

Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
November 28, 2023, 3 pm - 5:00 pm (UTC)
online only

Council Meeting Online:

J Zipfel is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Council Meeting November 2023

Time: Nov 28, 2023 03:00 PM Universal Time UTC

Agenda for the 6th Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2023

Council Members Invitees

Nancy Chabot (President)	Elena Dobrica
Guy Consolmagno (Vice President; left early)	Lan-Anh “Ann” Nguyen
Brigitte Zanda (Past President; excused)	Denton Ebel
Tasha Dunn (Treasurer)	Alvaro Crosta
Jutta Zipfel (Secretary)	Marina Ivanova
Henner Busemann	Byeon-Gak Choi (excused)
Sarah Crowther	

Guests

Romy Hanna (Membership Committee)
Dominik Hezel (Audit Committee)
Rhian Jones (Endowment Committee)
Tim Swindle (Nominating Committee)
Cari Corrigan (Elements)

The following documents were sent to councilors prior to the Meeting:

Slate of Officers and Councilors for 2023.docx

Meteoritical Society Nominating Committee report.docx

Audit Committee Report for the Fiscal Year 2023 and FollowUp.pdf

2024 Elements Budget.xlsx

Agenda

1. Welcome from President and review of electronic votes since last meeting 3:00 pm UTC

The president welcomes all councilors and guests. She announces the electronic votes conducted since the last council meeting: approval of the audit report, approval of clarifications to the text to the posted rules for the Leonard Medal Committee and Jessberger Award Committee, approval of the minutes of the council meeting on October 10th, 2023, approval of the loan for the Brussels meeting. She further updates on the progress of the EE search for GCA. Currently they have four candidates that will be selected for interviews within the next two weeks.

2. Publications

- 2.1. Elements Budget 2024 (Cari Corrigan) 3:05 pm UTC
10 min discussion

Cari Corrigan reports that after last year's disaster with the 2022 budget, the 2023 budget was even worse. The reason for that is that in order to catch up with the typical business of publishing 6 issues per year in 2023 a total of 9 issues had to be published. The ninth issue for December 2023 is currently in press, and with that the editorial board will be back on track. There is no shortage of funds financing these issues but the budget for 2023 looks bad. In addition, a number of measures taken to get back on track failed, e.g., hiring a deputy editor did not work out as it caused more work to the editor, Esther Posner, than having no deputy editor. Measures taken by the editor, however, helped to keep the budget balanced for 2023. Copy editors, mainly text editors, will be contracted as well as website maintenance, which is actually reducing rates spent on these duties. The editor was granted a raise for her hard work and she will be gaining a 10 to 15% on advertising fees as an incentive. Cari Corrigan asked for names for a next geochemistry principle editor but will also check the running list with names and will send those to the secretary to be distributed to councilors. The vote for approval of the budget was tabled to be done electronically, since not all councilors found time to look at it prior to the meeting.

Note from secretary: the Elements's budget for 2024 was approved by council electronically the day after this meeting. A call for potential nominees for the geochemistry editor was circulated among MetSoc members in the December newsletter.

3. Committees

- 3.1. Membership Committee (Romy Hanna) 3:15 pm UTC
25 min discussion

Romy Hanna presented thoughts and ideas for measures that could be taken to retaining student and early career membership. There is a big drop off of membership in general and a steep increase before annual meetings, mainly caused by the need to be a member, if applying for student travel awards and if wanting to pay reduced registration fees. So far, a monthly newsletter was installed with e.g., job announcements, as well as the Endowment Committee opened the opportunity to apply for research grants for early career scientists.

Current ideas include installing a new committee that focuses on the professional development of graduate students, postdocs and early career scientists to allow them to engage and contribute to the society; organizing early career workshops or networking events at annual meetings; starting a mentorship program for becoming an AE in MAPS; more and better communications of opportunities within the society but also outside to attract other

communities working on related topics e.g., terrestrial analogs, experiments, and returned sample analysis.

The following discussion cautioned that the outcome of any of these suggested ideas may not lead to retaining younger members in the long term but keeping even few would be a success. Council felt it would be great to have events during annual meetings, and forming a new committee allowing them to get more involved and coming up with ideas that would be attractive for them and others in early career stages.

Another idea that was brought forward to keep the membership steady is raising membership fees if renewed only after April 1st. In addition, 1 or 2 students should be members of the Membership Committee to have a voice in membership or be nominated for council. The Membership Committee will discuss these ideas, make recommendations, and define the next steps.

3.2. Audit Committee (Dominik Hezel)
25 min discussion joined by Rhian Jones

3:41 pm UTC

Dominik Hezel explains the audit committee's recommendation to spend more money in the interest of the membership by decreasing the capital. Rhian Jones shares her insights into the Endowment fund, explaining that it is a convolution of different funds with mostly dedicated purposes. Many membership donations are specifically made for individual funds. During the last couple of years the EC has been spending 4% rather than the 5 % of interests following maximum set in the bylaws. The higher the capital, the higher is the amount of money that can be spent. The goals are to keep up with inflation rates and to support all currently running programs as best as possible. That can only be granted on the basis of a safe and healthy capital. Tasha Dunn shows that after the pandemic the number of requests went significantly up and that the money spent doubled if compared to pre-covid times. The expectation is that the number of requests will stay at a high level in up-coming years. To accommodate that, the capital should not be drained. Dedicated funds have grown rather large over the years, e.g., the Nier Fund, and are still growing due to specific donations by the membership. It was suggested to stop that option for large funds that would not need further capital growth except for the interests gained. Further suggestions were to use a certain amount of money to subsidize annual meetings to make them more affordable; use money to be spent in education; spending a slightly higher share from the interest made on e.g., the research grants, and see how it effects the capital over the next years; spending a bit more here and there but still be cautious; come up with a really great idea to spend a significant amount of money on.

3.3. Nominating Committee (Tim Swindle)
25 min discussion

4:27 pm UTC

Tim Swindle reported on the nominating committee and shared his experiences with the committee and the process. He thanks the president for selecting a committee with a diverse membership with regard to gender and geographical affiliation. This allowed to nominate councilors and officers representing a diverse group in all sorts of dimensions. Putting out a call for nominees returned many candidate names, and the committee itself came up with names so that in total 42 names were considered. All asked agreed to serve in that function if elected. Tim Swindle was very positive about the process and how well it worked. He interpreted it as a sign for a very healthy society.

The advantage in selecting nominees by a nominating committee is that there are no publicly known "losers" and that getting new people in positions is less difficult. It depends however on the diversity of the nominating committee, and the input from the membership. It was also

noted that during the last 40 years only in very few cases the nomination was contested by the membership which shows that the process works. The point was raised that a stronger involvement of council in searching or selecting potential members for the nominating committee could better ensure diversity of that group. Currently the president is selecting members and council is approving these. It was considered favorable for council to become more active in the next round of selecting a nomination committee.

4. Open discussion

4:50 pm UTC

Short discussion of loans for the two Annual Meetings in 2024 and 2025 that were asked for. The treasurer assures that there is no problem financially to pay for what is absolutely needed.

5. Adjourn

4:51 pm UTC

The president thanks all councilors and guests present for their work during 2023. And she closes the meeting with her best wishes for the rest of the year!