

Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society March 12, 2006, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas.

Council members present: Pres. Herbert Palme; Past Pres. Gary Huss; VP Joe Goldstein; Treasurer Kevin McKeegan; Councilors Addi Bischoff, Guy Consolmagno, Marc Chaussidon, Trevor Ireland, Noriko Kita, Jutta Zipfel, Mike Zolensky, Secretary Jeff Grossman.

Councilor sending regrets: Henning Haack.

Guests: Tim Jull (MAPS Editor; 2007 Meeting), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor), Rainer Wieler (Chair Pubs Committee; 2006 Meeting), Harold Connolly (Pellas-Ryder), Gretchen Benedix (Logo committee), Hasnaa Chennaoui (Desert Workshop); meeting proposers: Stein Jacobsen & Misha Petaev (Boston), Gopalan Srinivasan (Toronto), Denton Ebel, Cyrena Goodrich, Mike Weisberg (New York), Chris Herd (Edmonton).

The minutes of the 2005 September Council meeting were approved with minor changes.

1. Meetings:

The Council heard presentations on four invitations to host the 2010 Annual Meeting, which should be in North America. **1)** Srinivasan proposed that the Society meet in Toronto. J. Mingall, P. Brown, and Y. Amelin would be co-convenors. The meeting would be in July or August at the University of Toronto complex. Wednesday tours might include the McMichael art collection, Kleinburg, or a wine tour to Niagara. Excursions might include Sudbury or Niagara lake. Registration cost was estimated at C\$375. **2)** Ebel invited the Society to meet in New York on 25-30 July, 2010, with AMNH & CUNY cosponsors (C. Nehru, H. Connolly, C. Goodrich, M. Weisberg). The CUNY graduate center would be the venue, with a reception at the museum. The banquet might be on a boat or at AMNH. The maximum cost, without discounts, would be \$500-600, but with breaks it could go to \$420-480. **3)** Jacobsen invited the Society to meet in Cambridge in 2010 August at the Harvard Science Center, sponsored by Harvard, the Center for Planetary Astrophysics and, probably, SAO. The organizing committee would also include J. Goldstein, B. Marsden, U. Marvin, J. Wood, M. Petaev, D. Sasselov, S. Mukhopadhyay. The banquet could be in Annenberg Hall. Fees were estimated at \$300-400. **4)** Herd proposed the University of Alberta in Edmonton as the site of the 2010 meeting, which would be held at the Lister conference center on 9-13 August. The city is inexpensive and fees would easily be under <C\$400 including Wednesday trips.

After a brief debate, 9 councilors voted to accept the Toronto invitation and one voted for New York. President Palme immediately informed the proposers of the decision and resolved to inform members of the decision by email.

Council agreed that invitations for the 2011 meeting, to be held outside North America, would be solicited in the Newsletter next fall.

Wieler informed Council that the 2nd circular was out for this summer's meeting Zürich. A session is planned with invited astrophysicists, and another will be held in honor of J. Geiss's 80th birthday. New plans have been made for post-conference excursions to the sites of distal ejecta from the Ries crater and St. Gallen.

Jull gave an update on plans for the 13-17 August 2007 meeting in Tucson. The hotel will cost \$89/night and the registration fee is probably going to be ~\$325. Field trips will include a birding excursion and a trip to Meteor Crater. A draft circular for the meeting was circulated.

Kita, filling in for Misawa, gave an update about the 2008 meeting in Japan. We should be able to have the meeting in late August instead of mid-September, as originally proposed. If there are no conflicts with other conferences, Council likes this change. The organizing committee wanted advice on getting a Cosmochemistry grant to help US students travel to Japan. Council suggested that they get a US member on the organizing committee to help with this.

