

**Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
March 18, 2025, 3 pm - 5:00 pm (UTC)
online only**

Zoom-Meeting Link:

Minutes for the 2nd Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2025

Council Members Invitees

Guy Consolmagno (President)	Elena Dobrică (excused)
Maria Schönbacher (Vice President)	Juliane Gross
Nancy Chabot (Past President)	Marina Ivanova
Cari Corrigan (Treasurer)	Yangting Lin
Jutta Zipfel (Secretary)	Yves Marocchi
Byeon-Gak Choi (excused)	Gordon Osinski
Alvaro Crósta	

Guests

Vinciane Debaille (Brussels Meeting, excused)
Dominik Hezel (Frankfurt Meeting)
Rhian Jones (Endowment Committee)
Natasha Stephen (Outreach Committee)

The following documents were sent to councilors prior to the Meeting:

Membership Committee recommendations - AGU Booth - from Romy Hanna
AGU 2025 proposal.pdf - Tom Burbine
Final accounting Metsoc 24.xlsx
NS250307_MetSoc_Outreach_Council-March-25.pdf

Agenda

1. Welcome (President)

3:00 pm UTC

The President welcomed the council, and introduced the agenda.

The secretary announced two electronic votes held since the last meeting. The following motions were approved:

- Vote 6e ***To approve of the minutes from the council meeting on 28 January 2025. (11 February 2025).*** 10 votes in favor and 1 vote abstained.
- Vote 7e ***To approve the recommendation of the Endowment Committee for funding four Community Grants and five Research Grants. (19 February 2025),*** 11 votes in favor and 1 vote abstained.

The treasurer announced that the Society is healthy. Actions she had taken were:

- Transfer money to secure the venue for the 2027 annual meeting in Flagstaff. This amount was already approved by council on July 28, 2024.
- Sending out the money to applicants selected for Community and Research grants.
- Transfer the approved amount to the ESG fund. The balance of a 70/30 stocks/bonds ratio voted on could not be met, as there was no such option. Instead a more conservative ratio of 60/40 was chosen. The non-ESG fund was rebalanced to the 70/30 ratio.

2. Committees

2.1. Outreach Committee (Natasha Stephen)

3:05 pm UTC

Report and hire of a social media manager

10 min plus 15 min questions

Natasha Stephen presented her report about past activities and current plans for the outreach committee. Major points she addressed were:

- Progress regarding a social media officer. The committee followed up on this idea and recommends this person to have content creative skills, and social media experience. The task could be supported by a grant paid out of the budget already assigned to the OC. The OC is currently drafting an advert for this grant that will be circulated over the newsletter, website, and social media channels.
- Formal challenges encountered are (1) accessing social media channels because of 2FA. (2) Scheduling of social media posts across multiple channels, and the sharing of content. Solutions proposed include purchasing a simply mobile phone that could be passed on to future chairs, and purchasing an online social media platform, e.g., Hootsuite.
- Future usage of Twitter/X.
- Opening new accounts on other social media platforms and the opportunities they provide to reach other, diverse audiences, including Threads, Tiktok, Mastodon, and Bluesky.

A motion was entertained:

Vote 8: *The OC should have the authority to create new accounts in the name of the Meteoritical Society.* Moved by: Nancy Chabot; Second by: Juliane Gross; 10 in favor.

- Partnerships with other organizations than those already existing.
- OC is supportive of Tom Burbine's initiative for a MetSoc booth at the AGU meeting.
- Future plans include installing initiatives of public outreach activities during annual MetSoc meetings, and feeder programs aimed at young adults 14-20 years old, as well as the recommendation to going forward with student council or early career committee.

The following discussion addressed three of the above issues:

1) LOC organizing an annual meeting may not have the time to organize additional outreach activities at the venues. They certainly could help with selecting places locally but they cannot lead the initiative. The organization of the early career lunch could serve as an example.

2) Ceasing X should be reconsidered. It may not be the best idea as it has huge outreach and keeping verified scientific content remains valuable.

3) The recommendation, which also has been brought forward by the membership committee, for installing an Early Career Committee should be considered in the near future, maybe as an ad-hoc committee first to see how it goes. Having single early career members on various committees may not serve their interest best.

2.2. Recommendations for AGU booth

3:36 pm UTC

Financial support and leadership

10 min plus 5 min questions

It was noted that there is support for having an AGU booth in 2025 by the membership and outreach committee with the latter taking an active role in it. Councilors discussed ideas for having similar booths on other continents/countries that would be sponsored with MetSoc money. A "booth package" could be created that could be provided for members ready to take the initiative for meetings other than AGU. The idea of providing financial support for volunteering student helpers seemed beneficial. Although council members were in favor for having booth(s) they were uncertain about the cost/benefit ratio. In the end it was agreed on to have a booth better supported and better equipped at the AGU 2025, and to see if the return is truly beneficial for the Society.

