

Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society September 11, 2005, Glenstone Lodge, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm by President Palme.

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

Councilor sending regrets: Jutta Zipfel.

Others attending: Tim Jull (MAPS Editor), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor), Greg Herzog (Chair Pubs Committee), Hap McSween (2005 Meeting), Rainer Wieler (2006 Meeting), Keiji Misawa (2008 Meeting), Bernard Marty (2009 Meeting), Matt Genge (website), Harold Connolly (Nomenclature), Uwe Reimold (Barringer), Brigitte Zanda (Nominating), Michael Kelley (Pellas-Ryder).

The minutes of the 2005 March Council meeting were approved with a minor change.

1. Meetings:

Hap McSween reported that 322 preregistrants brought in \$80,235 and sponsors contributed \$69,500. With this, 30.5 students received awards, including 15 with NASA money, 13 Barringer and 2 Planetary Studies Foundation; this was the most student awards ever at a US meeting. A slight profit was expected. 218 talks and 111 posters were scheduled.

Rainer Wieler reported that, with Council's help, he had resolved the conflict of dates between the Zürich meeting and the International Mineralogical Association meeting in Japan; the Meteoritical Society will meet on August 6-11, 2006. A large event in the city called StreetParade 2006 will be held on the Saturday following the meeting, potentially causing some difficulties for travelers. A boat trip to Rapperswil is planned and the banquet will be on Thursday at the lakeshore. There will be a field trip to the Alps, including a visit to the observatory on Jungfrauoch. A registration fee of €270 is anticipated.

Tim Jull updated the Council on plans for the 2007 meeting in Tucson. The Marriott Starr Pass resort has been booked for August 19-24, 2007 at a rate of \$89 per night. These meeting dates conflict directly with the Goldschmidt conference being organized by President Palme. Council urged Jull to try to resolve this problem. The banquet will be at the Pima Air and Space Museum. The organizers were considering taking an entire day off for trips, but Council recommended making it only half a day.

Keiji Misawa informed Council that the 2008 meeting would be held in Matsue, 600 km west of Tokyo, on September 8-12, 2008. Accommodations would be at the hotel

Matsue Tokyu-Inn (~\$80/night). An excursion was planned to the oldest shrine in Japan. Some counselors objected to the late date, conflicting with university teaching schedules, but were told that having the meeting earlier would be complicated by hot weather and crowded travel conditions.

Bernard Marty reported that 2009 meeting would be held in Nancy, France, probably around July 6-10. At council's request, Marty agreed to investigate late August dates as well. The meeting will be at the convention center and field trips may go to Ensisheim and Chassigny.

President Palme suggested that we always consider bids for MetSoc meetings four years ahead of time, preferably when we meet in Houston. There was consensus that this was a good idea and that it should be announced in the newsletter and e-mails.

2. Publications:

Frank Podosek gave the GCA Editor's report (**Appendix 1**), noting that the submission rate is growing slowly and stands at about 700/year. 40% come from the US and 35% from Europe, with an acceptance rate steady at 58%. The journal is instituting a policy wherein theoretical papers will only be accepted for publication if critical computer codes are made available in the electronic annex. Errata will now be published as a complete, corrected, and citable PDF files deposited in the annex. Typesetting functions are being transferred to San Diego from New York, which is hoped to resolve delays in production time and reduce error rates.

Tim Jull reported (**Appendix 2a, 2b**) that M&PS now receives 180 papers/year and that acceptance rates are falling. The total budget of ~\$400,000 is carried 25% by members with the rest coming from institutional subscriptions. Production problems have been resolved by correcting some problems in the copy editing staff, which took some. The production schedule is expected to improve by the fall. Ingenta is doing a good job of the electronic version of the journal, and is now beating the release date of the print version. The new online submission procedure is working well. Page charges are now in place for papers exceeding 15 pages, but this has had no effect yet on manuscript length. The society's fixed contribution of \$98,000 to the budget is still covering costs for individual subscriptions. Tim noted that authors do have the right to distribute PDF files as reprints, but should make sure the copyright statement is retained. Addi Bischoff noted that the abstract volume was not received outside of the US before the meeting. Tim replied that these were mailed on August 22 and that the delay was caused by the forwarding services. Council did not want to see the abstract deadline moved forward to accommodate this delay.

