

Minutes for the Scientific and Technological Activities Commission (STAC) Chair Annual Meeting

98th AMS Annual Meeting
Austin Hilton Hotel, Salon J
January 7, 2018

Attendees:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Board/Committee/Role/Affiliation</u>
Heping Liu	Committee on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Air-Sea Interaction
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Applied Climatology
Philippe Tissot	Committee on Artificial Intelligence Applications to Environmental Science
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Atmospheric & Oceanic Fluid Dynamics
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Board on Atmospheric Biogeosciences
Jeff Collett	Committee on Atmospheric Chemistry
Eric Bruning & Geoffrey Stano	Committee on Atmospheric Electricity
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Atmospheric Radiation
Cecilia Miner	Committee on Aviation, Range, and Aerospace Meteorology
Jeffery Mirocha	Committee on Boundary Layers and Turbulence
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Climate Variability and Change
Jennifer Small Griswold	Committee on Cloud Physics
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Coastal Environment
Mohan Ramamurthy	Board on Data Stewardship
John Balbus & Kristie Ebi	Board on Environment and Health
Woody Roberts & Nazila Merati	Board on Environmental Information Processing Technologies
John Eylander	Committee on Hydrology
Sara Tucker	Committee on Laser Atmospheric Studies
Alexandria McCombs & Bruce Baker	Committee on Measurements
Thomas Galarnau	Committee on Mesoscale Processes
Paul Bieringer	Committee on Meteorological Aspects of Air Pollution
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Meteorology and Oceanography of the Southern Hemisphere
Amy Butler	Committee on Middle Atmosphere
Annareli Morales	Committee on Mountain Meteorology
<i>Unable to attend</i>	Committee on Planned & Inadvertent Weather Modification
Ryan Fogt	Committee on Polar Meteorology and Oceanography

Liz Satterfield	Committee on Probability and Statistics
Ali Tokay & Scott Collis	Committee on Radar Meteorology
Curtis Alexander	Committee on Severe Local Storms
Daniel Nietfeld & Kathy Sherman-Morris	Board on Societal Impacts
Richard Behnke	Committee on Space Weather
Zhuo Wang	Committee on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones
Dev Niyogi	Board on Urban Environment
Andrew Molthan & Clark Evans	Committee on Weather Analysis and Forecasting

STAC Leadership

Commissioner: R Bruce Telfeyan, rbt48@cox.net; and/or r_bruce.telfeyan@us.af.mil

Past Commissioner: David Stensrud, david.stensrud@psu.edu

Incoming Commissioner: Genene Fisher, genene.fisher@noaa.gov

Other AMS Attendees

AMS President: Roger Wakimoto

AMS Executive Director: Keith Seitter

Publications Commissioner: Bob Rauber

Commissioner, Education and Human Resources: Donna Charlevoix

Planning Commissioner: Yvette Richardson

Professional Affairs Commissioner: Maureen McCann

Chair, Water Resources Committee (CWWCE): Mike Dettinger

AMS Staff Members

Executive Director: Keith Seitter, kseitter@ametsoc.org

Director of Meetings: Claudia Gorski, cgorski@ametsoc.org

Director of Communications: Tom Champoux, tchampoux@ametsoc.org

Policy Program Director: Paul Higgins, phiggins@ametsoc.org

AMS Archivist and Librarian: Jinny Nathans, jnathans@ametsoc.org

Director of Project Management: Brian Papa, bpapa@ametsoc.org

Digital Communications Manager: Brian Mardirosian, bmardirosian@ametsoc.org

Minutes recording for meeting: Gwendolyn Whittaker, gwhittaker@ametsoc.org

Introductions & Group Photo

Bruce opened the meeting by welcoming all participants (28 of the 36 STAC boards and committees were represented) and asking each attendee to introduce themselves and the board or committee that they chair or represent. He thanked each participant for the work they do as representatives of the 455+ volunteers who serve within STAC. He emphasized that without their efforts, AMS would not be able to advance our science nearly as effectively as it does as conferences and symposia would be much less frequent and more costly to organize and conduct. AMS has over a thousand volunteers across six commissions and the largest number are within STAC. He gave a quick overview of our agenda for the day and then, we formed for a group photo, as shown here:



