

## METEORITICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society held on 21 July, 1991 at the Doubletree Hotel, Monterey, California.

Present: E Anders (President), H Wanke (Vice-President), A Graham (Secretary), M Ebihara, M Grady, G Lugmair, D Sears, T Swindle, D Woolum.

Apologies for Absence: R Taylor, K Rasmussen, G Kurat, R Hewins

**1. The President** opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He mentioned that there should be a mechanism for informing the membership of the activities of Council other than the formal announcements which appear in Meteoritics. A Newsletter inserted in Meteoritics would be an economical way of keeping the membership informed and he hoped to include one with the September issue of Meteoritics.

### **2. Secretary's Report:**

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. The wording of item 7.2., Leonard Medal bylaws, should be amended to read: "There was a general discussion of the voting requirements, whether a simple majority as at present, or a two thirds majority as for Fellows and the Barringer Medal".

MOTION: That the minutes of the last council meeting be approved (Woolum, seconded by Lugmair, passed unanimously).

#### Matters arising:

The secretary wrote to G Herzog informing him of his appointment as Deputy Treasurer. The comments of the Council on the initial report of the Copenhagen meeting organisers, in particular the level of registration fees envisaged, had been conveyed to the meeting organisers and would be discussed later at this meeting.

### **3. Bylaws changes:**

#### a) Mail and fax ballots.

The need for mail and fax ballots in transacting urgent business was presented by the President. The proposed changes and additions to the bylaws had been circulated to members of the council. The fax system was clearly working and members expressed their confidence in it. The use of teleconferences was discussed and deemed suitable only for urgent and complex matters of sufficient importance to justify the expense and inconvenience. However, any votes resulting from a teleconference should be taken by fax or mail.

The 17/6 and 18/6 drafts were merged.

The need for proxy voting was discussed.

MOTION: That the amendments and additions to the bylaws detailed in the 6/18/91 statement be accepted (Grady, seconded by Wanke, passed unanimously).

*\*\*\* A copy of the revised and additional bylaws relating to mail and fax ballots is attached.*

#### b) Barringer Award.

Paul Barringer had written to the President expressing his dissatisfaction with the amendments to Bylaw 11 passed at the Perth meeting (1990) and proposing to reopen the

entire compromise negotiated with Wetherill and Taylor. The President had succeeded in resolving most points of disagreement except for the two-candidate requirement and suggested that the requirement be dropped.

MOTION: That the amendments as sent to members and dated 13 May 1991 should be accepted (Woolum, seconded by Sears, passed unanimously).

The members of the current Barringer Medal committee are listed as serving terms that are not staggered as required by the bylaws. The President had discussed this with existing committee members and had arranged that terms be staggered; Grieve (newly appointed) 1993, Dietz (chairman) 1994, Shoemaker (Barringer Crater Company nominee) 1995, Dence 1996.

c) Changes to Bylaws 9/1 and 12/2 were presented and taken together.

MOTION: That the proposed changes to Bylaws 9/1 (GCA Editor's term) and 12/2 (removal of President from Nomenclature Committee) be accepted (Swindle, seconded by Woolum, passed unanimously).

\*\*\* A copy of the revised bylaws is attached.

Constitution change: The President discussed the Nominating Committee Membership. The Constitution currently requires this committee to consist of three or more members which, in the past, has generally meant three. This number provides too little geographic and disciplinary breadth, and should therefore be changed to five. Moreover, the method and dates of appointment need to be changed.

MOTION: That the Council endorses the amendment which is to be submitted to the membership at the next opportunity (Grady, seconded by Ebihara, passed unanimously).

ACTION: The Secretary to act at a suitable time.

**4. Report on survey of the membership:** Sears reported on the results obtained from the questionnaire which had been distributed with the final circular for the Monterey meeting of the Society. 82 replies had been received and detailed results are to be distributed in the Newsletter. In summary:

Approx. 3 year cycle for expensive sites for the annual meeting.

Welcome party should be moderately frugal (\$10 - \$20)

Banquet should cost about \$40 - \$50 per head

There was a 50:50 split on whether the banquet should be a separate item in the registration options.

There should be only one other evening social event.

Registration fees: \$130 - 25; \$160 - 20; \$200 - 26.

