

**Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society  
July 27, 2008, room 401 of the Kunibiki Messe,  
Shimane Prefectural Convention Center, Matsue, Japan.**

**Council members present:** Pres. Joe Goldstein, Vice Pres. Hiroko Nagahara, Past Pres. Herbert Palme, Treasurer Alan Rubin, Secretary Jeff Grossman, Councilors Marc Chaussidon, Rhian Jones, Noriko Kita, Gopalan Srinivasan, Rainer Wieler, and. **Regrets:** Councilors Mark Thiemens, Jutta Zipfel, and Henning Haack (due to travel problems)

**Guests present:** Keiji Misawa, Alex Deutsch and Ed Scott (Councilors for 2009-10), Gary Huss (Membership Committee), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor and Leonard Medal Chair), Tim Jull (MAPS Editor), Tim Swindle (Endowment Committee), Bernard Marty (MetSoc 2009), Matt Genge (website), Mike Weisberg (for Nomenclature Committee), Christian Koeberl (for Barringer Committee).

President Goldstein called the meeting to order at 12:17 pm; introductions were made.

Grossman presented the minutes of the March, 2008, Council meeting. These were accepted unanimously after a minor correction.

**1. President's Report:**

Goldstein thanked the heads of the organizing and program committees for the Matsue meeting, Keiji Misawa and Hiroko Nagahara, for all their work in preparing the first meeting of the Society in Japan. He also thanked Gary Huss, chair of the membership committee, Rainer Wieler, chair of the MAPS planning committee, and the Secretary for all of their hard work during the past year. He also noted that the Audit committee had completed its tasks during 2008, the first year of its existence.

**2. Secretary's Report:**

Grossman reviewed the activities of the executive committee and the Council since the March meeting (**Attachment 1**). These included: work aimed at establishing a permanent McKay fund in the endowment; an agreement reached between the Society and Larry Lebofsky, Editor of Meteorite magazine, to accept the support of the International Meteorite Collectors Association and re-institute the Brian Mason Travel Award; the unilateral withdrawal of the Smithsonian Institution (Roy Clarke and Tim McCoy) from the 2002 agreement to maintain the Society's archives; Council's 10-0 email vote to award the Pellas-Ryder prize for best student paper of 2007 to Mathieu Touboul; an agreement between NASA's Cosmochemistry program, LPI, and MetSoc to provide money each year for student travel grants; the Secretary's efforts to collect delinquent abstract fees for the Matsue meeting (only 1 of ~325 authors had not paid or been excused as of the end of the meeting); a threat made by one member to sue the society.

**3. Awards:**

- a) *Leonard Medal:* Frank Podosek presented the report of the Leonard Medal committee for 2009 awards (**Attachment 2**). A strong pool of candidates have been nominated. On a **motion** by Jones, seconded by Chaussidon, council voted unanimously to award the 2009 Leonard Medal to Larry Grossman.
- b) *Nier Prize:* On a second **motion** by Jones, seconded by Chaussidon, council voted to give the 2009 Nier Prize to Gordon Osinski.
- c) *Fellows:* Because membership rose to over 900 members in 2008, Podosek submitted 10 names for consideration as new fellows. On a **motion** by Rubin, seconded by Chaussidon, the following

fellows were elected unanimously: Conel Alexander, Drew Barringer, Guy Consolmagno, George Flynn, Alex Halliday, Trevor Ireland, Randy Korotev, Steve Ostro, Carolyn Shoemaker, and Tim Swindle. Grossman pointed out that the current way we elect fellows does not allow us to invite winners to be honored to the annual meeting. He made a motion, seconded by Wieler, to change the committee rules such that recommendations for new fellows are sent to council by April 1 of each even year and voted on by May 1. This does not violate the existing bylaws. Motion passed unanimously.

- d) *Barringer medal and prize*: Chris Koeberl represented the Barringer committee and gave their report (**Attachment 3**). They have too few nominations in hand and are working on ways to solicit more, including creation of posters advertising the award. Pres. Goldstein has spoken with the Barringer family and they understand that we might not give the award every year if there are too few candidates. There was some sentiment on council for expanding the scope of the award, however Koeberl argued that the scope was already broad enough to encompass a wider pool of candidates than are traditionally nominated. Goldstein suggested that the committee advertise at a wide variety of meetings. On a **motion** from Palme, seconded by Chaussidon, council unanimously awarded the 2009 Barringer medal to Uwe Reimold.
- e) *Service award*: Gary Huss presented the recommendations of the Membership committee on the 2009 Service Award (**Attachment 4**). There is a good group of nominations in the committee's hands at the present time. On a **motion** by Palme, seconded by Wieler, council unanimously selected Derek Sears for the next Service Award for this work to grow *Meteoritics*, which he renamed *Meteoritics and Planetary Science*, into the major journal it is today.

