

**Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society
July 25, 2010, Dept. Earth and Planetary Sciences,
American Museum of Natural History, New York.**

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, and Rainer Wieler. **Regrets:** Treasurer Alan Rubin and Councilors Mark Thiemens and Gopalan Srinivasan.

Guests present: Monica Grady, Kevin Righter, Hasnaa Chennaoui, Greg Herzog, and Nancy Chabot (Councilors and officers elect); Denton Ebel (MetSoc 2010), Mike Weisberg (Nomenclature, MetSoc 2010), Tim Jull (*MAPS* Editor), Frank Podosek (*GCA* Editor), Dave Mittlefehldt (JPC), Gary Huss (Membership), Chris Herd (Nomenclature, MetSoc 2013), Erin Walton (MetSoc 2013), Trevor Ireland (MetSoc 2014), Tim Swindle (Endowment), Christian Koeberl (Barringer), Selene Carey (Wiley), Scott Messenger (McKay), Cari Corrigan (*Elements*), Hiroshi Kaiden (Website).

President Nagahara called the meeting to order at 11:06 am. Incoming councillors, who were in attendance, were welcomed and introduced. The President thanked the Secretary for help over the course of her term, praised Rainer Wieler and Dave Mittlefehldt for the service on the Society and Joint Publications Committees, respectively, and expressed condolences to Treasurer Rubin, who was not in attendance due to the death of his mother.

The minutes of the March, 2010, council meeting, which had been distributed by e-mail, were accepted unanimously, after several minor corrections, 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 approval of a bid by Hasnaa Chennaoui to hold the 2014 Annual Meeting in Casablanca, Morocco (**Attachment 2a,b**); approval of funds to pay for a consultant to aid the JPC in negotiations with Elsevier; the approval of a proposal made by Hap McSween at the March meeting to have the Society join *Elements*; approval of the recommendation of the Pellas-Ryder committee to give the award for best student paper in 2009 to Vishnu Reddy (**Attachment 3a,b**); the election of ten new fellows recommended by the Leonard Medal committee (H. Haack, N. Kita, K. Righter, M. Chaussidon, S. Messenger, L. Nittler, D. Britt, J. H. Jones, D. Ebel, and A. Hildebrand); the replacements named by the President for two committee members who resigned; the approval by the Executive Committee for meal expenses by the Nomenclature committee in New York; discussions with the Geochemical Society regarding the Elsevier situation.

2. Awards:

- a) *Leonard Medal committee.* Monica Grady presented committee's recommendations for the Leonard Medal and Nier Prize (**Attachment 4**). This was the first year that new procedures were followed by which fellows were approved before the meeting in order to invite them to receive their certificates at the awards ceremony. There was a resignation from the committee this spring by a member who felt uncomfortable selecting new fellows when he was not himself a fellow. **Action:** Grossman and Scott will edit the President's duties document to raise awareness of this issue. Connolly made a **motion**, seconded by Jones, to award the Leonard Medal for 2011 to François Robert and the Nier Prize for 2011 to Fred Ciesla. This passed unanimously. Grady noted the lack of candidates for future Nier prizes.

- b) *Service award*: Gary Huss presented the recommendation of the membership committee that the 2011 Service Award be given to Dick Pugh (**Attachment 5**). Wieler made a motion, seconded by Connolly, to accept this recommendation, which passed 8-0 with one abstention.
- c) *Barringer Medal and Prize* (this discussion actually followed the Membership committee report later in the meeting). Chris Koeberl presented the report of the Barringer committee for 2011, standing in for absent chair Nadine Barlow (**Attachment 6a**). Bruce Bohor was selected for the award from a list of five candidates. Connolly made a **motion**, seconded by Benedix, to accept the recommendation of the committee. This passed unanimously. The committee also presented a list of suggested changes to its operating rules and procedures (**Attachment 6b**). Although these changes were not controversial, they included a bylaws change, which was submitted too late for consideration at the present time. The entire matter was therefore **tabled** until the next council meeting (**motion** by Connolly, seconded by Jones, passed 8-0 with 1 abstention).

3. Meetings

- a) *New York, 2010*: Denton Ebel reported that the pre-meeting workshop had 69 registrants, and the post-meeting one had ~50. 442 people, including 51 guests, were currently registered for the main meeting. A surplus of about \$8000 is predicted for the overall budget. A booklet was produced for the registration packets, which included information about all the awardees, including those who did not have citations printed in MAPS. \$65,000 was raised for student travel awards.
- b) *Greenwich, 2011*: Gretchen Benedix reported that the venue at the Univ. of Greenwich was about to be booked and that the dates 8-12 August are now final. The website www.metsoc2011.org is up and running. Hotel reservations will be handled as they were at Zurich, with a big list to choose from and rates near £120 regular/£42 student. The registration fee should be near £250. Sponsorships are still being sought from the Royal Society and others. An excursion to Hampton Court is possible. **Action**: Grossman will remind Benedix to submit a budget for approval.
- c) *Cairns, 2012*: Trevor Ireland noted that exchange rates have been volatile. He is still looking at July or August for the meeting, and is trying to reconcile conflicts with IGC (5-10 Aug), an ion-probe workshop (30 Jul-1 Aug), and a meeting on Nuclei in the Cosmos in July. Options include having a joint meeting or a separate meeting, perhaps at Port Douglas. Ireland submitted names for his organizing committee and a scientific advisory committee, which were unanimously approved with the addition of Ed Scott, following a **motion** from Connolly, seconded by Goldstein. **Action**: Ireland will investigate the possibility of a joint meeting and report back via email in 6-8 weeks.
- d) *Edmonton, 2013*: Chris Herd confirmed that 29 Jul-2 Aug are the preferred dates. The hotel to host the meeting is still uncertain. A registration fee of C\$350-450 is expected.