It was called for a vote:

Vote 9: Support the 2025 AGU booth for the Meteoritical Society in the sum of US\$ 6000.

Moved by: Cari Corrigan; **Second** by: Jutta Zipfel; 9 in favor, 1 abstain.

2.3. Endowment Committee (Rhian Jones)

3:53 pm UTC

Research Grants and Community Grants; Ad-hoc Grants for fireballs/meteorite falls

10 min plus 15 min questions

There were no issues with the Research and Community Grants. The report was distributed earlier and the recommendations for funding were approved electronically by council. There were no further questions concerning this issue from council to the Rhian Jones, chair of the Endowment Committee, directly.

Rhian Jones explained that the number of requests for ad-hoc funding for search parties of new meteorite falls increased over the last 3 months. She asked for council's advice on whether ad-hoc requests for funding outside the typical deadlines should be evaluated by the EC at all? This may lead to many requests concerning meteorite recovery.

The Endowment Grant website states that *consideration of applications is only carried out following two annual deadlines: 15th January and 15th June of each year, unless there is a truly exceptional timeliness to warrant immediate consideration.*

The following discussion did not lead to a clear answer but expressed several opinions: (a) more time is needed to think about the issue; b) evaluation should be possible but only in exceptional cases as stated already; c) evaluation should never be possible as these proposals are not in competition with others (which is the case for regular calls), and the Society is not set up to react fast and immediately to urgent requests.

The discussion was postponed to one of the next upcoming council meetings, allowing for more time for consideration of the various options.

3. Annual Meetings

3.1. Brussels (Guy Consolmagno)

4:06 pm UTC

Final financial report

10 min plus 10 min questions

The President reported on behalf of Vinciane Debaille who could not attend the meeting and had to cancel on short notice. Two options were proposed:

1. Brussels meeting made a surplus that needs to be transferred to a non-profit organization. The Meteoritical Society is a non-profit and the treasurer sent them documents to testify that. The Brussels accountant needs proof to accept it in accordance with Belgian law. The bylaws are clear that any surplus from a meeting should be transferred to the Society.
2. The Brussels organizers proposed that the surplus could be used to create a one-time travel award for 2025 to be given to mid-career to senior scientist members who are not covered by any of the existing travel grants, mainly coming from countries that are not listed as low-income but in fact do not provide enough support for science. This way the surplus could be spent directly from Belgian without need to go through the society.

The discussion was in favor of option 2 but it was questioned how this money could be fairly distributed and who would qualify. The president suggested that he will draft a call to be discussed with the EC before it gets send out to council for approval.

Options were discussed how such an additional ad-hoc award could be announced to the community. The president offered to contact Renée Dotson from LPI with the request to change the award application form. The opportunity should also be announced in the April newsletter.

(Addendum: LPI has a policy not to allow additional options to be added to an application form once people have started applying. This is the only way to ensure that all application processes comply with best ethical practices. The announcement and instructions on how to apply were posted on the meeting website (<https://metsoc2025.au/award-winners/>).

3.2. Perth (Guy Consolmagno) 4:18 pm UTC
Update
5 min plus 5 min questions

The website is up and running. Registration is open.

3.3. Frankfurt (Dominik Hezel and Jutta Zipfel) 4:20 pm UTC
LOC approval, Meeting type, Venue, Meeting manager support
10 min plus 15 min questions

Dominik Hezel presented news for the Frankfurt meeting.

Dominik Hezel showed the list of LOC members. The president recommended to invite someone from the LOC of the past and future meeting as well before the list gets approved by council.

The organizers plan for 500 attendees, 5 full days and 3 parallel sessions, passive livestream and a sustainable meeting. Hezel showed images of the reserved venues for icebreaker, lectures, and banquet. A contingent of about 500 hotel rooms was reserved offering housing at prices between €80 and €400, with most being mid- to low-price.

The organizers are currently evaluating catering offers for all events, and working on the budget. External help is provided by campus support and Frankfurt Bureau of convention and a meeting management organization that will handle financial aspects for the meeting, accounts, taxes, etc. The workload is distributed to several subcommittees to get better organized.

Questions from councilors about the Barringer lecture and keynote speakers? We are currently contacting potential Barringer lecturers. No keynote speakers have been invited. The council meeting will be held at the Senckenberg Museum. Wednesday afternoon field trips are in the planning as well as pre- and post-conference field trips.

The advice was to continue to plan for 500 attendees.

4. Adjourn 4:45 pm UTC
Jutta Zipfel moved to adjourn the meeting. Cari Corrigan second. All were in favor.