all STAC Chairs and representatives. He noted that having this mid-year teleconference was an idea that was proposed at the STAC Annual Meeting in New Orleans this past January. Twenty-three of the thirty-six Boards and Committees were represented on this call, an excellent participation rate given the time of the year and time zone differences.

Membership renewals:

- Dave reviewed the process for new memberships and renewals for existing members (a short CV and [membership nomination form](#) for each new member and just a note to the Commissioner for second terms for existing members). Simply send this information to your B/C's STAC Commissioner ideally before December 1st. Really, new memberships can be done year round, but since terms expire in January, from now through October 15th is a logical time of the year to seek out new members and renew terms for eligible members.
- Take serious look at membership diversity, plan ahead for leadership changes
- Student board/committee members are required by AMS and you can have more than one student. Currently, there is at least one board that does not have a student.

AMS Award nominations:

- Dave reviewed the May 1st deadline for submission of AMS annual awards and Fellows nominations. He strongly encouraged B/Cs to elicit nominations as some awards have only one nominee in many years and a few awards fail to attract any nominations. He cautioned that gathering and submitting nominations is a lengthy process so don't wait until a week before May 1st!
 - Be aware of and avoid [conflicts of interest](#) (Section G) when award submissions involve those who might be close to the judging process
- AMS-level awards from STAC B/Cs are not currently approved or encouraged by the AMS. Dave will discuss this with the Council at the September meeting in Boston, but do not expect a major change in this position.
 - There are [STAC-level awards](#) that each B/C can present to a member annually.
 - Also, there are [student awards](#) that B/Cs can present for conference oral and poster presentations. These are separate from and not to be confused with AMS-level [Student Travel Grants](#).
- Named sessions and named lectures are recognitions that B/Cs can pursue. Check [here](#) for information on how to pursue these options.

Annual STAC Board/Committee Chair meeting

- AMS Annual Meeting week - Sunday 22 January 2017, 11 am – 3 pm, Seattle, WA
- If you cannot attend, then please arrange for someone from your committee to represent you. All 36 boards and committees need to have a presence!

- Consider holding a committee meeting at the AMS Annual if enough people will be in attendance even if you do not have a conference ongoing
- New B/C Chairs and those interested in being a conference program chair should plan to attend Claudia Gorski's training session just before the STAC Annual Meeting, 10 am, 22 January 2017

Best practices document updated frequently—check it out!

- Build your science community
- Recognize student excellence
- Consider having a Vice Chair
 - The Vice Chair role is discussed in paragraph 7 of the Best Practices. At the STAC Annual Meeting in 2015 (Phoenix), we decided to have this as an optional position for B/Cs. Recent events have driven home the desirability of at least having a designated back-up to the chair in case of an extended absence (research abroad, illness, or other unforeseen events).
- Additional discussion took place on the suggested process for selecting a new Chair when the incumbent's tenure is coming to an end.
 - Some B/Cs leave it to the outgoing chair to designate the successor. However, it is likely preferable to have the entire B/C involved in the decision.
 - Commissioners will begin a process of having a discussion with all potential new B/C chairs. The idea is to make sure they understand what is expected of them and make sure they really have time to devote to the job.
- The document was just updated (paragraph 9) to note that each commissioner is assigned as the primary point of contact for twelve B/Cs. You can contact your designated commissioner for questions ranging from AMS Awards, new B/C members, conference issues, named sessions/symposia, and any other of a multitude of issues for which you feel you need guidance. Of course, if you desire, you can always contact the Current Commissioner as the prime expert.

Open discussion

How do we best serve our science community at our meetings? (**bold text** indicates that these issues will be explored with AMS and we will report back to STAC chairs)

- Several ideas were brought forward:
 - Encourage sessions during conferences that are primarily student presentations. (Phil Ardanuy)
 - Try to have joint conferences, perhaps with international groups (Phil)
 - **Have AMS create an e-mail list for each B/C to reach its members more easily** (Ali Tokay)
 - Use of social media for B/C outreach
 - Add social events to conferences when appropriate (mixers, networking sessions, etc)

- Separate from the Annual Meeting, **explore having presentation lengths of other than 15 or 30 minutes.**
- **How do we get material into the AMS Twitter feed** (John Eylander)?
 - Bob Glahn suggested contacting Jeff Rosenfeld of BAMS.
- What benefits do your meetings provide the community?
- Why are some researchers not attending the AMS annual meeting?
- What can we do to make our meetings better?
 - Open call for session topics?
 - Invite great speakers (perhaps recent AMS Fellows in your discipline)?
 - Incorporate time for discussion within sessions? This would perhaps sacrifice a speaking slot, but would allow for more question time as often there is time for just one quick question before the 15-minute slot is exhausted.
- How do we encourage the next generation to participate?
 - Have a student lunch during conferences (Curtis Alexander)

Now that the telecon is concluded, please email david.stensrud@psu.edu with any other comments, suggestions, or thoughts that came to you. We fully recognize that some of you may not have had a chance to comment during the telecon but would very much like to have feedback from everyone on this important topic. In essence, how do we make STAC better?

Dave

DAVID J. STENSRUD
STAC Commissioner