## **5. Society Meetings:**

1992 Copenhagen - Buchwald presented a paper to Council detailing the progress with the organisation of the 1992 meeting. There will be a welcome party in the Geological Museum. Sessions will be held in the Panum Institute, a modern extension of the University of Copenhagen. Hotel bookings will be handled by the DIS Congress Service (Danish International Student Service, a non-profit making organisation). This organisation charges a fee of \$35 a head but this will be more than recovered by the favourable hotel rates DIS can negotiate. SAS will be the official carrier and have contributed \$2000 for student travel. The banquet is to be separately costed (\$60) and not included in the registration fee. The proposed registration fees are \$130 for members,

which includes the \$20 Meteoritics levy, and \$80 for students. These costings have been derived on the expectation of an attendance of 275 members and 80 guests. Council expressed its thanks to Vagn and the organising committee but urged the incorporation of the banquet in the registration fee and the acceptance of payment by credit card.

1993 - Vail - Unfortunately, neither Ridley nor King could attend the meeting owing to a family crisis but provided a brief letter of progress. Concern about costs was expressed and the organisers are to be given the results of the survey of the membership. Council would like the organisers to aim for a registration fee of \$150, to include the banquet and the Meteoritics charge (\$20).

1994 - Prague - Jakes reported on the current situation and presented two options to Council: a) for lowest cost, the meeting would be held in the university which requires a 20 minute commute (minimum, not including walking or waiting times) from the hotels used, or b) the meeting would be held in a modern congress centre, the Hotel Forum, Prague, which would include the accommodation and a higher standard of lecture rooms. The cheaper option is likely to cost about \$120 while the more expensive would be \$150. Council agreed that the 20 minute rush hour commute by public transport between the accommodation and the university would seriously detract from members' enjoyment of the meeting and recommended that the organising committee select the more modern site.

#### **6. Barringer Medal:**

Wetherill presented E C T Chao as the Committee's candidate for the 1992 medal, and read the citation. This recommendation was endorsed unanimously by Council. A vote of thanks was recorded for the work of the Committee and in particular the chairman, G Wetherill.

**7. MS - DPS** - Anders reported that G Herzog is organising the session at the next Lunar Science Conference. Various possible topics were discussed. Two options are being considered: 1. An open session of contributed papers; 2. Topical sessions of invited papers on timely subjects; either interstellar grains or organic matter in the early solar system. The open session would be suitable for the LPSC, and the topical session format for the DPS meeting. However, in 1992 the DPS meeting is in Munich, Germany and it is doubtful whether any Meteoritical Society members from the U.S. will be able to attend two meetings in Europe. The President is to discuss these options with the DPS.  
*[The President has discussed this with Larry Lebofsky, Greg Herzog and Sherwood Chang, but left the final decision to them and DPS].*

**8. Treasurer's report** - Lipschutz for Hewins. A written report was available to Council at the meeting. There seemed to be a net profit in 1990 of \$2956 though this may have resulted from the early payment of dues. The position at present was roughly the same as it was at this time last year.

MOTION: That the report of the Treasurer be accepted (Swindle, seconded by Lugmair, passed unanimously).

\*\*\* *[A revised report was provided later and is included with these minutes].*

The President suggested that the Treasurer's six-month report at the Summer meeting be replaced by an informal discussion of trends; a formal report for the last two calendar

years should be presented only once a year, at the Spring meeting.  
This was agreed by Council.

**9. Nominating Committee** - The President explained that the Constitution required Council to "choose" a Nominating Committee but, in keeping with past - if unauthorized - practice, he had selected such a committee for Council approval. The members are: Pellas (Chairman), Burnett, McSween, Olsen, Scott, Taylor.

MOTION: That the above slate for the Nominating Committee be appointed (Woolum, seconded by Wanke, passed unanimously).

**10. Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta** - Macdougall presented a report and briefly summarised the situation. The contract with Pergamon Press expires on 31 December, 1991. The bargaining power of the Joint Publications Committee has been undermined by the decision of Editor Gunter Faure and Geochemical Society President Jim Papike to stay with Pergamon under any circumstances. The Joint Publications Committee has unanimously rejected successive drafts of the new contract with Pergamon, but since the GS President, supported by the majority of the GS council, will sign it anyway, the Joint Publications Committee recommends that President of the Meteoritical Society should also sign, in spite of the reservations of the Joint Publications Committee..

MOTION: That the President of the Meteoritical Society should sign the final contract as signed by the President of the Geochemical Society despite the lack of approval of that contract by the Joint Publications Committee.

Proposed by Macdougall on behalf of the Joint Publications Committee. Votes received: 8 for, 1 against, motion passed.

*[The contract was signed by the GS President on 23 August, and by Anders on 26 August].*

The new contract has a clause which provides royalty income to the two societies (7.5% on the net institutional income or \$70,000, whichever is the greater, to be divided 2:1 between the Geochemical Society and the Meteoritical Society). The Geochemical Society has decided to put this income aside as start-up funds for a society-sponsored journal they may start in 1997 when the new contract with Pergamon expires. The Joint Publications Committee recommends that the Meteoritical Society should do the same.

