

## 95-1 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society

held at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 12th. March, 1995.

**Present:** H. McSween (President), D. Stöffler (Vice-President), J. Goldstein (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), H. Wänke (Past President), C. Chapman, G. Herzog, G. MacPherson, H. Nagahara, D. Papanastassiou.

**Apologies:** A. Bevan, J. Goswami

**Guests:** F. Podosek (item 4); G. Faure, M. Lipschutz, D. Sears (item 5), K. Keil (item 6); D. Bogard (item 7).

### 1. President's Report

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending.

1.2. The President presented his proposal for the Nominating Committee, which would nominate a slate of Officers and Councillors for the next round of elections (held in 1996): Crozaz (Chair), Anders, Cassidy, Ott and Takeda.

**Motion:** That the President's suggested Nominating Committee be accepted (Chapman, seconded Herzog; carried unanimously).

1.3. The President presented revised "Guidelines for hosts of Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society" (Annex I).

**Motion:** That the revised "Guidelines for hosts of Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society" be accepted (Chapman, seconded Goldstein; carried unanimously).

1.4. The President announced with regret the withdrawal of the invitation to host a meeting at Kobe in Japan. It was hoped that once events had settled down in the wake of the February earthquake, a new invitation would be made.

1.5. The President asked Council if they would accept a change in the Agenda, to allow Keil's report on the 1997 meeting (item 6.3) to be given before item 2. Council accepted the change unanimously. (*Keil's report will appear under item 6 in these minutes*)

### 2. Secretary's Report

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated; only minor corrections were required.

**Motion:** That the amended minutes of the previous meeting be approved (accepted by acclamation).

*Matters arising:* There were no matters arising from the Minutes

### 3. Treasurer's Report

3.1. Finances: The Treasurer circulated a report indicated that the finances of the Meteoritical Society were in good order (Annex II).

3.2. Deputy Treasurer: There are no other members of the Meteoritical Society at the Treasurer's institution. It was therefore proposed that Herzog be requested to remain as Deputy Treasurer.

**Motion:** Council moves to accept Dr Gregory Herzog of Rutgers University as Deputy Treasurer (Stöffler, seconded Wänke; carried unanimously).

3.3. Investment of royalties: Until a decision is reached as to the future of the contract with Elsevier/Pergamon, Goldstein believes we should keep surplus monies in a flexible account, rather than a long-term account. The Society still requires a committee to investigate and recommend suitable long-term investments.

### 4. Publications Committee

Podosek submitted a report of the membership and recent activities of the Publications Committee (PC; report attached at Annex III). Much discussion centred on the proposed new contract from Elsevier, which included an increase of 64% in the price of an individual subscription to *GCA* (from \$70 to \$115), which would then remain fixed for three years. No figures were proposed for the new library subscription rate,

which currently stands at \$1000. It is thought that the Geochemical Society would prefer a stepped increase in the individual subscription rate over several years, rather than a steep increase in one year. This position was generally supported by Council. It was agreed by Council to endorse suggestion (i) in Podosek's report, and ask the PC to negotiate a lower individual subscription rate with Elsevier, preferably implemented in stages. If necessary, a total page limit to *GCA* of 5000 pages would be suggested.

**Action:** The President will contact the President of the Geochemical Society, informing him of Council's discussion and decision. The letter will be drafted with Podosek's assistance.

## 5. Journals

5.1. GCA: The Executive Editor (EE) presented a report on the current status of *GCA* (Annex IV). Faure's position as EE has been extended until the end of 1996, although the exact length of his tenure is uncertain, and will not be known until later in the year.

5.2. Meteoritics: Sears presented a report on the current status of *Meteoritics* (Annex V). Discussion followed on Sears' proposal to change the name of the journal to *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*, with effect from 1st January 1996. Podosek stated that the PC had debated the issue, and supported the name change.

**Motion:** Council moves to accept the proposal that the journal of the Meteoritical Society should be called *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*, from 1st January 1996 (MacPherson, seconded Wänke; carried unanimously).

5.3. Meteoritics finances: The journal's finances are in a healthy state (Annex VI, prepared by Mike Lipschutz). Discussion followed regarding an appropriate level at which institutional rates for 1996 should be fixed, based on a projected page limit of 900 pages.