Front row: Paul Bieringer, Alex McCombs, Mohan Ramamurthy, Nazila Merati, Bruce Telfeyan, Genene Fisher, Ryan Fogt, Amy Butler, Kristie Ebi, Zhuo Wang, Dev Niyogi

Second row: Scott Collis, Jennifer Griswold, Sara Tucker, Cecilia Miner, Kathy Sherman-Morris, Curtis Alexander, Bruce Baker, Jeffrey Mirocha, Woody Roberts, Dave Stensrud, Andrew Molthan, Liz Satterfield

Third row: Eric Bruning, John Balbus, James Campbell, Jeff Collett, Ali Tokay, Rich Behnke, Kenneth Holmlund, John Eylander, Clark Evans, Tom Galarneau, Daniel Niefeld, Mitch Goldberg, Phillippe Tissot

STAC B/C Best Practices (Bruce Telfeyan)

Bruce gave a brief overview of the [STAC Board/Committee Best Practices](#) document and touched on each of the fourteen major sections. He urged each Chair to turn to the document as a first source when they have questions and to share the document with each of their members.

Bruce thanked all the Chairs who are ending their terms and noted that 16 are departing this year, a larger than typical number (usually around 12). Thus, there is a larger challenge than usual to recruit and ramp up new chairs. He noted the importance of accommodating student volunteer members, and AMS rules/guidelines on having at least one student member on each board/committee.

Q: Can the “vice chair” appointment be made at any time?

A: Yes.

Q: What is selection process for vice chair? Election? Must be on committee?

A: The Vice Chair must be on committee, but how the Vice is chosen up to each board and committee. Certainly, the Vice Chair needs to be someone who can work smoothly with the Chair.

Q: Do requests for new members/extensions get routed to the primary point of contact commissioner for each board and committee?

A: Yes, this is a shift from the tenure of Mary Cairns and Ward Seguin, when the current STAC Commissioner handled all requests.

Perspectives on key challenges from three STAC Chairs

(Bruce asked three STAC Chairs to share their experiences in leading their B/C. Two - Andrew Molthan and John Balbus - were completing three years as the chair. One - Zhuo Wang - had just finished her first year as chair.)

Andrew Molthan (Weather Analysis and Forecasting):

Importance of being aware of rhythm/pace of meetings schedule (WAFs they are on 18-month schedule, not annual). Crunch time at annual awards nomination deadline time - awards schedule out of synch w/meeting schedule. People look at social media more often than web pages - keeping social media active is a challenge. [Claudia Gorski notes that AMS Staff support for social media activities is now available]. Legacy documentation from previous chairs, shared among committee members is key.



WAF Committee
Chair.pptx

Zhuo Wang (Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclones): in first year of her term. She noted that it takes time to understand the AMS bureaucracy, which caused some



Committee on
Tropical Meteorolog
difficulties.

Bruce noted that AMS by necessity is bureaucratic (he is a member of the Awards Oversight Committee) and received input over the Banner I. Miller Award. It had been set up to function more like a STAC award, not an AMS award. He and Zhuo made changes necessary to make this an AMS-level award.

John Balbus (Environment and Health): they have been in existence for 6 years, so the founding members are still on board - now transitioning to second generation. In addition to basics (meetings, etc.) there is a strong mission for this board. So, we determined what identified our product/deliverable; found core committed group; balanced autocracy and democracy. This board does not exist within AMS to figure out health (AMS is not the place for this). The purpose is to connect health to other parts of AMS - outreach and engagement.

The focus has been on product first, not process - board chair and vice chair "check the



Board on Env and
Health.pptx

process boxes" while students, others focus on product.

Bruce commented that overall STAC has been evolving to having a larger share of representation from early career folks as volunteer members than in the past. Some of

this is driven by thinking about what motivates people to volunteer. He thinks it's a positive change. More senior folks often have more job commitments, less time for committee activities. He encourages having a mix of early career and senior level career members to balance experience and perspective.