#### 4. Publications:

- a) *Society Publications Committee; MAPS Planning Committee*. Rainer Wieler discussed how the planning committee continues to investigate the possibility of using a commercial publisher to produce *MAPS* (**Attachment 5**). Two new members have been added to this committee, John Wasson and Hiroko Nagahara. Examples of several proposals that have been received by the committee were shown to the Council; these will be reviewed by the committee in the coming weeks to evaluate their potential benefits to the Society.
- b) *Joint Publications Committee Report and GCA Editor's Report* (**Attachments 6 and 7**): In the absence of Bob Byrne, Frank Podosek presented the JPC report and combined it with his editor's report, since they covered similar ground. A different way of finding new associate editors is being sought to avoid the situation of the editor making an invitation only to have the JPC reject the candidate. A special issue of *GCA* on early solar system chronology is in preparation, but may be delayed or cancelled due to authors ignoring deadlines. Frank is seeking advice from the committee on how to handle papers that lie on the fringes of geochemistry proper, e.g., those that apply geochemical methods to nongeochemical problems. Submissions to *GCA* are growing slowly and the number of pages printed has levelled off near 6000. The time between acceptance and printing is now less than three months. Individual (member) subscriptions continue their steep decline and electronic access becomes increasingly available.
- c) *MAPS Editor's Report* (actually the last item discussed by the Council due to Jull's late arrival) (**Attachments 8a, 8b**). Typesetting of *MAPS* has been outsourced to India without any problems. This means that scenario "B" in the attached budget for 2008 is now in force, which results in a small profit this year while maintaining the society's contribution at \$98200. However, this situation could worsen with new administrative fees planned by the University of Arizona. The contract with Ingenta to provide electronic access to current and past issues *MAPS* has been cancelled in favor of a service provided by the University of Arizona Digital Commons, which will save ~\$4000/year.

## 5. Nomenclature Committee:

Mike Weisberg, filling in for the absent Jutta Zipfel, reported that Harold Connolly's resignation as Editor took effect on April 15, at which time Mike assumed the full duties of Editor. Pres. Goldstein filled the seat on the committee vacated by Mike with the appointment of Richard Ash. The new Bulletin, number 93, is at the printer and contains ~1400 new meteorites. Number 94 is already in preparation. The NomCom has established a new subcommittee to review policies related to meteorite classification in the Bulletin. This prompted an open discussion at which a number of councilors expressed concern that the NomCom not overstep its charter by trying to control classifications the way it controls names. Weisberg did not think this was the intention of the committee.

## 6. Meetings Reports:

- a) *Japan, 2008*: Keiji Misawa distributed the final meeting budget (**Attachment 9**). He reported that the pre-meeting workshop on classification of Antarctic meteorites had >60 attendees and 312 people had preregistered for the annual meeting, 1/3 of whom were Japanese.
- b) *Nancy, 2009*: Chaussidon and Marty discussed logistics for next summer's meeting. High-speed trains connect Nancy to CDG airport by a 1 hour trip. Room rates will range from inexpensive (€35-60) to €150. The meeting will break on Tuesday for Bastille Day, with the main sessions running Wed-Sat. Sessions will be in the Faculty of Law building, with the banquet at Abbaye des Premontres, 20 min. away by bus. Excursions to Verdun, Vosges Mts., and Lorraine vineyards are planned. The registration fee will be €20. A workshop on experimentation in cosmochemistry is planned. The institution may host scientists wishing to bridge the 2-week gap between the Goldschmidt at Davos and MetSoc.
- c) *Toronto, 2010*: Srinivasan has settled on July 25-30, 2010, for the Toronto meeting dates. The meeting will be held around the university, with hotels in the range of C\$100. He proposed using the Hart House for the meeting place. Sponsors are being contacted. Council expressed concern about the proposed lecture halls, which were long open rooms with high ceilings. Srinivasan will investigate further and look for alternatives if necessary.
- d) *Cairns, 2012*: Trevor Ireland emailed council with a proposal to hold the Cairns meeting in November, to coincide with a total solar eclipse at that time (**Attachment 10**). After a brief discussion presenting pros and cons on each side, Jones made a **motion** (Rubin second) to reject the November date and hold the meeting in July/August as usual. This passed 7-3. The main concerns with November were with academic schedules and family holiday opportunities.