4. Finance

- a) *Audit committee*: After a reminder from the secretary that we neglected to approve the treasurer's report for FY08 following its audit last March, Benedix made a **motion** seconded by Connolly to do so. This passed unanimously. Nancy Chabot then reported that the FY09 treasurer's report had errors, and that the committee worked with the treasurer to correct them. The Audit committee did not receive all the bank and investment statements. With the data they had, the report of the committee (**Attachment 7**) finds a \$332 discrepancy between the treasurer's report and their calculated balances. On a **motion** by Scott, seconded by Benedix, council voted somewhat reluctantly but unanimously to accept the treasurer's report for FY09, with assurances that the incoming treasurer would follow more rigorous accounting practices. Scott then made a **motion**, seconded again by Benedix, that the treasurer's duties document be amended to include the new rules recommended at the end of the FY09 audit report; passed unanimously.
- b) *Treasurer's report*. Incoming treasurer Rhian Jones helped absent treasurer Alan Rubin prepare this report (**Attachment 8**). All endowment and operating accounts are healthy. A surplus of \$95,000 was present at the end of FY10, partly due to the receipt of two Elsevier royalty checks

in the same year, as well as the receipt of \$25,000 in start-up funds from Wiley. Once the treasurer's office moves to New Mexico, we will need to retain a point-of-contact in California for the corporation. On a **motion** from Benedix, seconded by Connolly, Alan Rubin was unanimously named to serve in this capacity. Jones went on to report that we have a huge balance in our operating fund, about \$100,000 in excess of that needed to run the society, of which Rubin recommended transferring \$20,000-30,000 to the Endowment account. Jones recommended that this be much higher, perhaps the entire \$95,000 surplus from FY10. After a lively discussion, Goldstein made a motion that \$60,000 be transferred to the Endowment (seconded, but name not recorded). This passed 8-1, over Grossman's objections that the amount was much too small.

- c) *Endowment committee*: Tim Swindle reported (**Attachment 9**) that investments which had gone down in the market downturn had recovered well and are now performing as expected, with returns between those of stocks and bonds. The Endowment funds were transferred to the Radcliffe Group in Tucson, who are more responsive than the previous portfolio manager. This spring, the Endowment supported the Ries Crater Conference (Nördlingen 2010).
- d) *FY11 Dues and Budget*: Gary Huss made a plea on behalf of the Membership committee not to raise dues this year (**Attachment 10a**). The committee does recommend a penalty for late-renewing members, who cost the society money and the committee time. Jones then explained that there are a lot of unknowns in the FY11 budget, including the amount of royalties to be received from Wiley. The treasurer's budget request (in Attachment 9) makes conservative assumptions, echoing the recommendations outlined in the report of the Swindle committee on dues (**Attachment 10b**). With the addition of the cost of subscribing to Elements, neglecting cash-flow issues from year to year, and setting aside the last royalty payment assured from Elsevier, Grossman and Swindle explained that we have a structural deficit of \$5000-7000. In his report, the treasurer recommended an immediate \$10 increase in dues to pay for this, a proposition that was strongly opposed by Grossman, Goldstein (and Huss) given the uncertainty in FY11 income and the enormous surplus from 2010. Grossman and Scott proposed an idea for FY11 that would actually lower dues, but balance this with late fees to keep revenue neutral. After brief discussion, Connolly made a motion seconded by Goldstein to keep 2011 dues unchanged; this passed unanimously. Goldstein then **moved**, with a second from Connolly, to institute a \$15 late fee for renewals that occur after a date to be determined by the Executive Committee, around March 1. The motion excluded members from low-income countries from the fee. This passed unanimously. Benedix then made a **motion**, seconded by Jones, to approve the treasurer's budget: passed unanimously. Finally, Scott made a **motion** (second not recorded) to direct the treasurer to withhold payment of the usual \$7000 to the Geochemical Society office without first obtaining approval of the entire Executive Committee. This passed unanimously.