2. Publications:

Wieler gave a brief report on behalf of the Society Publications Committee, which he now chairs. The issue of bundling the journal with other publications, which has been discussed in recent years, is not considered urgent at this time. Wieler reported that some people are worried about whether MAPS availability on NASA ADS may be related to our membership decline. He also mentioned a suggestion that somebody made to change the name of the journal from M&PS to PS&M to improve its standing among planetary scientists; the reaction to this from Councilors was rather negative. Next, there was discussion from Jull about recent copyright issues: MetSoc owns the copyright to articles, but authors have some residual rights and are allowed to post pdf files of their publications on websites. But recently, articles have been posted in full in open-access databases without permission. It's not a big problem at the moment, and Council agreed that the Editor should continue to be the final arbiter of all such matters.

Grossman read a brief report from Christian Koeberl, new Chair of the Joint Publications Committee (**Appendix 1**). It noted changes in JPC membership and the approval of one new AE for GCA.

Podosek presented the latest GCA report (**Appendix 2**). The San Diego office, which took over production of the journal, is doing good job. Typesetting and layout have been outsourced to India, and this has also worked well. There have been a number of minor format changes to GCA, including larger fonts, slightly bigger pages, and logo changes. Part of the effect of this is to make all Elsevier journal look more and more alike, something Podosek is not entirely happy about. He then put the question to Council: do we like these changes? No councilors were particularly concerned, but the JPC will be asked to look over changes. Last, Podosek reported that Elsevier has a new submission/review website, which GCA is now testing.

Jull presented the report of the MAPS editor (**Appendix 3**). The cost per page has been static at \$140-150. The recent policy of charging authors for excessive numbers of pages has resulted in shorter papers, and nobody has paid anything yet. Institutional subscriptions are down a bit, with most of the drop occurring with overseas customers. Jull proposed that we keep institutional subscription rates constant this year. The journal's budget is in good shape, and no additional money will be needed from the Society over last year. The journal has caught up from its production delays of last year. There are still some complaints about delivery delays, mainly coming from Germany for unknown reasons.

3. Finances.

McKeegan gave the report of the Treasurer (**Appendix 4**). The total number of members who ultimately paid in 2005 was 768. 22 more paid back dues for 2005 this year. McKeegan estimates that there may be 160 other people that might be considered "active," and hoped that we might persuade ~50% of them to pay future dues. 538 members have renewed so far this year. This topic precipitated a discussion about when we should stop MAPS delivery to delinquents. Some people are still getting the journal after more than 2 years of not paying dues. Grossman made a **motion** that: a) members who didn't pay in 2004 should get a notice to pay within 30 days or they will be dropped from the roles; and, b) each year, when dues notices are sent out, any members that did not pay their dues the previous year should get the same 30-day warning. This passed unanimously. Bischoff then informed Council that the MAPS email list is out of date. Jull confirmed that many addresses bounce, and that there may be steps the journal can take to help remedy this. It was also suggested that the Secretary write to the MetSoc organizers and encourage them to cross-check registrations with the membership list.

Following these digressions, McKeegan continued his report by noting that we continue to run \$10,000-\$14,000 deficits each year. The shortfalls are offset by meeting surpluses, which are unpredictable, and royalties from Elsevier, so it's not easy to say whether the deficits should be a concern. Goldstein then commented that the Council is generally not presented with a proper budget, which we really need to make rational financial decisions. McKeegan agreed to make a budget and distribute it to Council by June.

Grossman next brought up the possibility that we could have the Mineralogical Society of America help us by taking over from the Treasurer dues collection and other operations such as maintaining our membership list; MSA already does this for several other societies. The cost would not be significantly higher than we are paying now for these services, and it would be done professionally. Council authorized Grossman to approach MSA and obtain a proposal from them for such services.

McKeegan reported that the Society is 3 years in arrears filing IRS form 990 (tax return for tax-exempt organizations). He has approached a professional accounting firm specializing in nonprofits to help get our affairs in order. He believes this may cost ~\$5000, including filing our soon-to-be-due FY2005 form.

