

Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc.

Mineral & Metallurgical Processing Division
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, Room: Paradise Valley
February 25, 2024, 9:00-11:30 am
Phoenix, AZ

Meeting Minutes
Submitted February 25, 2024

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mineral & Metallurgical Division (MPD) of the SME was called to order at 9:04 am on February 25, 2024 in Phoenix, AZ by Dave Meadows.

Present:

Dave Meadows, Chair – Present
Ronel Kappes, Past Chair – Present
Jaeheon Lee, Associate Chair – Present
Tarun Bhambhani, First Vice Chair – Present
Aaron Noble, Second Vice Chair – Present
Kimberly Mills, Secretary-Treasurer – Present
Nick Gow, Technical Program Associate – Present
Jim Wickens, Membership Associate – Present
Chee Theng, SME Liaison – Present

Guests:

Adam House, Nat McAlonen, Jayson Ripke, Wencai Zhang, Janet Baron, Scott Shuey, Zeynep Cicek, Sumedh Gostu, Mohammad Rezaee, Lana Alagha, Pengbo Chu, Mike Spicher, Dan Palo, Zach Zanetell, Behzad Vaziri, Younes Shekarian, Chandima Subasinghe, Jiaqi Jin, Mick McCaslin, Erik Spiller, Mike Moats, Tom Rauch, Xinbo Yang

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Safety Share

Jim Wickens reminded the group to be mindful of their surroundings and provided an example from being out last night where a random drink showed up at their table. Since they didn't know where it came from, they decided it was best to ignore it not knowing what could be in it or what could happen.

D. Open Issues

1. Programming

The MPD technical program for the MINEXCHANGE 2024 SME Annual Conference & Expo in Phoenix, AZ features a Plant Design Panel Discussion as well as 19 sessions including a special symposium held jointly by the MPD and the International Precious Metals Institute (IPMI) on precious metals sampling and analysis. MPD contributed more than 120 technical presentations. The Monday afternoon plenary session will include lectures honoring the division's major award recipients, and a certificate presentation to the Rong Yu Wan Ph.D. Dissertation Scholarship recipient.

The MPD technical program for the MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME ACE in Denver, CO will be led by Tarun Bhambhani. All attendees were encouraged to attend the MPD Unit Committee Meeting in the afternoon to discuss session topics and special session ideas. Tarun Bhambhani and Jaeheon Lee will attend the 2025 Programming Committee meeting later this week. Programming will also include sessions planned for World Gold to be held concurrently with MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME ACE. It was suggested by a member, Dan Palo, to collaborate with the Mining & Exploration Division on their Geometallurgy Panel Discussions that have been held over the past couple of years. Mick McCaslin will work with Tarun and volunteer Jaye Pickarts on Industry Innovation programming as a discussion of the innovation needs of the industry. Adam House discussed that Responsible Mining and Underground Construction, which is a part of the SME Strategic Plan, will be moved to the 2026 programming, with MPD likely contributing one session. A symposium to honor Michigan Tech Professor Komar Kawatra is planned and will be chaired by John Uhrie and Courtney Young.

2. Social Functions and Fundraisers

The MPD Scotch Nightcap will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The event set a new record for sponsorships at \$62,500 from six title sponsors and five supporting sponsors. The Bass Metals band will once again perform, and Secretary-Treasurer Kimberly Mills will serve as the host. Tickets sold out at 400 and sales revenue will be determined after the annual meeting. It was suggested that the committee consider increasing ticket sales to 500 in the future.

Based on the success of last year, an ad hoc planning committee led by Ronel Kappes, MPD past-chair, held periodic meetings with SME staff in the months leading up to the date to ensure the event ran smoothly.

The speaker for the MPD Luncheon is Doug Pitts who will discuss “Tips for a Successful Career in the Resources and Process Industries.”

The 2024-2025 MPD Calendar was distributed to all registered attendees of the MINEXCHANGE 202 SME ACE. Eleven sponsors were secured in addition to a page on the Scotch Nightcap for a total of \$22,500. The new bundling of sponsorships was well received and deemed a success.

3. SME Awards

The committee recognized this year’s award recipients:

Antoine M. Gaudin Award – Peter Amelunxen

Robert H. Richards Award – Richard Johnson

Milton E. Wadsworth Award – Gus Van Weert

Arthur F. Taggart Award – Veerendra Singh

MPD Outstanding Young Engineer Award – Wencai Zhang

Mill Gentleman of Distinction – Dave Meadows

Frank F. Aplan Award (shared with Coal & Energy Division of SME) – Barry Wills

James Douglas Gold Medal Award (shared with TMS) – Thomas Battle

The committee reminded attendees that the SME Awards Dinner has been replaced this year with a new format to be more of a social event to congratulate the award recipients on Wednesday evening.

4. Scholarships

The following MPD scholarships were awarded this year for a total of \$22,500:

Outstanding Senior, Richard Klimpel Memorial Scholarship of \$7,500 to Jordan Gillis of Virginia Tech

Outstanding Graduate Scholarship of \$4,000 to Hannah Chop of the Pennsylvania State University

Outstanding Junior Scholarship of \$4,000 to Kathleen Troy of Virginia Tech

Graduate Student Scholarship of \$2,000 to Angela Tita of University of Nevada, Reno

Undergraduate Student Scholarship of \$1,500 to Spenser Walchuk of Missouri University of Science and Technology

Undergraduate Student Scholarship of \$1,500 to Lix Shirley Tafur Figueroa of the National University of San Marcos

Rong Yu Wan Ph.D. Dissertation Scholarship of \$2,000 to Dr. Bin Ji of Virginia Tech

5. MPD Committees

The MPD Nominating Committee held a virtual meeting in the week prior to the regular annual meeting.