## 7. Website report:

Genge gave a brief update on his efforts to transfer the society website from a commercial platform to a server at Imperial College. He hoped to complete the job by summer's end.

## 8. Finance:

- a) *Report of the Treasurer for FY2007/2008 (Attachment 11a,11b)*: Rubin reported that the MSA membership system is running very well and that Alex Speer has been extremely helpful. All IRS forms have been filed on time for this year. The McKay Fund has received donations from ~40 people totalling ~\$6400. The society is still hoping to raise at least \$25000 to create a permanent endowment. [Note from Secretary, 11 Sept 2008: Gordon McKay's widow, Linda Uljon, donated \$20000 on August 25; she died a week later.] A strong rise in

membership produced higher dues revenue than anticipated, and the royalty payment from GCA was also very high, \$63000. Rubin is investigating why we are still paying more for GCA subscriptions than we are taking in. We paid an unexpectedly high sum to the accountant for tax preparation fees (almost \$4000). Overall, we ran a surplus of ~\$10000 for the past fiscal year, but this is not a correct picture of our finances. That surplus includes ~\$6000 in McKay funds and \$12000 from the Barringer family that was immediately paid out in the next fiscal year, meaning that we really lost money for the year. The entire deficit was caused by the Society's large loss incurred by the organizers of the Tucson meeting: \$26000 was paid to them this year, and they defaulted on repayment of their loans from us.

- b) *Budget for 2008/2009 (Attachment 11c)*: Rubin's analyzed the society's finances, and projected a small surplus for the next fiscal year without raising dues. This includes a smaller than expected GCA royalty payment, which has already been received. He predicted that deficits are looming. Council then discussed, without resolution, how large a surplus we should maintain in our future budgets. Palme made a **motion** (Chaussidon second) to accept the budget as presented, except that the Treasurer would insert the correct GCA royalty payment instead of using a projection. The motion was tabled pending the discussion of the membership committee report.
- c) *Endowment Committee report (Attachment 12)*: Tim Swindle reported that the membership and endowment brochures are in final form and will be printed. He reported that the society's investments have essentially tracked the stock market over the last few years, but with smaller losses and gains. Since March of 2006, our investments have increased by ~5%, while the stock market indices are back to nearly the levels that started at.

## 9. Membership:

Membership committee report (**Attachment 13a**). Gary Huss reported that membership is up by about 100 compared to last year. The committee worked hard to recover as many members in arrears as it could, and was quite successful. New members are now greeted with a welcome packet, with mailings being done quarterly. The membership and endowment brochures are nearly done; printing costs will be ~\$990 for 5000 endowment and 10000 membership brochures, plus shipping. Srinivasan made a **motion** (Wieler second) to spend up to \$1300 out of the endowment for this purpose, which passed unanimously. The membership committee presented council with a proposal for setting reduced dues for members in low-income countries (**Attachment 13b-d**). They suggested that we use the attached "Hinari list" as the basis for eligibility, setting an annual rate of \$24 for countries listed as Phase 1 and Phase 2. New members wanting to receive the lower rate would be screened by the membership committee. Srinivasan made a **motion** to accept this proposal (Jones second), which passed unanimously. There followed an open discussion of society dues in which some councilors expressed concern that we should raise dues now, before we start accumulating financial losses. However, the consensus view was that it would be better to wait until the journal's future is settled and that we have enough cash on hand to buffer the situation. The above motion to accept the treasurer's proposed budget for the new fiscal year, without a dues increase, passed unanimously.

## 10. Archives issues:

Grossman discussed the problem presented by the Smithsonian's decision to stop accepting our archival documents for permanent storage. This event has invalidated many parts of the Document Retention Policy that was adopted earlier this year. **Action**: Grossman will explore various options with the Smithsonian Archivist and report back next spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Grossman, Secretary