

97-1 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 16th. March, 1997.

Present: D. Stöffler (President), M. Drake (Vice-President), J. Goldstein (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), H. McSween (Past President), A. Davis, G. Herzog, P. Jakeš, H. Nagahara, P. Warren, B. Zanda.

Apologies: L. Schultz, D. Sears.

Guests: F. Podosek (item 5); M. Lipschutz (item 6), C. Koeberl (item 7).

1. Minutes

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending and welcomed the new Council members.

1.2. The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated; no corrections were required.

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

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes. The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. President's Report

2.1. The President reported, with great regret, the death of Paul Barringer, at the age of 93. As a mark of respect, Council stood and observed 1 minute silence, to remember the wisdom and generosity of Paul, and his dedication to the Meteoritical Society.

Action: The President will send letters of sympathy to Dorothea and Drew Barringer, on behalf of the Membership.

2.2. The President thanked the Past President, Hap McSween, for the contribution he made over the last two years during his office as President.

2.3. The President reported that the Endowment fund, under McSween, had successfully been established.

2.4. The President reported that the journal *MAPS* continued to be successful, that the finances of the Society were healthy and that the Treasurer was investigating the role of national treasurers.

2.5. The President reported that he had had a letter from Ed Anders, deprecating the part-funding by the Meteoritical Society of the salary of a secretary at the *GCA* offices (item 4.3).

2.6. The President reported that an Investment Committee had been established, the current membership of which was:

Hap McSween (Chair)
Joe Goldstein (*ex officio*)
Mike Lipschutz
Drew Barringer
Tammy Dickinson
Ed Anders

3. Secretary's Report

3.1. The Secretary has written to the new Editor of *GCA*, asking that the correct list of Council members was printed in the front of the journal. The Secretary will write to the Editor again, requesting that he includes the dates of Meteoritical Society meetings in the list of forthcoming meetings.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. The Treasurer circulated a report indicating that the finances of the Meteoritical Society were in good order (Annex I). The Treasurer has been investing the royalties from Elsevier (Pergamon) in Treasury Bonds, pending guidance from the Investments Committee. The profit from the Nier Fund now stands at \$2201. The total in the Endowment Fund (MSEF) stands at \$4641. The Investments Committee has recommended that future Elsevier payments should be added to the MSEF, and that this decision should be reappraised each year. The Investments Committee will give a formal report at the Annual Meeting. Discussion followed on how the interest from the MSEF should be spent. McSween stated that he would be happy to receive suggestions from Council. Suggestions included a stipend for the Editor of *MAPS*, additional funds for student travel to the Annual Meeting, a cash award added to the Leonard Medal, or a reduction in dues.

Motion: that Council authorise transfer of this year's net profits to the Meteoritical Society Endowment Fund (McSween, seconded Warren; carried unanimously).

4.3. The President reported that he had had a letter from Ed Anders, deprecating the part-funding by the Meteoritical Society of the salary of a secretary at the *GCA* offices. The President will respond to Anders, including copies of the relevant Meetings' minutes. Council does not see any possibility for changing the present situation.

5. Publications Committee

5.1. Podosek submitted a report of the recent activities of the Publications Committee (PC; report attached at Annex II). A new Executive Editor (EE) for *GCA* has been appointed (Karl Turekian), on a three year contract.

5.2. There are currently no plans to publish *GCA* electronically, or produce back issues on CD-ROM.

6. Journals

6.1. *GCA*: There was no report from the Editor of *GCA*. The Secretary will write to Turekian, and correct the impression given to him by the Past President that his report should be given at the Annual Meeting. Council has, as yet, no figures to indicate whether the steep increase in rate for *GCA* has resulted in a drop in the number of subscriptions. The issue of splitting *GCA* into 2 parts should be discussed at greater detail at the next meeting of Council, when subscription statistics are available. It was noted that the Meteoritical Society could not take unilateral action without consultation with the Geochemical Society.

6.2. *MAPS*: The Editor of *MAPS* had submitted a report (attached at Annex III), which was given by Lipschutz. Guidance was requested from Council on three issues:

1) Requests for mailing lists. The membership list should not be available on the WWW. Council agreed that only the Treasurer of the Society was authorised to sell the list, and that Sears should direct all requests to the Treasurer, who would sell a set of mailing labels, and not an electronic list.

2) Electronic publication of *MAPS* through SAO-CFA. This is part of a larger issue, and should have been discussed by the Publications Committee before being brought to Council.

3) Letters of appreciation to subscription donors. The President will take action.

6.3. *MAPS* finances: The journal's finances are in a reasonable state (report attached at Annex IV), with a predicted deficit for 1997 of \$7832. Production Office expenses have increased, as increasing staff time has been required. Discussion followed regarding an appropriate level at which

institutional rates should be set for 1998. Lipschutz recommended a 25% increase, to \$330, but concern was expressed that new subscribers would be lost.

Motion: That the 1997 institutional rates be raised by 25%, but that the student rate should be tied to half that of the full rate (McSween, seconded Drake; motion carried with 1 abstention).

7. Society Meetings

7.1. 1997: Hawaii: although no specific report was presented to Council, the organisation appears to be in place, but concern has been expressed that the citation ceremony for prize winners is becoming too long. The President suggested that 5 minutes for a citation and 5 minutes response should be acceptable.

7.2. 1998: Dublin: the organisation is proceeding smoothly, according to information given to the Secretary.

7.3. 1999: Johannesburg: Christian Koeberl reported on behalf of the Organising Committee. Council is required to approve the proposed dates of 11 - 16th July 1999, although it is possible (but unlikely) that the meeting will have to be moved forward a week. The Organising Committee wishes to use the meeting to achieve some benefit for the African community, and made several suggestions for ways in which this could be done, e.g., an option for overseas members to donate money for Africans to attend the meeting, or to increase the fees for all attendees to underwrite the costs for Africans. It was suggested that monies from the MSEF could be used in this way. Other suggestions were that a Short Course of lectures could be run prior to the meeting, perhaps on the theme of analytical techniques, rather than meteoritics *per se*. Or the Meteoritical Society could sponsor a speaking tour through several universities. The general feeling of Council was that there should not be a check box on the registration forms for donations, but that costs should be integrated into the registration fee. Council expressed support for helping local students and scientists *via* a Short Course or lecture tour, and suggested that the Organising Committee should submit a formal proposal for specific financial support at the Hawaii meeting.

Motion: Council moves to accept the dates of the 1999 Meteoritical Society Meeting as 11 - 16th July 1999, and to accept the proposed membership of the Organising Committee (Drake, seconded McSween; carried with 1 abstention).

7.4. Future meetings: The President had received an invitation from John Wasson to host the 2002 meeting in South California. The invitation came from a consortium of universities.

Motion: Council moves to accept the invitation (Drake, seconded McSween; carried unanimously).

8. Any Other Business

8.1. The Treasurer circulated a list of members who had not paid dues for 1996 or 1997, asking Council to contact anyone they recognised.

8.2. There was a short discussion on whether or not local treasurers were still required, given the facility to pay dues by credit card. The situation would be monitored for at least a year.

8.3. The Secretary will discuss the wording of a certificate for Barringer medallists with the Barringer Committee.

8.4. It was agreed that the membership list should not be available on the WWW.

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

Monica M. Grady, 26th April 1997