AMS Award and STAC-Level Awards (Bruce, Dave, Genene)

Bruce reviewed the STAC-level awards for 2018. He thanked Commissioner Dave Stensrud for advocating for the awards and obtaining AMS Council approval for them and developing the Terms of Reference for the awards. In our first year for these awards, ten of the thirty-six B/Cs submitted nominees and all were approved by Bruce, Dave, and Genene. Of the ten awards, five were in the STAC Outstanding Service Award category, three were STAC Distinguished Scientific/Technological Accomplishment Awards (of which one also recognized outstanding service to STAC), and two were STAC Outstanding Early Career Awards. The next opportunity for B/Cs to nominate individuals for STAC awards will be in January 2019.

Bruce recognized each recipient and read the citation (with the exception of the EIPT and Mountain Meteorology awards which were to be later announced at their



STAC-Level Award
Compilation for Eric

conferences). Here is a summary of the ten awards for 2018:

Report from the AMS Board of Best Practices (Tim Spangler)

Described a visit he had with American Vacuum Society. They actively look for places where there are scientific best practices that should become widely used. AMS STAC committees should actively look for such best practices. There are around four per year so far – one or two approved by Council (i.e., how to present weather forecasts via social media). Tim hopes to see more of the Best Practices emerge from STAC B/Cs. His email address is spanglertim@hotmail.com and he is willing and eager to talk with STAC members.

He noted that AMS doesn't set standards unlike Civil Engineers (ASCE), but AMS does provide guidelines and best practices.

Overviews from the five other AMS Commissioners

We invited the leaders of the other five AMS Commissions to make brief presentations to give all a better feel for the work done by them. The goal was to increase STAC member awareness of the larger AMS and to look for possible areas of collaboration.

a. Bob Rauber (Publications Commission)

You've all published...but may not know how we operate. Our goal is to protect the integrity and quality of publications while streamlining the process as much as possible. Commission consists of all journal Chief Editors, the BAMS Editorial Board Chair, and some at-large members. Primary meeting is in June/late May - three days overviewing all aspects of Publications. Examples: we recently decided that review papers should

be welcome in all journals. We focus a great deal upon review statistics - review times by journal, by editor, by paper. We handle complaints from authors. Staff support is essential – both for peer review and production. He keeps a running list throughout the year of all possible items the PC needs to discuss: everything he hears about gets on his list. Feel free to send him suggestions.

Q: Is the Pubs Commission involved with the Data Stewardship board?

A: As Pubs Commissioner, I am a member of that board and helped develop the current guidelines.

Q: Those who work in software development know it's hard to handle attribution

A: We haven't discussed this area and will look into this valid matter.

Q: How are you expanding opportunities for participation, for those interested in being Associate Editors (AEs) or Editors.

A: We have a web page on how to get involved

(<https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/editors-and-reviewers/volunteer/>)

- links to this page are included in the thank-you emails all our reviewers receive, and in other materials disseminated by Pubs staff.

Q: Will there be a "letters" journal to replace ECs?

A: Not right now - reasons for elimination of ECs included lack of interest in the type from authors, and overall decrease in peer review and production times for full-length articles.

b. Unfortunately **Bill Mahoney (Commission on Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise- CWWCE)** had a conflicting meeting and was unable to attend.

Bruce noted this Commission is second largest in terms of numbers of volunteer members and that there are some parallels with STAC. We need to increase our collaboration with CWWCE and this can be done in several ways. The STAC Commissioner already serves on the CWWCE Steering Committee. We can certainly look to join with them in sponsoring conferences and symposia. Also, several AMS statements have themes that are shared by boards and committees in both commissions. In forming drafting committees for updates of statements, members of parallel committees should work jointly. **Note:** special thanks to Mike Dettinger, Chair of the CWWCE Committee on Water Resources for attending our meeting to seek out possible areas for collaboration with STAC.

c. **Donna Charlevoix (Education and Human Resources Commission)**

We work with some of the boards in Maureen's Professional Affairs Commission. Ours is one of the smaller Commissions. Some of Roger's points dovetail with our concerns on women & minorities. We are interested in your input, suggestions, and concerns. Activities we are involved in at the AMS Annual are *Weatherfest*, the Student Conference, and the Symposium on Education. We are looking at how to better engage with other boards and committees with respect to inclusion.

