AGENDA

University Materials Council

Fall 2026 Meeting

Sunday, 4 October 2026 | 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Mill 19, 4501 Lytle Street, Building A, Pittsburgh, PA 15207

Co-located with MS&T 2026 Technical Meeting and Exhibition and The Advanced Materials Show USA

12:00 – 12:45 — **Lunch & Networking**

Mill 19, Building A

12:45 – 1:00 — **Welcome & Call to Order**

Michael Kessler, Chair, University Materials Council (Johns Hopkins University)

- Welcome from our Pittsburgh hosts – Elizabeth Dickey, Carnegie Mellon University
- Introductions and review of the agenda
- State of the UMC: overview/background, finances, and priorities for 2026–27

1:00 – 2:00 — **Department Highlights: One-Minute Updates**

All department heads — moderated by Geoff Brennecka, First Vice-Chair (Colorado School of Mines)

- Each department head has one minute to share a headline from the past year — a new hire or program, a facility, an award, an enrollment trend, or a challenge worth flagging to colleagues
- Strictly timed; one slide each — please send your slide to the Geoff Brennecka (gbrennec@mines.edu) in advance so they can be compiled into a single deck

2:00 – 2:15 — **UMC Business: Proposed Charter Amendment & Vote**

Geoff Brennecka, First Vice-Chair; Michael Kessler, Chair

- Background: the UMC Charter has not been updated since 2006, and it currently lacks a defined process for its own amendment
- Presentation of the proposed language (see Appendix A)
- Discussion and any friendly amendments from the floor
- Vote — approval requires a simple majority of members participating

2:15 – 2:30 — **Day of Materials Initiative**

Bryan Huey, Purdue University

Purdue Pilot and UMC Expansion Discussion

2:30 – 3:30 — **Short Break (10 min) and Tour — Mill 19 Advanced Manufacturing Facilities**

Hosted by Carnegie Mellon University / Mill 19 partners

- Guided walkthrough of the Manufacturing Futures Institute and partner labs on the former Jones & Laughlin steel mill site
- Attendees will be divided into small groups

3:30 – 4:50

Panel — Materials & Manufacturing: The Federal Landscape

Format: four short presentations (~10 minutes each) followed by a moderated panel discussion (~40 minutes)

Moderator: Elizabeth Dickey, Carnegie Mellon University

Panelists

- **Huijuan Dai, Ph.D., M.B.A.** — Program Manager, Next-Generation Materials and Processes, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies Office, U.S. Department of Energy
- **Miriam Deutsch, Ph.D.** — Section Head, Materials Research Section A, Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) U.S. National Science Foundation
- **Sean P. Donegan, Ph.D., ST** — Senior Scientist, Digital Advanced Materials, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)
- **James A. Warren, Ph.D.** — Director, Materials Genome Program; Senior Strategist, Accelerated Materials R&D, Material Measurement Laboratory; Associate Director for Materials, CHIPS R&D Office, National Institute of Standards and Technology
- **Z. Charles Ying, Ph.D.** — Section Head, Materials Research Section A, Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) U.S. National Science Foundation

Discussion themes

- Agency priorities and funding directions in materials and advanced manufacturing
- Data, AI, and autonomous experimentation in the materials enterprise
- What agencies need from university MSE departments — and how departments can position themselves
- Workforce development: where manufacturing belongs in the MSE curriculum

4:50 – 5:00

Looking Ahead & Adjourn

Michael Kessler, Chair

- Preview of the Spring 2027 Meeting — **March 25–26, 2027**, Hopkins Bloomberg Center, Washington, D.C. (supported by a Johns Hopkins NEXUS Convening Award)
- Call for volunteers: Policy Committee and other UMC committees
- Announcements, action items, and adjournment

Appendix A — Proposed Charter Amendment (for vote)

The following language is proposed for addition to the UMC Charter to establish a defined process for amending the Charter. It is presented here as drafted by the Executive Committee and is subject to amendment from the floor.

> Modifications to this Charter can be proposed by any member, officer, or committee at any time for consideration by the Council. Approval requires a simple majority of members participating in the vote, preferably conducted during a regular meeting of the UMC. The mechanics of such a vote (e.g., show of hands, electronic ballot, other) are at the discretion of the Chair of the meeting. If deemed necessary for expediency by the Executive Committee, votes can be conducted outside of regular meetings of the Council (e.g., via email or electronic form). In such cases, members must have a minimum of one week to submit their votes. A simple majority of votes cast by members is required for approval.

UMC Executive Committee, 2026–27

- Michael Kessler, Johns Hopkins University — Chair
- Geoff Brennecka, Colorado School of Mines — First Vice-Chair
- Kathy Lu, University of Alabama at Birmingham — Second Vice-Chair
- Christine Payne, Duke University — First At-Large Member
- Avinash Dongare, University of Connecticut — Second At-Large Member
- Don Brenner, North Carolina State University — Immediate Past Chair
- Elizabeth Dickey, Carnegie Mellon University — Treasurer