Greg Herzog, chair of the publications committee, asked for a vote on the change to the bylaws which the committee submitted to the Council this summer (**Appendix 3a**). This would allow the term of the M&PS editor to begin in January of any year, not just those divisible by four, and specifies the procedure for filling vacancies. A **motion** by Goldstein that the change to the bylaw be adopted was approved with one dissenting vote

(Grossman, who wanted to add a clause limiting the maximum term to 4 1/2 years at most).

Herzog then reported that the PubCom had reviewed a statement by Tim Jull about the status of the journal and recommends that he be reappointed to a new 4-year term as editor. A **motion** by Ireland to reappoint Jull was approved unanimously.

Herzog presented a report by the PubCom (**Appendix 3b**) on the issue of whether abstracts should be subject to the same requirement that all meteorite names be approved by the Nomenclature Committee as are other manuscripts. The PubCom was divided in its opinions and made no formal recommendation to Council. Podosek pointed out the difficulties in implementing such a policy with regard to abstracts to the Goldschmidt conference. The council decided to take no specific action and leave the decision with the two Editors, both of whom expressed the opinion that they would prefer not to publish abstracts with unapproved names except in very special circumstances.

Grossman reported that Joel Schiff was interested in partnering with the Society in some way to make Meteorite magazine available to members. Council requested that this issue be further explored in the coming months in consultation with the PubCom.

In the absence of any committee members, the report of the Joint Publications Committee (**Appendix 4**) was accepted by Council. By e-mail vote earlier in the year, the Council approved the JPC's recommendation to reappoint Frank Podosek to a new term as editor of GCA beginning January 1, 2006.

3. Finances.

Treasurer McKeegan reported (**Appendix 5**) that the Society's finances are in good shape. Between 50 and 60 new members joined the Society this year. There have been problems with dues collection which he attributed to errors in judgment and execution. Between 250 and 400 people have not yet paid this year's dues because they did not see the form included in last November's Journal. Some people later received a receipt for dues which they never paid. McKeegan will send out a paper letter to try to clear up these problems and also collect some back dues from 2004. The endowment funds grew by 5% over the last 13 months, with the Nier fund growing by a healthy \$2000. The operating budget showed a \$13,000 deficit, similar to last year, but this may not be significant due to lateness of dues collection this year, the fact that we float multiyear loans to meeting organizers, and the fact that a large amount (\$65k) of royalties from Elsevier were not included in the budget. A **motion** by Consolmagno to keep dues constant for 2006 passed unanimously. McKeegan indicated that he clearly needs help in doing the Treasurer's job, resulting in a **motion** by Ireland to appoint Alan Rubin as Deputy Treasurer in accordance with the bylaws; it passed unanimously. McKeegan then requested the Society establish a European Deputy Treasurer and an account in a European bank with a small balance to help handle transactions in that part of the world. Consolmagno suggested that the Society get a credit card instead, which the Treasurer promised to investigate. McKeegan was not able to set up an online payment web site

because he could not produce the Articles of Incorporation of the Society. He will also investigate what has to be done to make sure we remain (become?) incorporated.

Joe Goldstein gave the report of the Investments Committee (**Appendix 6**). We are still in the process of transferring our accounts to AG Edwards in Tucson, which should be complete within a month or two. Our goal is generate at least 4% growth over inflation. Given our ~\$335,000 endowment (not including the Nier Fund), we would generate an income for the society of ~\$12,000. The Committee is generating a new brochure on how we use our endowment to be sent out to potential donors. The Committee will also approach people one-on-one to solicit gifts.

4. Nomenclature Committee and web site.

Harold Connolly presented a report on behalf of Jutta Zipfel, chair of the Nomenclature Committee. As the new Editor of the Bulletin, Harold is attempting to increase professionalism and timeliness in the approval of new names in production of the Bulletin. He is considering publishing the Bulletin more than once each year. Caroline Smith is taking over responsibilities for meteorites from northwest Africa from Mike Zolensky. A **motion** by Consolmagno that the bylaws be waived allowing Zipfel to serve a third consecutive term in order to remain as Chair of the committee passed unanimously.