d. **Yvette Richardson (Planning Commission)**

This is the smallest commission. In the past "planning" meant long-range, but we just updated our ToR to be more "strategic". All of other commissioners are now on the

Planning Commission (including the STAC Commissioner) – should be more effective. Implementation of ideas happens within commissions, so they need to be at the planning table. In past if Council had an idea, they would give it to Planning. But we also want ideas from membership to more easily reach the Planning Commission. We can evaluate how initiatives/changes could be successfully implemented. The Commission looks at successes and failures from past. You can come to us – or we might come to you if we know of a broader thing going on where your input could be used.

e. Maureen McCann (Commission on Professional Affairs)

We are exploring the possibility of a new AMS certification area: climate/climate change certification, an idea that came to us as a request. Other possibilities for expanding into other certification areas, perhaps Space Weather. We have worked extensively within our Board for Early Career Professionals on their society level award. We are exploring the launch of an Early Career leadership academy. Board of Private Sector Meteorology has an ongoing mentoring program within AMS – looking at broadening this. Keith Seitter has signed an MOU with AGU on this. There is a quarterly Commission newsletter which is also sent to other Commissioners.

Working Lunch and Discussions with AMS Staff

Paul Higgins (Director, AMS Policy Program)

Contact him any time to talk about the AMS Policy Program. Program focus is helping broader society take advantage of the knowledge in the weather, water, and climate community:

- (1) The Policy Program seeks to train/develop scientists' capacity to engage in policy process ([Summer Policy Colloquium](#));
- (2) We directly informs policy makers;
- (3) We provide research analysis at science & policy interface, particularly in areas where just a little bit of extra attention may move things along

Q from Bruce: In STAC Best Practices document, there is information on AMS Policy Process (paragraph 9). He noted that he and Paul had already talked about the Policy Program providing STAC with some areas where a “memo” could be beneficial

A: At all times, but particularly at times of administration transition, one-two page brief memos about key topics can be helpful (i.e., Earth Observation Science and Services, etc.). We would like to develop small library of key overarching memos for use during Admin and Hill transitions. So our idea is that it could be an interesting opportunity for STAC committees to develop these memos. I floated this idea a year ago, so far not a lot of interest, and that's fine but if there is interest, I'd be happy to talk with you.

Q: From John Balbus (Environment and Health): I'm very interested for my board to be involved with Policy Memos. Also, please tell us a little about cooperation with other scientific societies

A: Yes, we do have institutional relationships (formal) and then informal relationships (working groups, etc.). Congressional visit days are a joint effort. We do three – one AMS, one “climate science” and one geosciences day.

Q: From Kristie Ebi: The timing of the fall Congressional visit days could be better coordinated with upcoming IPCC report release dates

A: Our take is that the purpose of these visits is primarily to enable scientists to learn how Congress works, and over time strengthen the pipeline of info to Congress. But when I talk with the other organizers, I will mention the timing aspect.

Jinny Nathans, AMS Archivist and Librarian

For the 100th anniversary, we are creating a time line that will be online. It will include a wealth of info on the history of AMS, including histories of the STAC committees. If you have ideas about historical information you think would be good to include, please, reach out to me. And it’s very likely I come to you to take a look at what we are doing.

Claudia Gorski, Director of Meetings

Claudia extended thanks to all who are also Conferences/Symposia Chairs. She discussed the pros and cons of going to new venues, new cities, versus rotating back to known places. Thank you for making August conference planning deadlines this past year. We have several changes this year to the Annual format based on feedback – i.e., poster session schedule change.

Q: Will poster presenters have access to set up in advance?

A: Yes.

Q: Is there a way of uploading posters? It was really hard to find.

A: It’s in the Presenters Corner.

Q: About how many registrants are present for the Annual Meeting this year?

