



S17-009 - Science Policy Workshop by the MRS chapter at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Submitted by [redacted] in 12/15/2016 4:25:00 PM
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
[redacted]

Proposal Categories:

Funding Type: Total Project Support

1. The MRS Foundation should support

"Science Policy Workshop" by the MRS chapter at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

2. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The event will address the shortage of science policy related seminars and workshops within materials-related departments. Specifically, we will use this workshop to introduce science policy on both a local and national level and will focus on the importance of science policy, career options, and volunteer opportunities. Our goal is to invite a speaker with expertise in materials science to share his/her journey from bench scientist to policy advocate. The speaker will interact with students through a technical seminar, policy workshop, and networking event. This science policy event will be jointly hosted with the UNC-CH Science Policy Advocacy Group (SPAG), a student-run organization that is based primarily in the Biological and Biomedical Science Program. We are excited for the opportunity to utilize SPAG's knowledge of science policy to develop a workshop designed to motivate materials scientists at UNC-CH.

3. The Project Lead(s) is (are)

[redacted] (Chapter Vice President)
[redacted] (Chapter Public Relations & Speaker Chair)
[redacted] (SPAG President)
[redacted] (SPAG VP of External Affairs)

4. The target audience for this project is:

PhD and Masters students within the Departments of Chemistry, Physics, Applied Physical Sciences, and Biological & Biomedical Sciences.

5. What is the intended outcome of the project?

At the conclusion of this project, graduate students within materials-related fields at UNC-CH will have (1) an increased awareness of science policy and its impact on their research, (2) the resources to become more involved in science policy, and (3) sufficient knowledge of the congressional fellowship opportunities to put together a competitive application. The program will also facilitate networking between graduate students and the science policy speaker as well as interdepartmental collaboration between student groups at UNC-CH.

6. How will this project/program benefit the materials community?

The project will benefit the materials community by helping to bridge the gap between science policy and materials science. The workshop intends to equip graduate students within materials science with an increased awareness of the importance of science policy so that they can become more involved with policy decisions at the local, state, and federal levels.

7. Does MRS or anyone else offer a similar program?

No, not that we are aware. However, we do hope to incorporate the Materials Voice and other policy-related resources from MRS into this workshop.

8. What is needed for this effort?

Funding to support speaker travel and lodging as well as food for the seminar and networking session.

9. What is the budget for the project (itemize if possible)?

Total of \$800 for travel and food for seminars and networking session

? \$250 Travel for speaker

? \$200 Speaker lodging for one night

? \$100 Speaker food (breakfast, lunch, dinner for speaker)

? \$250 Food for seminar and networking session

10. How much are you requesting from the MRS Foundation?

\$800

11. Is this total funding, seed money or matching funds?

Total Funding

12. If seed money or matching funds, please provide additional details.

N/A

13. Do you require assistance from a MRS Operating Committee?

Yes. It would be helpful to connect with an MRS-related scientist who is an expert in science policy.

14. Do you require assistance from MRS Headquarters Staff?

No

15. Provide a brief "Executive Summary" of the proposed project/program

MRS Special Project Proposal: Science Policy Workshop

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

[REDACTED] (Chapter Vice President)

[REDACTED] (Chapter Public Relations & Speaker Chair)

[REDACTED] (SPAG President); [REDACTED] (SPAG VP of External Affairs)

Description: The MRS student chapter at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) is working to develop a science policy workshop tailored to PhD and Masters students within the Departments of Chemistry, Physics, Applied Physical Sciences, and Biological & Biomedical Sciences. The event will address the shortage of science policy related seminars and workshops within materials-related departments. Specifically, we will use this workshop to introduce science policy on both a local and national level and will focus on the importance of science policy, career options, and volunteer opportunities. Our goal is to invite a speaker with expertise in materials science to share his/her journey from bench scientist to policy advocate. The speaker will interact with students through a technical seminar, policy workshop, and networking event. This science policy event will be jointly hosted with the UNC-CH Science Policy Advocacy Group (SPAG), a student-run organization that is based primarily in the Biological and Biomedical Science Program. We are excited for the opportunity to utilize SPAG's knowledge of science policy to develop a workshop designed to motivate materials scientists at UNC-CH.

Cost Estimate: Total of \$800 for travel and food for seminars and networking session

- \$250 Travel for speaker
- \$200 Speaker lodging for one night
- \$100 Speaker food (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- \$250 Food for seminar and networking session

Estimated Time Frame: Late April to early June of 2017

Deliverables:

- Technical talk and workshops led by an experienced science policy speaker that can aid in bridging the gap between materials research and science policy
- Technical and career talks to discuss the importance of science policy and the speaker's journey from bench science to policy
- Workshop to demonstrate how students can get involved through Materials Voice, letter writing, and various other outlets
- Workshop to train students on how to put together a competitive congressional fellowship application
- Networking event to give students a way to informally engage with the speaker and others about science policy
- Increased departmental collaboration as a result of partnering with SPAG
- More student involvement with national MRS through Materials Voice and the Congressional Fellowship program