5. Publications:

- a) *Publications committee report*. Rainer Wieler reported that the PubCom has negotiated a new contract with Editor Tim Jull for 2011-2014 (**Attachment 11**), and asked for council approval. Grossman objected to several clauses and urged resolution prior to approving the contract. **Action**: Grossman to meet with Jull and Wieler later in the week and iron out differences, with an email vote to approve after that. [Note added 3 Aug 201: all issues were resolved in this meeting; changes will go to the University of Arizona for approval.]
- b) *MAPS Editor's report*: Tim Jull noted (**Attachment 12**) that publication delays persist due to transitional issues, but things are getting better. The journal should be back on schedule by year's end. A special issue on Almahatta Sitta will come out in September. Several councilors expressed concern that production delays are causing people to submit their papers elsewhere.

- c) *Wiley report*: Selene Carey presented her report (**Attachment 13**) and reiterated that Wiley is on schedule to catch up on the production backlog late in this year. She asked if the society wanted to begin posting uncorrected proofs online to serve as preprints. Typesetting problems were discussed, and improvements have come with the development of a new style guide. 94% of institutional subscriptions were renewed, but electronic-only subscriptions rose from 3% to 65% of the total, many as part of multi-year agreements. Institutional rates went up 6% for 2011.
 - d) *GCA Editor's report*: Frank Podosek discussed the instability of the management situation at Elsevier, with rapid personnel changes over the last year. Elsevier asked for \$100,000 to publish Goldschmidt abstracts, and eventually the decision was made not to publish these in hardcopy. Without a sponsor for these, the abstracts may disappear entirely. Podosek is halfway through a phased retirement and now teleworks from Texas. The entire office could go electronic if necessary, but Elsevier does not like this idea. The transition to a new electronic editorial system provided by Elsevier has now been made.
 - e) *Joint Publication Committee (Attachment 14)*: The JPC has hired a consultant, Morna Conway, who has helped in negotiations with Elsevier. Mittlefehldt met with Podosek, GS President Mukasa, and Elsevier representatives in June, and most points of disagreement on the contract were resolved. Although Elsevier agreed to a single contract with the two societies, the GS and MetSoc will not be equal partners, with 5% of the profits going to the GS as a royalty, and 0% to MetSoc. Elsevier also wants to approve AE appointments and have the final word on the appointment of the Executive Editor. In addition, Elsevier has indicated that retired people should not serve as editor. The JPC has been exploring the idea of starting a new journal, and several potential publishers are very interested.
6. **Membership Committee**: Gary Huss presented the report of the committee (**Attachment 15a**), which shows flat membership numbers over several years. We have ~275 amateur members, a decreasing value because many of them may perceive that they aren't getting enough benefit from belonging. The committee recommends a collaboration with *Meteorite* magazine in which we sell subscriptions at cover price (**Attachment 15b**). Huss emphasized that we would play no editorial role in the magazine, nor would we claim that we sponsor it in any way. Grady pointed out that not all articles in *Meteorite* are in line with the purposes of MetSoc. Jones worried that it would appear we endorse the magazine, whether we do or not. Grossman pointed out that this arrangement would not attract amateur members because no discount is being offered. Goldstein then made a **motion**, seconded by Scott, to offer *Meteorite* to members when they join or renew. Grossman objected on the grounds that this is not a good deal for the society. The motion then passed 5-3 with two abstentions (Grossman voted Rubin's proxy along with his own vote in opposition to the measure). Finally, the committee suggested that the society investigate ways to support the travel of members from low-income countries to the annual meeting.
7. **Nomenclature Committee**: Chris Herd reported that there would be two NomCom meetings in New York: one regular meeting and one to discuss the issue of type-specimen repositories with curators. MetBull 97 is now published online and no. 98 has 1097 meteorites already. The new online submission/voting system [developed by the Secretary] is up and running, and is also used to track provisional names from dense collection areas. Rosa Scorzelli resigned and was replaced by Kees Welten.
8. **Elements**: Cari Corrigan showed examples of society pages in *Elements* and discussed tentative plans for how MetSoc might use these. Members' first issue will be in October. **Action**: Corrigan will send a draft schedule of topics for circulation to the council.
9. **Website**: Keiji Misawa introduced Hiroshi Kaiden as the next potential webmaster, and expressed NIPR's interest in playing a more active role in the society. Kaiden has already set up a trial website using Netcommons software (from the National Inst. of Infomatics in Japan). All will be free to

MetSoc, with web pages editable from anywhere. The site would be hosted on a computer at the Polar Data Center. Grossman made a **motion**, seconded by Benedix, that we accept NIPR's offer to host the website, appoint Kaiden as webmaster, and express our gratitude to NIPR for their generosity. This passed unanimously.

10. **Bylaws change:** Grossman presented bylaws changes (**Attachment 16**), which would allow the President to recommend dismissal of committee members, to be effective following council approval. Jones made a **motion** to accept the bylaws changes, but with the requirement that a 2/3 majority of council must approve all dismissals. Benedix seconded, and approval was 9-0 (Grossman voted Rubin's proxy and Scott was absent).

11. **McKay committee:** Scott Messenger reported that there were 12 candidates for the McKay award at the New York meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey N. Grossman, Secretary