A: ~4200

Ward Seguin (New Chief Editor, Glossary of Meteorology--GoM)

Mary Cairns is now rotating off as GoM Chief and Ward noted that he is taking her place (ward.msgom@gmail.com). He described how Mary has worked with Boston staff to update GoM terms. We don’t think about GoM every day, but it’s one of our key resources. According to Brian Mardirosian, it’s one of AMS’s most active pages. He envisions following in Mary’s footsteps, doesn’t foresee major changes at this time. Mary says there has been about one request a month. The procedure is for the GOM Chief to identify the appropriate STAC committee to review the request. In past Mary asked each STAC to identify a point person - I would like initially to work with the Chair. If I contact you, you may identify a member of your board/committee to work with me. One reason for this approach is frequency (or lack of) requests. I think I may talk with you by phone initially. Don’t hesitate to contact me (Glossary@ametsoc.org).

Q: If we notice a paper that proposes a changed definition, what’s the process for getting a definition changed?

A: It takes somebody to request the change – could be author, could be your committee. Anyone can contact AMS via website (<https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/glossary-of-meteorology/>) – that sets a tracking process in motion. Then my job is to contact STAC and figure out who is right person to work on it.

Q: So in case of published paper, suggesting to author that they get in touch with AMS is the way to start?

A: Yes.

Brian Mardirosian (AMS Digital Communications Manager)

1. Higher Logic Community Platform launch in a few weeks.
2. Committee web pages moving more toward public outreach rather than internal committee resource - could be potential new committee member outreach.
3. New formal webinar program, with a process for requesting webinar topics

Q: Where will historical committee info go (stuff currently on web site)?

A: For now we are working on this case-by-case – but nothing will be removed yet. Over time we'll look at archiving, working with you to determine correct approach.

Q: Are the webinars for science and tech topics? Or more organizational (i.e., how to run a meeting).

A: The former – but process possible (especially regarding 'how to'). Now we have more resources in digital technology areas and we are thinking one webinar per month.

Tom Champoux, AMS Director of Communications

Notes importance of 100th anniversary, and evolution of AMS original web presence into “digital communications.” Currently underway with rebranding, thinking through AMS’s messaging. There are disconnects between various parts of AMS, gaps in understanding about all that AMS provides. Looking at what we want to be over next 100 years. A rebranding consultation process is complete and we are now moving forward with re-brand. Will be making sure STAC etc. all have tools to communicate with each other and with public. Higher Logic “AMS Community” platforms will help provide this.

Roger Wakimoto, AMS President

Roger addressed the following items:

1. Presidential Forum today – Richard Alley one of best science communicators.
2. This is not my meeting – this is Matt’s meeting. I tried very hard not to change anything – wanted it to be Matt’s meeting.
3. Special Hurricane Town Meeting – challenges.
4. The theme for the 2019 AMS Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ) is **“Understanding and Building Resilience to Extreme Events by Being Interdisciplinary, International, and Inclusive.”**
5. I have been pushing two things for my year as AMS President: a task force on diversity and inclusion (troubles me that we have no vision) AND Research Involvement Committee – most recent report was that we need to do better job in

recruiting students and early career. This is our next generation, so we need to be responsive.

6. Changes to Annual meeting: final decisions about Fellows and major awards now made way back in June, so we can integrate them (with presentations) into meeting (will integrate into program book next time). Do we want to make changes to awards banquet? We need your input on this. If you love current way or hate it, let us know.
7. Matt wanted to hold Presidential Forum today (Sunday), so that's what we're doing. Yes, it's an experiment, but a successful one. We will have it on Sunday at the 2019 meeting.
8. No one could have predicted everything that's gone on the past 12 months. Hurricanes, pulling out of Paris, EPA, March for Science, grad student tax. High time we step back and look at what AMS is doing in area of government relations and policy fora. Make sure members know what we are doing. And maybe it's not enough – AGU is out there. AMS corrects mistakes, but we don't go into heavy lobbying to try to address big issues. Some members think we are already doing too much – others think we aren't doing enough. We need to hear from you.

Q: Timing of the Annual Meeting?

A: That is also under discussion....we are too back-to-back with AGU. So we are thinking about it. Since STAC so key to our meetings, your voices important. (Claudia noted: we have been researching what changing Annual timing would entail - it's a work in progress).

Q: AGU not only complication, but for those in the academic arena, finding the best timing tough.

