

University Materials Council Meeting – Spring 2002

University of Maryland Conference Center, College Park, MD, May 20, 2002

Minutes prepared by:

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Attendees:

1. David Clark	Virginia Tech	dclark@vt.edu
2. Kevin Jones	Univ. Fla.	kjones@ufl.edu
3. Manny Horowitz	Johns Hopkins	horowitz@jhu.edu
4. Gary Messing	Penn State	messing@matse.epsu.edu
5. Ashok Saxena	Ga. Tech	ashok.saxena@mse.gatech.edu
6. John Rabolt	Univ. Delaware	rabolt@udel.edu
7. Donald Paul	U. T. Austin	drp@che.utexas.edu
8. Robert Bayuzick	Vanderbilt Univ.	bayuzick@vuse.vanderbilt.edu
9. Alex King	Purdue Univ.	alexking@purdue.edu
10. John Weaver	Univ. Ill.	jhweaver@uiuc.edu
11. Jarek Drelich	Mich. Tech.	jwdrelic@mtu.edu
12. Katherine Faber	Northwestern Univ.	k-faber@northwestern.edu
13. Bob Snyder	Ohio State Univ.	snyder.355@osu.edu
14. Robert Cammarata	Johns Hopkins	rcc@jhu.edu
15. John Morral	Univ. Conn.	j.morral@uconn.edu
16. Mike Kassner	Oregon State Univ.	kassner@enr.orst.edu
17. Roger Wright	RPI	wright@rpi.edu
18. Tom Stobe	U. Wash.	stoebe@u.washington.edu
19. Mufit Akinc	Iowa State Univ.	makinc@iastate.edu
20. Slade Cargill	Lehigh Univ.	gsc3@lehigh.edu
21. Barry Andrews	Univ. Ala. at B'ham	bandrews@eng.uab.edu
22. John Horrowan	Univ. Mich.	peterjon@umich.edu
23. Surya Kalidindi	Drexel Univ.	skalidin@coe.drexel.edu
24. Peter Davies	Univ. Penn.	davies@lrsml.upenn.edu
25. Ron Gordon	Alfred Univ.	gordon@alfred.edu

Visitors:

1. Altaf Carim	DOE/BES	carim@science.doe.gov
2. Eleni Kousvelari	NIH	

Minutes

1. The meeting began at 8:30 am, Kathy Faber presiding, with introductions.
2. Ashok Saxena presented updated results for the Fall 2001 UMC Benchmark Data survey, including six submissions received since the Fall 2001 UMC meeting. A total of 38 departments submitted data. Ashok pointed out that the salary data are particularly sensitive and should be used cautiously. Although he is stepping down as Georgia Tech MS&E Department Chair, Ashok agreed to take responsibility for next year's UMC Benchmark Data survey. Comments on the survey included the following: It is important to keep the survey questions consistent, to facilitate meaningful year-to-year comparisons of answers. "External Research Expenditures" will replace "Annual Research Budget" in the next survey to reduce ambiguity in this question. A question about "average time to PhD degree starting from BS degree" will be added. There was general agreement that information about starting salaries, both average and upper decile, for BS, MS, and PhD graduates would be valuable. There was also interest in knowing about the number of junior and senior students in each department.
3. Ashok Saxena continued with a report on the NMAB Technology Forum, March 7-28, 2002, which he helped to organize (<http://www7.nationalacademies.org/nmab/2002ForumPresentations.html>). UMC participation was valued by NMAB, and there will be continuing opportunities for UMC participation in NMAB studies and other activities. Discussions continued about who should be liaison between UMC and NMAB and how to strengthen linkages between the two organizations.
4. Kathy Faber discussed graduate recruiting and acceptance deadlines. The widely adopted decision deadline for graduate admission acceptance is April 15. Applicants should not be pressured to made acceptance decisions before that date. The problems of wait-listed students and offers made after April 15 were discussed. In some cases students receiving offers after April 15 have already accepted other offers made before April 15. If a student decides to accept a post-April 15 offer and to reverse the decision on an earlier offer, this should be communications between the two institutions involved. Also, when a student enrolled at one institution seeks to transfer to another institution before completing a degree program at the former, there should be communications between the two institutions involved. Kathy will send out guidelines on post-deadline wait-list acceptances and on transfers between institutions.
5. Altaf Carim discussed organization and materials research funding at DOE. Eight months ago he moved from Penn State to DOE/BES (<http://www.science.doe.gov/bes/besstaff.html>). The current DOE management chain includes Ray Orbach (Office of Science), Pat Dehmer (Office of Basic Energy Sciences), Iran Thomas (Mat. Sci. and Engr. Div.), and Bob Gottshall (Metals, Ceramics, and Engineering Science). There was considerable discussion of the expected name change from "Metals, Ceramics, and Engineering Science" to "Materials and Engineering Physics." Altaf gave presented information on grant turnover, proposal pressure, success

rates, FY03 funding requests, and National Nanotechnology Initiative Focus Areas. He invited attendees to contact him for further information about DOE funding for materials research: carim@science.doe.gov , tel. 301-903-4895.

6. Eleni Kousvelari described materials research and funding at NIH. Most NIH-funded materials research targets materials which stimulate cell growth and are incorporated into the body, in areas such as biomimetics, nanoscience/nanotechnology, and tissue engineering. Successful research activities are generally multidisciplinary. NIH-funded activities in bioengineering include bioimaging, sensors, implants, delivery of therapeutics, and research tools. She described NIH proposal submission processes (<http://www.grants.nih.gov/grants/becon/becon.html>).

7. Bob Snyder reported that the UMC Nominating Committee had selected Alan Cramb (CMU) and Mufit Akinc (Iowa State) as candidates for 2nd Vice Chair and Councilor respectively. There were no nominations from the floor, and Cramb and Akinc were elected unanimously. Kathy Faber, currently UMC chair, is becoming Past Chair. Bob Snyder, currently 1st Vice Chair, is becoming Chair. Slade Cargill, currently 2nd Vice Chair, is becoming 1st Vice Chair. Don Paul is continuing as Councilor, and Ron Gordon is completing his term as Councilor.

8. After discussion, the group voted to hold the Fall 2002 UMC Meeting in Boston during the Fall MRS Meeting, on Monday, December 2, 2002, 5:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. Alex King will contact MRS staff about this.

9. The group discussed possible topics for the next UMC meeting, including increased collaboration among different materials-related societies (ACerS, ASM, MRS, TMS). Bob Snyder will send an email to UMC members requesting further suggestions.

10. The meeting ended at 12:03 P.M.