

Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society
July 13, 2009, Salle des Assemblées,
Faculty of Laws, Nancy, France.

Council members present: Pres. Hiroko Nagahara, Vice Pres. Ed Scott, Past Pres. Joe Goldstein, Secretary Jeff Grossman, Councilors Rhian Jones, Harold Connolly, Gretchen Benedix, Alex Deutsch, Keiji Misawa, Gopalan Srinivasan, and Rainer Wieler. **Regrets:** Treasurer Alan Rubin and Councilor Mark Thiemens

Guests present: Bernard Marty (MetSoc 2009, JPC), Denton Ebel (Audit, MetSoc 2010), Mike Weisberg (NomCom, MetSoc 2010), Tim Jull (*MAPS* Editor), Tim Swindle (endowment committee), Kevin Righter (nomenclature committee), Addi Bischoff (membership committee), Christian Koeberl (Leonard Medal committee), Natalia Artemieva (Barringer committee), Caroline Smith (nomenclature committee), Paul Warren (deputy treasurer), Brigitte Zanda (JPC), Fiona Murphy (Wiley-Blackwell).

President Nagahara called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm. She thanked the organizers of the Nancy meeting: the pre-meeting workshop was very successful with over 100 attendees, and more than 500 people had registered for the main meeting. She also thanked Rainer Wieler and the other members of the negotiating committee for successfully negotiating a contract between the society and Wiley-Blackwell for the publication of *MAPS*.

The minutes of the March, 2009, council meeting had been distributed by e-mail. These were accepted unanimously, after a minor correction, on a **motion** from Connolly seconded by Benedix.

1. Secretary's Report (Attachment 1):

Grossman described the activities of the executive committee and the council since the March meeting. These included: the first direct donation of society archival material to the Smithsonian Institution Archives (without going through Roy Clarke); negotiation with LPI to provide \$16,000 in student travel grants to the Nancy meeting; the authorization of a \$2500 retainer to a lawyer for advice on the contract with Wiley Blackwell; a 10-0 vote to approve the draft contract with Wiley Blackwell recommended by the negotiating committee (**Attachment 2a,b,c**); receipt by the president of a letter from Elsevier indicating that they will terminate the current contract between them, the Geochemical Society, and the Meteoritical Society to publish *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, effective Dec. 31, 2010 (**Attachment 3**); an 11-0 vote to give the Pellas-Ryder Award to Bethany Ehlmann (**Attachment 4a,b**); and the unanimous approval of a \$15,000 loan to the organizers of the 2010 meeting in New York. **Action:** Following a question by Scott, Connolly agreed to donate his collection of meeting programs to the society archives.

2. Awards:

- a) *Leonard Medal committee.* Chris Koeberl reviewed the committee's recommendations for the Leonard Medal and Nier Prize (**Attachment 5**). He reported that there were only two nominations for the Nier Prize, although they were very good. The secretary discussed the fact that the standing rules allowed the committee to actively solicit or produce its own nominations. **Action:** Grossman will discuss the issue with the incoming chair for 2010, Monica Grady. Connolly made a **motion** (seconded by Scott) to award the Leonard Medal for 2010 to Hiroshi Takeda: passed unanimously. Jones then made a **motion** (seconded by Connolly) to give the 2010 Nier Prize to Daniel P. Glavin: passed unanimously.
- b) *Service award:* Addi Bischoff, substituting for Gary Huss, presented the recommendation of the membership committee for the 2010 Service Award (**Attachment 6**). The current pool of

candidates is fairly large, with five active nominations, but new nominations will soon be needed. Following a motion by Benedix, seconded by Connolly, the council voted unanimously to give the 2010 award to Joel Schiff.

- c) *Barringer Medal and Prize*. Natalia Artemieva presented the report of the Barringer committee for 2010 (**Attachment 7**). The committee actively solicited nominations this year and now has five candidates. Artemieva reported that the committee tended to be highly polarized and had difficulty reaching consensus. She discussed various ways of changing the operating procedures to improve the situation. Council advised that the Barringer company should be consulted prior to recommending any changes to the bylaws or committee rules. Scott made a **motion**, seconded by Jones, to give the award to William K. Hartmann. This passed by a vote of 10-0 with one abstention.