The MPD Unit Committee will meet on the afternoon of February 25, 2024. There are still questions arising from people who are new to the division on how to get involved so the committee discussed sending an email in advance of the meeting to announce the purpose of the Unit Committee and to remind everyone of the time and place.

6. Fine Grind

The Fine Grind article schedule this year filled quickly with one change at the end, but a replacement author was found. The committee discussed an issue that arose with one article in particular where a partner company was named in the article without getting their permission for publication. The result was that the article was modified slightly to be more vague and not name the other company.

The editorial responsibilities for next year will be handed over to the incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Nick Gow, starting with the March 1, 2024 article.

7. Member Engagement

The MPD Volunteer Interest Online Form was used this year to coordinate focused communication with the leads of the interest areas and new volunteers. Information was collected for 26 new members this year.

An MPD Coffee Break was held virtually in December by members of the Executive Committee to discuss how to get involved in the division and its benefits. A "Best Mug" competition was held and the winner received a Starbucks gift card.

Dave Meadows asked the committee if they think SME does enough to inspire future leaders in our industry. Members of the committee discussed how involvement in the society has changed over the years and the challenges with getting companies to support conference attendance. Many members remember how the local sections used to be stronger.

8. Student Engagement

The MPD Student Poster Contest was led by Zach Zanetell and will feature 31 accepted posters consisting of five undergraduate and 26 graduate students. The committee reminded everyone to attend the poster session on Wednesday morning and to encourage the students. The committee discussed some challenges with judging a large

number of posters in the limited time before the MPD Luncheon. They emphasized quality over quantity, but want to encourage participation, and discussed a larger poster judging committee or a tiered system. It was also suggested to shift the abstract submission deadline earlier in the year before holiday break to allow more time for logistics.

A motion was made and seconded to shift the abstract submission deadline to December 15th. The motion was approved unanimously.

Aaron Noble discussed plans for an MPD Student Video Contest intended to build a year-long cycle of student engagement to be held in the late summer/early fall as an opportunity to present research work or internship experience. Sumedh Gostu and Fangyu Liu will help to lead the endeavor. The group discussed advertising the contest in a Fine Grind article early in the year prior to internships starting. The Nevada MPD has committed to providing seed money to kick off the contest with sponsors to be considered in the future.

The Metallic Student Design Competition finals consisted of six teams: three from U.S. schools and three international. Participation was down from years past, especially from U.S. schools. The committee discussed possible reasons for the drop and noted that overall student participation in volunteer events have dropped dramatically in recent years. One idea to boost participation was to coordinate the event with senior capstone projects.

9. Financial Review

Secretary-Treasurer Kimberly Mills reviewed the division finances, which will also be discussed at the Business Meeting after the MPD Luncheon on Wednesday. Division finances are very strong, and all accounts are in good standing due to sponsorship and fundraising efforts over the past years.

A motion was made and seconded to transfer \$500 from the Division General Fund to replenish the Taggart Award Fund. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Other Conferences

Updates were provided on other MPD-affiliated conferences, including:

- XXXII IMPC 2024 – John Marsden overall chair, Ronel Kappes and Tarun Bhambhani co-chairs. Over 400 manuscripts have been submitted and are undergoing review. Registration is live and the hotel will sell out early.
- Extraction 2025/Copper 2025 – Kimberly Mills overall chair, Nick Gow and Adam House SME co-chairs. Abstract submission is open until November.
- World Gold 2025 – Nick Gow and Thomas Rauch co-chairs, will be held with MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME ACE. Abstracts submission will open in early March.

E. New Business

SME Book Manager Melissa Serdinsky is looking for ideas on short-format books.

The Society is working on a centralized SME Volunteer Portal Project. Rachel Grimes has contacted Jim Wickens about the MPD Volunteer Interest Online Form. Adam House will be taking responsibility for the MPD form in the coming year.

The *Mining Engineering* Committee is welcoming additional division representatives to help identify and source editorial content. Sumedh Gostu and Dan Palo volunteered as MPD representatives in addition to MPD representatives Kimberly Mills and Behzad Vaziri Hassas. Janet Baron will help with an Inclusion & Diversity issue.

The committee discussed ways to recognize dedicated MPD committee chair volunteers, such as through a Fine Grind article.

Jim Wickens provided an update on the new Fred C. Bond Commemorative Award. The MPD Communitation Unit Committee is managing the award. It will be announced this year with the first award in 2025.

Janet Baron announced that there will be an Inclusion and Diversity Panel Session and a traditional session on Tuesday and encouraged everyone to attend.

The committee welcomed the new MPD Young Leaders Representatives, Younes Shekarian and Chandima Subasinghe.

F. Agenda for Next Meeting

Items to be discussed at the next meeting will include:

- Safety Share
- MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME ACE Programming and Fundraising
- 2024-2025 Fine Grind Schedule
- Scholarships
- Other MPD-Affiliated Conferences
- Membership and Student Engagement

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am by Dave Meadows. The next general meeting will be at 2:15 pm on February 28, 2024 in Phoenix, AZ.

Minutes submitted by:

Kimberly Mills

Approved by:

Dave Meadows