MOTION: That the royalty income derived from the GCA contract be set aside to be used as start-up funds for a new journal as successor to GCA jointly with the Geochemical Society. This commitment should be reviewed annually by the Joint Publications Committee. (Anders, seconded Graham, passed unanimously)

The President proposed a vote of thanks to D Macdougall, M Lipschutz and Al Levinson. Council wished to include the President of the Meteoritical Society (Anders) in this. Awarded by acclamation.

The Executive Editor's report had not been received.

*[\*\*\* This was received after the meeting and is attached].*

**11. Meteoritics** - Wasson provided a written report and said that institutional subscriptions were down by five. The reduction in the number of papers submitted was also noted. Macdougall reported a similar reduction of papers submitted to GCA.

Editor-elect Sears reported that the Fayetteville office would need larger start-up funds than had been estimated in March (\$6000 rather than \$2500) as none of the equipment of the UCLA office would be transferred. Paul Barringer had agreed to consider a request for funds.

*[Subsequently, the Barringer Crater Company agreed to provide an equipment grant of \$4700].*

The publication of abstracts in Meteoritics was discussed as was the possibility of a name change. These proposals are to be discussed at a meeting of Associate Editors during the Monterey meeting and reviewed by the Joint Publications Committee before submission to Council.

Lipschutz presented an estimated budget as sent to Council with the minutes of the last Council meeting. The President noted that the journal uses all the income of the society and that there is no funding available for expansion. At Wasson's request, the Joint Publications Committee had reviewed various options designed to increase the institutional circulation of Meteoritics, in particular by broadening the appeal of the journal. Several steps could be taken very soon:

a) change of title;

b) sample issues should be sent to libraries which do not currently subscribe, to indicate the breadth of coverage.

ACTION: Sears to liaise with Wasson on libraries approached.

Wanke to mail sample issues to European libraries.

Wasson reported that the 1992 volume would reach only about 390 pages instead of the projected 460, thus yielding a slight surplus. The President pointed out that additional funds were needed to allow expansion of the journal, and suggested a dues increase to \$35.

MOTION: That the 1992 membership dues be \$35 (Grady, seconded by Wanke, passed unanimously).

MOTION: That the 1992 student membership dues be \$20 (Woolum, seconded by Swindle, passed unanimously).

**12. Leonard Medal:** The President outlined the procedures for the assessment of the nominees for the Leonard Medal. New bylaws adopted at the March meeting of the Council required nominations to be sent to councillors 30 days before the meeting. Unfortunately, the Leonard Medal Committee had sent the nomination papers to council members only a few days before the meeting. Council is not able to suspend the bylaws and thus cannot consider recommendations received after the 30 day limit. The bylaw requirements could only be met in spirit by the following parliamentary maneuvers: 1) Council votes by 2/3 majority to discuss the committee's report, 2) The chair rules that the interests of the four absent members are adequately protected by proxies, failure to submit proxies although they had the opportunity, or likelihood that they would not object to a vote on the Committee's recommendation and 3) A unanimous vote by Council to vote on the Committee's recommendations.

MOTION: That the report of the Leonard Medal Committee be discussed (Woolum, seconded by Swindle, passed unanimously).

The President then introduced the Leonard Medal Committee's report. Discussion showed that one nominating letter contained a number of factual errors whereas the other was 13 years out of date; the following motion was put:

MOTION: That the Council should proceed with the vote on the candidates proposed for the Leonard Medal (Wanke, seconded by Lugmair, 4 for (including one proxy), 5 against, motion failed).

(The proxy of Kurat was not voted as Kurat had agreed to abstain from voting on Leonard medal matters as a condition of being appointed Chairman. (Under Bylaw 7.2, no member of Council may serve on the Leonard Medal Committee).

ACTION: Anders to ask the chairman of the Leonard medal committee (Kurat) to provide new documentation by November 1st to the President.

*[Kurat resigned from the Committee on 5 August. Robin Brett has been appointed to the chair and will carry out Council 's instructions].*

### **13. Any other business:**

A memorandum had been received from Don Burnett suggesting that Council should form a sub-committee to encourage the U.S. Government to maintain a suitable level of funding of research on extra-terrestrial materials. Council is broadly in favor of some mechanism for encouraging government support for such research.

MOTION: To invite Burnett - in consultation with Drake, Walker and Wasserburg - to formulate a set of rules to govern the operation of such a sub-committee. (Anders, seconded by Graham, passed unanimously).

ACTION: Anders to notify Burnett.

Meeting closed at 19.00 hrs  
Andrew Graham, Secretary.