



UMC Meets in Cleveland

After many years of having the UMC Fall meeting coincident with the MRS meeting in Boston, the venue has been changed. Believing that the Fall meeting should be rotated amongst the materials societies, the group selected the ASM/TMS Convention site in Cleveland, home of the R&R Hall of Fame.

The meeting began with a scrumptious brunch, bringing together about 25 members of the UMC on a chilly, windy Sunday morning. Ron Gronsky welcomed us all and stated that Jim Economy would be unable to attend. Jim had experienced back problems and was unable to travel. He is our representative on Bill Harris' MPS Liaison Committee, and everyone was interested in hearing what was happening at NSF and in Washington. Jim assured us that he would provide a full and enlightening report at the Spring meeting in Washington.

An item of old business was the question of graduate student stipends. There was a great deal of concern about the dollar value of stipends and the competition that appears to be developing between various institutions. Reza Abbaschian volunteered to prepare and distribute a questionnaire to all chairs, so as to benchmark stipend levels being offered. You should have received yours from Reza. If you haven't mailed it back yet, please do so, ASAP. Reza would like to tabulate the data and make a presentation at the Spring meeting.

A discussion of educational concerns followed:

ABET - Jerry Liedl

The proposed Engineering Criteria 2000 received initial approval by the ABET Board in Nov. 1995. This criteria is based upon educational objectives derived uniquely for each program within the general concept of the general and program criteria coupled with an outcomes assessment and continuous improvement of the program. The burden of proof will rest more on the program to justify its objectives and to illustrate they have an assessment process that measures outcomes. Currently, program criteria are being

proposed by the materials community for their programs. New program criteria based on same approach need to be submitted by summer 1996. Any input on program criteria should be directed to Bob Dehoff (rdeho@mse.ufl.edu). If adopted after two years the criteria will be published in January 1998 for a three-year phase implementation beginning in the 1998-99 accreditation cycle. In this period programs would have option of evaluations under either criteria. Pilot studies will be made over the next couple of years to gain some experience.

TMS Career Resource Center - Jerry Liedl

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has funded some science and engineering professional societies to address the problem (recently defined by NAC) of poor career information for students in high school and college to base career choices. TMS has been funded (\$441K from Sloan with augments from AIME, TMS, and other societies) to provide a career resource center for the field of materials science and engineering with Jerry Liedl and Vicki Koebnick as directors of the project. The project will attempt to address the basic questions "What is MSE?" and "What can I do with a degree in MSE"? The program will exploit multimedia, global reach of the internet, CD-ROM for further distribution and be supplemented with printed materials. Further information or inputs can be made to Jerry Liedl (liedl@ecn.purdue.edu).

TMS Educational Initiatives - Jerry Liedl

The Education Committee coupled with the Publication Committee has taken an initiative to establish an informational database for educational materials in the field. Plans are to promote interchange of information and distribution of materials via programming, workshops, and the WWW. Coupled with this effort will be the task of identifying needs for the field and seeking ways to fill these needs. Key players are being sought (would like UMC as co-sponsor) for this effort with some part being fostered by Jerry Liedl and Tony Rollett (rollett+@andrew.cmu.edu) who is planning a spring 1997 session on defining the core of a materials related educational program. Plans are being made to canvas the community to see what people are doing and what educational materials do they use.

High School Teacher Training Program

Ron Gronsky asked if it would be appropriate for the UMC to coordinate efforts to familiarize high school teachers with the materials discipline. A number of Chairs indicated that they were conducting programs of this type. These included Colorado School of Mines, Northwestern, Washington, and Illinois. It was decided that the UMC should develop a mechanism for sharing this information. Dick Tressler, the UMC Vice Chairman, indicated he would try to organize a program for the fall meeting that would highlight some of the activities in this area. If you have a program at your institution, please let Dick know (email: ret1@oas.psu.edu).

Multimedia Information

John Hren of North Carolina State requested the assistance of the UMC in promoting the "Visualizations in Materials Science, 2nd Edition (VIMS 2) C.D. developed at North Carolina State. If you would like a free copy of the C.D. for review, give John a call at (919) 515-3568 (email: jhren@mte.ncsu.edu). Northwestern is also preparing a C.D. on various facets of materials science. It was suggested that a catalogue of educational media presentations be prepared by the UMC. If you have a write-up or a presentation prepared by someone in your department, let John know (email jhre@mte.ncsu.edu).

The TMS Education Committee is organizing a symposium entitled "Multimedia Based Instruction in the Classroom" to be held during the Materials Week '96 Conference in Cincinnati, OH, October 7-10, 1996.

Changing Focus of Degree Program

A number of universities have been experimenting with joint degrees. Illinois offers a Materials/Management degree that has been very successful. North Carolina State has a similar program. Several universities are lowering their credit requirements to 120 and encouraging the Masters degree. Others, like Carnegie Mellon are offering a 5 year BS/MS degree. It was thought that at a future meeting we should share our experiences on curricular innovation.

Public Awareness of Materials

There was universal concern about the lack of support for engineering and science in Congress. It was felt that the UMC should be more active in informing Congress of the importance of materials in today's economy.

Several chairs felt it was the responsibility of the technical societies to promote materials. Reza Abbaschian stated that the Federation of Materials Societies were organizing an effort to educate Congress. There was a feeling that our field was too fragmented and that it would be advantageous for TMS, ASM, ACS and MRS to work more closely in this area.

See you all in Washington in May.

Frank J. Worzala

Thoughts From the Chair - Ron Gronsky

Our meeting in May precedes an important conference organized by the Federal of Materials Societies (FMS), the 14th Biennial Conference on National Materials Policy. The goal of this three day meeting (June 17-20) is to "develop processes that are responsive to the needs of policy makers...with the intention of helping them make decisions that are in the best interests of the nation". Significantly, an Action Agenda will be produced from the conference for distribution to Congress, Administration Agencies, and the Democratic and Republican Platform Committees. Please come prepared to discuss items that the UMC might contribute to the FMS Agenda.

Otherwise, we'll be quite busy with our own agenda. Representatives from our Washington-based agencies will try to quantify the present state of flux as Congress continues to wrestle with the President over the budget, and we can compare notes on the impact we've personally experienced at the local University level. As if the budget isn't enough trouble, some of our members are consumed with debates on the relevance of "Materials" departments on their campuses, with the relevance of "Affirmative Action" guidelines in admissions of students, and even with the relevance of "tenure" in faculty hiring and promotion cases. Sounds like a good time to commiserate, and I'm looking forward to our meeting next month as a great opportunity to do so.

Finally, please consider extending your stay in Washington to visit some of our policy makers in person. They need to hear from us.