

# Discussion on UMC Membership

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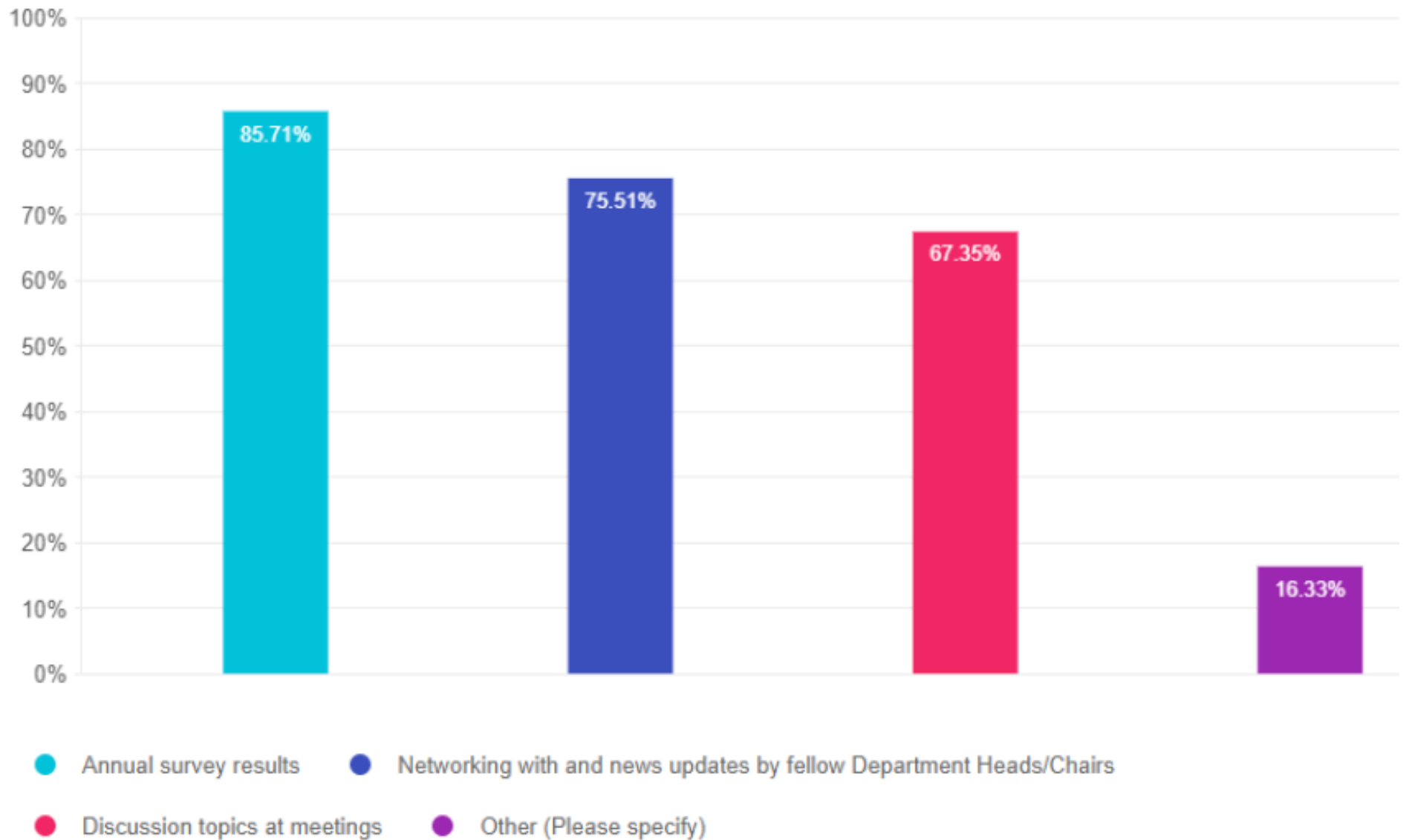
## **Welcome to The University Materials Council Web Site**

The University Materials Council (UMC) is composed of Department Heads, Chairpersons, Directors, and group leaders from academic programs in the materials field in U.S., Canadian, and Australian universities. It serves as a forum for department heads/chairs/directors of materials programs to share best practices in many areas related to materials science and engineering, including student recruitment, ABET accreditation, emerging research areas, ideas for curricular improvements, patent right policies in universities, implications of the latest materials related studies, and the health of research funding for Materials Science and Engineering as well as a variety of other issues of interest to the academic community.