R: Every spot on the calendar has problems. Claudia Gorski noted we will be surveying attendees and members.

Reports from small group discussions

Dave Stensrud broke the attendees into five small groups. He asked each group to consider and discuss with topics including but are not limited to these areas:

- Balancing the demands of professional career activities along with chairing a board or committee;
- Collaboration with other AMS Commissions;
- Merits (or disadvantages) of having a B/C Vice-Chair;
- Ideas for recruiting new B/C members;
- Taking on an additional student member as a mentoring effort;
- Ideas for outreach within the scientific community and beyond;
- Engaging the Oceanographic community within STAC;
- Calls for papers and allowing proposed sessions at conferences;
- Ideas for recognition for STAC Chairs and members;
- Thoughts on managing new AMS statements and updates;
- Annual Meeting with 4 to 8 broad themes blending our specialty conferences;
 - Consideration of the pros/cons of integrating specialty conferences into Annual Theme.

Group 1 comments:

- Integrating specialty conferences into Annual Theme: logistically complicated.
- Communications and outreach to broader community: in general there is a belief that science exists, should continue to emphasize.
- Private sector engagement: revisit ways to do this.
- Also: Increase visibility for STAC awards.

Group 2 comments:

- Focus on 4 to 8 themes – consensus is not in favor, but maybe a hybrid. Pros: sharing across disciplines. Cons: these are opportunities to meet others in same discipline. Smaller conferences may have more flexibility, but not always. Could we look at info people give about areas of interest when they register.
- Government outreach: better media savviness, possibility of AMS being more aggressive.
- Fully agree with idea of smaller conferences having a media day.

Group 3 comments:

- 4-8 themes: overlap with group two. Interesting idea, would require a lot of planning. Pro: could generate interesting ideas. Con: AMS allows for a lot of networking within groups, and this may drive out more specialized areas (i.e., Python group)
- Political activism: mixed feelings. Some felt AMS missing opportunities to communicate across groups. Others felt “why compete with AGU.” Third group felt could bridge: AMS can provide info and explain why it’s important.
- Media days: nice idea, would need AMS staff support. Also, AGU better with their press releases – AMS could look at this.
- Recruiting students to boards: different ways to do this (by asking faculty for suggestions, drop-box for resumes a great ideas, Sunday pre-conference mixer)

Group 4 comments:

- Annual meeting/4-8 broad themes: lukewarm. Difficult to do but possibility of mini-talks during lunch, or special Sunday symposium; rotate out of the Annual: one year a theme at Annual, next year a separate meeting; joint symposia between two common themes. But basically don’t want to dilute what individual groups trying to do.

Group 5 comments:

- Annual/4-8 themes: generally lukewarm. Might be too restrictive – could drive some away from AMS Annual. Maybe joint symposia and committee collaboration. Some boards always have meetings w/Annual, some never. So themes could be detrimental to some, but not to others.
- Student members and mentoring: getting them involved in conferences. Idea: get them involved as session chairs, co-chairs with more experienced chairs.
- Recognition for STAC chairs: nice to have ribbons, but there are already a lot of other ribbons. Supportive of Council buy-in for some other form of recognition.

Closing Remarks:

Bruce emphasized that his key role is to advocate for your needs. He encouraged Chairs to contact him, Dave, and Genene on any matters of concern or uncertainty. He noted that this year, for the first time, there are ribbons for board and committee chairs. We can discuss the idea of have a ribbon for Board/Committee Members.

- Also, members who complete their terms on B/Cs now receive an AMS Certificate.
- B/C Chairs receive a small AMS plaque thanking them for their volunteer efforts.

We will continue to emphasize AMS recognition for your volunteer activities and to address and vocalize your concerns to the AMS Staff and Council.

Finally, again this year, we will plan to have two Chair teleconferences, most likely in the May and October timeframes.

A final word of special thanks to Gwendolyn Whittaker of the AMS Publications Directorate. Without her efforts, we would not have this record of our discussions.

Adjournment

STAC Commissioner: [Bruce Telfeyan](#)

Past STAC Commissioner: [David Stensrud](#)

Incoming STAC Commissioner: [Genene Fisher](#)