**Motion:** That the 1996 institutional rates be raised by \$10 to \$230 for U.S. subscribers and \$245 for overseas (Stöffler, seconded Goldstein; 6 for, 1 against, 1 abstention; motion carried).

**Action:** Space for fax and e-mail addresses will be included on the membership forms, so that they can be printed in future membership directories.

## 6. Society Meetings

6.1. 1995: Washington D.C. (MacPherson): The OC has had considerable success in raising sponsorship from several bodies: over \$56 000 has been promised so far. Most of this money will be set aside for travel grants for students and East European scientists. Unfortunately, however, expenses such as hire of poster boards, *etc.* have risen, and the registration fee has now been set at \$230. The approximate budget is set out in Annex VII. Council supports MacPherson's proposals for the meeting, and thanked him for his efforts.

6.2. 1996: Berlin (Stöffler): Support has been forthcoming from the German Science Foundation for the meeting, and it is hoped that the registration fee will be below \$200. Field excursions are tentatively planned to Scandinavian impact crater sites and also to several sites of geological interest in the former E. Germany. Stöffler also listed the proposed Organising and Programme Committees (Annex VIII).

**Action:** McSween, as President of the Society, is to be included in the Organising Committee.

**Motion:** Council moves to accept the proposed Organising and Programme Committees of the 1996 meeting (Chapman, seconded MacPherson; carried unanimously).

6.3. 1997: Hawaii (Keil): The meeting will be held at the Maui Prince Hotel, in Makena on the island of Maui. The hotel has 300 rooms, and the projected 1997 price is ~ \$115 for a double room, with an additional \$25 for a third person sharing the room. It is anticipated that students from the local science college will help with projection, *etc.* It is hoped that the registration fee will be around \$200.

**Motion:** Council moves to accept the dates of the 1997 Meteoritical Society Meeting as 21 - 25th July 1997 (MacPherson, seconded Wänke; carried unanimously).

6.4. Future meetings: the results of the questionnaire circulated to the membership (Annex IX) regarding a meeting venue for 1998 were inconclusive. Given the lack of other invitations, it was deemed suitable to accept the invitations in principle from both Dublin and Johannesburg.

**Action:** The President will contact the proposer of the invitation from Johannesburg, and ask if the invitation might be postponed until 1999.

**Motion:** Council moves to accept the invitations in principle from both Dublin and Johannesburg, with a preference for holding the 1998 meeting in Dublin (Grady, seconded Chapman; carried unanimously)

## **7. Nier Prize**

7.1. The award of a prize to a young scientist (under 35 years of age) to honour the memory of A. O. C. Nier was discussed. The prize will be supported by an endowment from Mrs Ardis Nier. The institution of the prize requires an addition to the By-Laws, to govern selection of the awardee (attached). It is hoped that the first award can be made at the Berlin meeting in 1996. The proposed addition to the By-Laws was amended slightly after discussion (Annex X).

**Motion:** Council moves to accept Article 13 as an addition to the By-Laws, as amended (Goldstein, seconded Chapman; carried unanimously).

**Action:** The Secretary will devise an appropriate certificate to accompany the monetary award.

**Action:** The Chair of the Leonard Medal Committee (LMC) together with the Secretary will draft a statement to be published in *Meteoritics* at the earliest opportunity, announcing the institution of the award, and a call for nominations of suitable candidates.

7.2. The LMC will oversee the selection of suitable candidates for the award. There was some discussion as to whether or not a candidate could receive the prize more than once. It was concluded that if a scientist could make two substantial contributions in different fields whilst still under 35, then they should not be precluded from receiving the award again. The institution of the award requires amendment of the rules governing the operation of the LMC (Annex XI), and also further slight amendment of Article 13 (Annex X).

**Motion:** Council moves to accept the changes to the rules governing the operation of the Leonard Medal Committee and the re-amended Article 13 of the By-Laws (Chapman, seconded McSween; carried unanimously).

## **8. Any Other Business**

Chapman drew Council's attention to the recent crisis of funding in US science. The possibility of sending a letter of support for the science programme to the administration was discussed, but no action taken, given that even NASA officials were uncertain as to the future of the programme.

No further business. Meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.

**Monica M. Grady, 30th March 1995**