MRS TIP SHEET: Tips for the "Meet Your New Faculty Candidates" Poster Session

Tips related to the content of your presentation

Your presentation should address the three major components that comprise most faculty applications:

Research

Explicity state your research vision; i.e., what you hope to accomplish as an independent researcher.

- Include a "high-level" question (e.g., how does polymer self-assembly affect macroscopic properties?)
- Relate your high-level question to the specific question that you will address (e.g., how do chemical changes to polymer X affect its morphology when mixed with polymer Y?)
- Explain why you are the best candidate to answer these questions that you've asked.
- Define the impact of your work (broadly and within your field.)

Teaching

Highlight your past experience and current interests in teaching.

- Emphasize classes you taught where you experimented with pedagogical techniques or used technology to facilitate learning (e.g., use of clickers for immediate feedback.)
- Mention any training that you've taken that is relevant to teaching.

Outreach/mentorship/efforts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

Describe how you'd integrate into a culture that supports students, faculty, and staff who have various backgrounds and life experiences.

- Articulate your involvement in previous and current outreach/DEI efforts.
- If you have limited experience in these areas, express aspects of your own background that motivate you to support activities related to DEI.
- If you have limited experience teaching at your university, identify outreach and mentorship activities that allowed you to practice pedagogy.

Tips related to your presentation style/aesthetics

- Make your message clear and repeat it consistently.
 - I.e., what you'll do as a faculty member; why you're the best fit for your goals.
- Include a "hook" that captures attention.
 - Your "high-level" question could be an effective way to engage your audience immediately.
- Use effective graphics.
 - Reference all graphics/images while speaking so your audience knows why it was included.
 - Use images instead of "walls of text" (e.g., use stock photos to communicate aspects related to teaching.)
- Tailor to your "audience".
 - Specific subfields or universities you are interested in may have expectations related to style and composition, and you should follow these strictly.