Goldstein presented the report of the Investments Committee (**Appendix 5**). All Society funds have now been transferred to our accounts at AG Edwards except one at TIAA-CREF, which is valued at \$76845. Zolensky made a **motion** that this fund be transferred to AG Edwards in its entirety: passed unanimously. Goldstein went on to report that the Endowment stands at ~\$403,000, which is up ~10% in the last year (including the \$20,000 in GCA royalty payments that was transferred from the general operating fund, or ~5% without the royalties). The Nier Fund is now worth ~\$44,000, up \$4000 which is more than enough to pay for the prize. A new Society brochure will be printed by the Investment Committee after we have adopted a new logo for the cover.

4. Membership Committee and awards.

Bischoff reported that we added 31 new members in the first 2 months of 2006, a respectable rate of growth, and speculated that this could be in response to the letter we sent out last year. Bischoff recommended that the President appoint Hasnaa Chennaoui to the committee to represent Africa. A welcome letter for new members has been drafted, except for adding the new logo. The Committee requests that \$2100 be supplied by the Society to pay for 1000 reprints of the article: Marvin, U.B. (1996) Ernst florens Friedrich Chladni (1756-1827) and the origins of modern meteorite research, *M&PS* **31**, p. 545-588. This will be given to all new members. Huss made a **motion** that \$2100 be spent from the Endowment fund for this purpose: passed unanimously. The Committee also recommended that the first Service Award be given to Jörn Koblitz for his work on MetBase, a computer database about meteorites, their mineralogical, chemical and isotopic compositions, repositories, and literature (**Appendix 6**). Consolmagno made a **motion** to accept report and give Koblitz the award: passed unanimously. A citation will be added to the awards ceremony at MetSoc meetings. The announcement to members would be via an email from the President.

Connolly reported on the activities of the Pellas-Ryder Award committee. Although they didn't produce the advertising flier that was planned, emails soliciting nominations for the award were sent to all GSA Planetary Science Division and MetSoc members. As a result, 6 nominations have been received, all strong. The committee is looking for ways to increase non-US nominations, however.

5. Desert Meteorites Workshop.

Chennaoui briefed the Council on her plans to convene a workshop on desert meteorites on 3-4 August 2006 in Casablanca, Morocco, just before the MetSoc meeting. She has approached Algerian scientists already, and will soon contacted people from Libya and Oman, inviting them to participate. Council agreed to help her make additional contacts. Chennaoui requested €3000 (~\$3600) financial support for the meeting from the Society. Bischoff made a **motion** that the Society uses endowment funds to support \$1200 in general expenses and \$2400 for travel support to scientists from desert countries to attend the workshop: passed unanimously.

6. Meteorite Nomenclature.

Zipfel gave a brief report on behalf of the Nomenclature Committee. Akira Yamaguchi has been appointed as a new associate editor of the Meteoritical Bulletin, and will be responsible for Asia and the Pacific. Zipfel will take over AE duties for Oman. The committee is following a more regular vote schedule and posting results quickly on the web. Five emergency votes had to be held for LPSC abstracts, with only one abstract being rejected because of invalid meteorite names. Connolly, the Editor, is moving toward publishing two Bulletins each year. The database created by Grossman has been very popular, executing >50,000 searches in 10 months, with hits from 85 different countries.

7. Logo Committee.

Benedix described the operations of the Logo Committee, which was charged last summer to run a contest to select an official logo for the Society. >50 entries were received from 23 members, many of which had multiple variants. The Committee submitted 8 semi-finalists to Council for its consideration. The Secretary then passed out ballots to the Councilors in attendance and received an electronic ballot from the one absentee. Each member voted for his or her 3 favorite semi-finalists, narrowing the list to five finalists. These will be presented to members for an email vote in the next few weeks.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Grossman, Secretary

Attachments:

Appendix 1 - JPC Report 2006-1.txt
Appendix 2 - GCA report-2006-1.pdf
Appendix 3 - MAPS report 2006-1 scanned.pdf
Appendix 4 - Treasurers report 2006-1 scanned.pdf
Appendix 5 - Investment Committee Report 2006-1.doc
Appendix 6 - Service Award 2006.pdf