3. Membership Committee:

Addi Bischoff presented the report of the membership committee (**Attachment 8**). Although membership is down slightly from last year at this time and about 100 members from 2008 have not yet renewed for this year, he predicted that we may reach 1000 members by the the end of the year. The membership brochure is done and was distributed at the Goldschmidt Conference, but it is difficult to evaluate its effectiveness. He suggested adding a box to the new-member form to indicate how the person heard about society. Through Alex Ruzicka, the committee has been discussing with editor Larry Lebofski the possibility of offering *Meteorite* magazine to members; *Meteorite* has 630 subscribers, only 110 of which are Society members. Goldstein made a **motion**, seconded by Wieler, to offer *Meteorite* to society members at the full cover price, as a first step. A vigorous debate ensued. Given the short time frame in which a decision has to be made prior to fall membership notices, Connolly **moved** to table the motion (Benedix seconded), and this passed by a vote of 9-1 with Grossman opposed.

4. Meetings

- a) *Nancy, 2009*. Bernard Marty reported that there were currently 503 registrants for the meeting, with 420 submitted abstracts. The finances for the meeting looked to be in good shape although one sponsor still hasn't made a final commitment. 46 student travel grants were awarded. This meeting was different from previous meetings in that there were three parallel sessions held one day. There was a brief discussion of whether this was allowed under the society's rules. Although the council-approved *Brief Guide for Hosts of Annual Meetings of the Meteoritical Society* states that there shall only be two parallel sessions, members of the executive committee last June, and most members of council now agreed that extenuating circumstances warranted the change in this case.
- b) *New York, 2010*: Denton Ebel reported on preparations for having the 2010 meeting in New York (**Attachment 9**). The meeting will be held at the Park Central Hotel with a reception at the American Museum of Natural History and a banquet in Chinatown. Hotel rates will be around \$159 (single) and \$189 (double). The committee is working hard to keep the registration fee under \$500, but much will depend on the final level of sponsorship. The website <http://metsoc2010.org> is operational.
- c) *Greenwich, 2011*: Gretchen Benedix gave an update on the 2011 meeting in the London area (**Attachment 10**). The University of Greenwich will not allow a final booking to be made until next spring/summer, but August 8-12 has been selected as the tentative date. The webpage is under construction. She presented the names of the organizing committee for approval: Gretchen Benedix (co-chair), Phil Bland (co-chair), Sara Russell (co-chair), Caroline Smith (co-chair), Matt Genge, Julie Gray, Shashu Lalji, Hiroko Nagahara, Ed Scott, Denton Ebel, Mike Weisberg, and Harold Connolly. These were accepted unanimously following a **motion** by Benedix, seconded by Grossman.

- d) *Edmonton, 2013*: Chris Herd sent by e-mail an update on plans for the meeting in Edmonton (**Attachment 11**). Counselors were concerned that the banquet might be too small. Objections were raised about the idea of having a separate ticket for the banquet instead of bundling it with the registration. There was also concern that the low-end hotel rooms be inexpensive enough for students.

5. Finance

- a) *Treasurer's report*. Paul Warren, standing in for Alan Rubin, presented the final report of the treasurer for fiscal year 2009 (**Attachment 12a,b**) and a budget for fiscal year 2010 (**Attachment 12c**). He reported several anomalies in FY 2009. We were mistakenly given \$42,000 by the Geochemical Society, who thought they had received our royalty from Elsevier. This had to be returned, and the real check from Elsevier did not actually arrive until after the end of the fiscal year. In addition, we made six quarterly payments to the to the MAPS office in FY 2009, meaning that we actually made only three such payments in FY 2008 and would only have to make three in FY 2010. Although we show a large deficit for FY 2009, this is mainly a timing issue and the overall finances of the society are fine. This touched off a lively discussion in which counselors tried unsuccessfully to understand what was going on. Grossman objected to the fact that the treasurer's final report for FY 2008 showed that four payments had been made to the MAPS office, not three. The deputy treasurer was largely unable to answer questions on behalf of the treasurer. Due to the necessity of setting the member dues for 2010 by the end of August, and in light of confusion over the treasurer's report, the president appointed an ad hoc budget committee to make a recommendation on dues by mid-August. The committee will be chaired by Tim Swindle, and include Rubin, Wieler, Goldstein, Grossman, Huss, and Jull.
- b) *Endowment committee*: Tim Swindle reported that the investment environment is much healthier now, and recently our investments had gained money (**Attachment 12d**). There were no requests to use endowment funds this year. The endowment brochures are complete but have not yet been distributed. The committee will make plans on how to do this in the coming week.
- c) *Audit committee*: Denton Ebel discussed the status of the audit for FY 2008, which had still not been completed. The committee had found minor discrepancies in the treasurer's report, but had not yet been sent all the bank statements for FY 2008. He also expressed new concern about the treasurer's statements, outlined above, regarding payments to the MAPS office. The audit committee cannot yet recommend acceptance of the treasurer's report for FY 2008, presented at last year's meeting, nor can it commence the audit for FY 2009 until the treasurer produces all of the required statements. **Action**: the Secretary will write to the treasurer and request that he send all bank statements since May 2007 to the auditing committee within the next two weeks.
6. **Nomenclature Committee**: Kevin Righter reported that *Meteoritical Bulletin* 95 had been published. An agreement was reached with NIPR to announce new Japanese Antarctic meteorite in the Bulletin. Grossman discussed the possibility of having the MSA programmer, Gordon Nord, write an automated interface for submitting meteorites to the *Bulletin*, taking them through the approval process, and ultimately uploading them into the *MetBull Database*. Nord estimated this would cost ~\$10,000 to implement. Grossman made a **motion**, seconded by Scott, that up to \$10,000 be allocated from the Endowment to cover this expense, but that the money should not be released by the executive committee until an contract acceptable to them and the NomCom is in hand; this passed unanimously. Grossman then presented a proposal submitted by himself, Caroline Smith, and Kevin Righter to amend Bylaw 12, establishing the *Meteoritical Bulletin Database* as an official society publication overseen by the NomCom, and creating an ex officio position on the NomCom for the database editor. (**Attachment 13**). Connolly made a **motion** (Goldstein second) to adopt the revised bylaw; the same councilors then amended the motion to name Jeff Grossman as the first official database editor. This passed unanimously.