# Summary of Survey Results (summer 2019)

- **49** respondents
- **87.5%** answered “**Yes**” to payment of annual membership dues to maintain active membership
- Nearly **92%** answered “**Yes**” to participation in annual UMC survey
- Nearly **60%** attend every UMC meeting, another 29% attend sometimes
- Nearly **39%** always send a rep if they cannot attend, another 40% sometimes send a rep

# What aspects of UMC membership are most beneficial to you?



# Other topics of interest

- Biannual meetings
- The value of being a UMC meeting is not clear to me yet
- I am new and do not know
- Learning best practices from fellow chairs
- Job board for advertising positions
- Job postings
- The networking is great, but I really don't care for the 6-minute updates from the chairs. Everyone seems to feel the need to be a Pollyanna.
- Bringing in funding agencies to discuss directions of

# Changes that will improve your UMC experience

## 1. “Feel good” responses (i.e., don’t change anything)

None - it is generally very well run, and much appreciated!

I believe we are doing well.

I like UMC the way it is. It's a great organization, and pretty much one of a kind. Keep it up, thank you for your commitment and leadership.

## 2. Frequency and location of meetings

Meet only during national conferences.

Scheduling of meetings has been a problem in the past. Past chairs have suggested possible meeting places and times in an email, but the follow-up email confirming the meeting arrives so late that I cannot attend. I guess most of the chairs see each other at other meetings, but I don't make many of the national meetings other than the NAMES meetings.

I think that regularly scheduled standing meetings at the beginning of domestic materials conferences would be easier to schedule than the current practice. For instance, set fall meeting UMC as last day of Fall MRS, etc.

Open to on-line meetings/skype if possible.

Maybe 1 meeting a year is enough?

# Changes that will improve your UMC experience

## 3. Format and content of meetings

Reduce the time for updates

I think the updates portion is taxing. Many people speak far too long.

More networking time at meetings.

Dedicated sessions with Q&A on academic practices, research practices, promotion & tenure practices, support of research sponsoring offices, etc.

Exposure to the different structural, cultural, and financial models within the UMC; with a bias towards sharing the good, the bad, and the ugly of each model.

**Informal mentorship program between senior leaders and emerging leaders.**

To collectively commit to inclusion, diversity, and equity initiatives and performance outcomes.

Take an active role in steering the future of materials research on global scale.

Discussion on ways to champion the breadth and importance of materials science and engineering to the general public and politicians

Need to figure out how to get more schools involved, and have more time to socialize - perhaps a "whine and wine" session?

**Effective collaboration between active members on issues of common interest**

# Discussion

- Annual membership dues payment = “active” member status
- Active members have access to all UMC resources and activities:  
(meeting participation, meals, presenting updates, participating in panel discussion, and UMC activities, voting, election as UMC officer, access to website and UMC survey data)
- UMC resources that can be accessed without membership dues (inactive membership) ?



# Discussion

- **Topics for future UMC meetings/activities (based on this membership survey):**
  - 1. Steering the future of materials research at global scale (public, government, industries, funding agencies, students, professional societies)**
  - 2. DEI**
  - 3. Mentoring of new MSE chairs**
  - 4. “Management” aspects of department chair job (finance model, tenure/promotion, academic/research practices, etc.)**
  - 5. Expanding UMC membership**

**Should these be addressed sequentially or in parallel (e.g., through sub-committees or task forces)?**