Matt Genge reported that the Society's web site has generated 21,000 hits since he began keeping track several months ago. The new database of meteorite names, developed by the Secretary on behalf of the Nomenclature Committee, has been incorporated into the site. A method allowing submission of large tables of meteorite names to the Nomenclature Committee is also nearly ready for release on the web site. Genge suggested that we find a news editor to make better use of that section of the site. Finally, he is investigating transferring the web site to an academic server to give us more flexibility and avoid annual fees.

5. Awards and nominations.

Michael Kelley noted that only two papers were received as candidates for the Pellas-Ryder award for best student paper this year, and that the number has been steadily declining. The award committee wants to advertise better and plans to develop a poster that can be sent to academic departments and meeting organizers. Consolmagno made a **motion**, amended by Goldstein, that up to \$500 be provided from the Endowment Fund to develop the poster; it passed unanimously. Kelley is revising the award guidelines to streamline the interaction between GSA and MetSoc and to allow presentation of the award at the annual meeting of either society. A **motion** by Huss to accept the report of the committee (**Appendix 7**) naming Danielle Wyrick as the winner for best paper submitted in 2004 passed unanimously.

Uwe Reimold gave the report of the Barringer committee (**Appendix 8**) naming Robert M. Schmidt as the winner for 2006. A **motion** by Bischoff to accept the report passed unanimously.

Frank Podosek filled in for Hiroko Nagahara in presenting the report of the Leonard Medal committee (**Appendix 9**). The committee recommended that Mike Gaffey receive the Leonard Medal and Mathieu Gounelle receive the Nier Prize in 2006. A **motion** by Consolmagno that the report of the committee be accepted passed unanimously.

Brigitte Zanda presented the report of the Nominating Committee (**Appendix 10**). A **motion** by Consolmagno that the Secretary should report the Committee's slate to the membership passed unanimously.

6. Membership Committee.

Addi Bischoff presented the results of discussions by the ad hoc Committee on Membership during the past six months. A new bylaw establishing a formal Membership Committee and a new award for non-research service to the Society was drafted and distributed to the Council in August. Six questions left open by the ad hoc Committee (two specific duties, the number of members, whether to have a co-chair, examples of activities eligible for the award, and the nature of the prize) were discussed and the text of the new bylaw was amended following voice votes. On a **motion** by Chaussidon, the new bylaw was adopted unanimously (**Appendix 11**).

Discussion followed about the need for the Meteoritical Society to have an official logo. Council agreed to establish an ad hoc Logo Committee; the Secretary will be a member and will be empowered to select a Chair and other members. [Note added September 21, 2005: the committee members are Gretchen Benedix (Chair), Jeff Grossman, Brigitte Zanda, Ursula Marvin, Ralph Harvey and Barbara Cohen.] The committee will report to the Council in the next month about the process to be implemented for selecting a logo.

7. Other business.

Vice President Huss suggested that the Meteoritical Society might want to become a sponsor of the new magazine, *Elements* (**Appendix 12a, 12b**). This would require an increase of dues of approximately \$12/member for six issues each year. The Geochemical Society, Mineralogical Society of America, and other societies are already sponsors. Huss suggested that this might help attract members from a broader community. No action was taken.

President Palme adjourned the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Grossman, Secretary

Attachments:

Appendix 1 - GCA editors report 2005.pdf
Appendix 2a - MAPS Editors Report 2005.doc
Appendix 2b - MAPS budget estimates 2004-2006.xls
Appendix 3a - PubCom Bylaw Change.doc
Appendix 3b - PubCom report on abstract policy.doc
Appendix 5 - Treasurers Report 2005.doc
Appendix 4 - JPC Report 2005.pdf
Appendix 6 - Investment Committee 2005.doc
Appendix 7 - Pellas-Ryder Report 2004.doc
Appendix 8 - Barringer report for 2006 award.pdf
Appendix 9 - Leonard report for 2006 awards.pdf
Appendix 10 - Nominating Committee report 2005.doc
Appendix 11 - Membership Committee bylaw.doc
Appendix 12a - Elements Sponsorship.doc
Appendix 12b - Elements.ppt