7. Publications:

- a) *MAPS contract*. Wieler gave a final statement on behalf of the negotiating committee. He is pleased with the contract, which has the support of the editor and was screened by our lawyer. It represents a very good deal for the society, despite the fact that we lost potential royalty income because we could not deliver enough institutional subscriptions to Wiley. Fiona Murphy, representing the publisher, then briefed the council on what to expect in the near future. The journal will be published from the Boston office. They will advise us on the use of anti-pirating software, bibliometric data analysis, publishing ethics, copyright issues, and usage tracking. They will soon introduce a new package for online publishing. There will be no change in the manuscript submission system, which we already use (Manuscript Central, now known as Scholar One Manuscripts). Following these presentations, Grossman made a **motion**, seconded by Wieler, that we affirm the recent e-mail decision to accept the the final version of the contract (**Attachment 14**) prior to signing. This passed unanimously. President Nagahara then signed the contract.
- b) *Joint Publication Committee (Attachment 15)*: Brigitte Zanda, representing the JPC in the absence of the chair, Bob Byrne, reviewed the little that is currently known about the withdrawal of Elsevier from the 1991 vintage contract to publish *GCA*. On June 29, 2009, Hiroko Nagahara received a letter from Elsevier which terminated the current *GCA* contract with the Geochemical and Meteoritical Societies effective December 31, 2010. This letter states that no further payments will be paid to the MS after this date, although Elsevier hopes to continue some association to provide other benefits for members. The Geochemical Society President, Marty Goldhaber, who was informed of the contract termination at the Goldschmidt conference, was told that Elsevier wants to negotiate new contracts with each society separately. Due to personal problems, the Executive Editor, Frank Podosek, has not yet taken a very active role in this situation. Following this discussion, Goldstein made a motion that the Meteoritical Society would like to continue its 40-year relationship with the Geochemical Society to jointly sponsor a journal on the topics of geochemistry and cosmochemistry. After a second by Srinivasan, this passed unanimously.
- c) *MAPS Editor's report*: Tim Jull reported that he is satisfied with the new contract with Wiley. His interactions with the publisher have been very good so far. He has a draft budget for the *MAPS* office, which will be ~\$127,000 and covers Agnieszka Baier full time, Susan McDonald half time, plus summer salary for the editor; the details were not presented to council. The publication backlog is now gone.
8. **Website**: Grossman reported that Matt Genge has resigned as website editor. President Nagahara appointed an ad hoc committee to look for a replacement: Harold Connolly, chair, Gretchen Benedix, and Alex Deutsch. **Action**: the secretary will find out how far Genge had progressed in migrating the website from the current commercial ISP to a more portable format based on php/mysql.
9. **Other Bylaws changes**: Grossman submitted a long list of suggested changes to the bylaws, most of which were minor. These are described in **Attachment 16**. Significant changes include removing the requirement that council approve new members, adding the responsibility to the publications committee to negotiate new contracts with the *MAPS* publisher, and removing term limits on the editor of the *Meteoritical Bulletin*. One councilor suggested a minor change in the wording of Article 3. Following a **motion** by Goldstein, seconded by Jones, the submitted changes to the bylaws, as amended, were adopted unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.