

**Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society
February 28, 2010, Indian Springs Room,
Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, The Woodlands, Texas.**

Council members present: Pres. Hiroko Nagahara, Vice Pres. Ed Scott, Past Pres. Joe Goldstein, Treasurer Alan Rubin, Secretary Jeff Grossman, Councilors Rhian Jones, Harold Connolly, Alex Deutsch, Keiji Misawa, Mark Thiemens and Rainer Wieler. **Regrets:** Councilors Gopalan Srinivasan and Gretchen Benedix.

Guests present: Denton Ebel (Audit/MetSoc 2010), Mike Weisberg (NomCom/MetSoc 2010), Chris Herd (NomCom/MetSoc 2013), Gary Huss (Membership Committee), Tim Jull (MAPS Editor), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor), Dave Mittlefehldt (JPC), Selene Carey (Wiley), Tim Swindle (Endowment Committee), Hap McSween (Elements), Greg Herzog (Secretary elect), Hasnaa Chennaoui (MetSoc 2014 bid).

President Nagahara called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm. She announced the results of the election of officers and councilors for the 2011-2012 term:

Monica Grady, VP; Greg Herzog, Secretary; Rhian Jones, Treasurer; Harold Connolly, Keiji Misawa, Gretchen Benedix, and Alex Deutsch, 2nd term councilors; and, Nancy Chabot, Hasnaa Chennaoui, Luigi Folco, and Kevin Righter, 1st term councilors.

Grossman presented the minutes of the July, 2009, Council meeting. These were accepted by a vote of 10-0 on a **motion** from Jones seconded by Connolly (Wieler absent).

1. Secretary's Report:

Grossman reviewed the activities of the executive committee and the Council since the meeting last summer in France (**Attachment 1a**). These included approval of a revised MAPS budget for 2010; approval of a report from the ad hoc committee on dues, chaired by Tim Swindle (**Attachment 1b**); approval of Julia Cartwright as the winner of the 2009 McKay Award (**Attachment 1c**); approval of \$2500 from the Endowment for sponsorship of an impact conference in Jordan (**Attachment 1d**, provided in early March, 2010); approval of an addendum to the Wiley contract to handle members joining in the middle of the year or renewing late (**Attachment 1e**); acceptance of the slate of councilors for 2011-2012 provided by the Nomination Committee (**Attachment 1f**); and ongoing discussions with the Geochemical Society (GS) over the GCA contract with Elsevier. [Added by Secretary 18 March 2010: The Executive Committee also received a report from the Endowment committee on transferring the society's portfolio to a new investment firm, Merrill Lynch (**Attachment 1g**).]

2. Nomenclature Committee:

Chris Herd has assumed the chair of the NomCom. He reported (**Attachment 2a**, written after the council meeting concluded) that MetBull 97 has been submitted for publication. Alex Ruzicka, Linda Welzenbach, and Richard Greenwood have joined the committee. A new online submission and voting system is in place, designed and programmed by the Secretary. Herd inquired about the implications of the Wiley collaboration for the publication of the Bulletin, particularly on the use of color images. Selene Carey informed council that things could continue as before, unless the use of color was excessive. Herd presented a new version of the NomCom procedures document (**Attachment 2b**), last updated 30 years ago. On a **motion** from Connolly, seconded by Rubin, the revised document was approved unanimously by council.

3. Website:

Harold Connolly reported on behalf of his ad hoc committee to find a new webmaster for the Society. No progress had been made. Suggestions were made to place a poster at LPSC and advertise on the Society website. [Note added 24 March 2010: Connolly resigned from the committee shortly after LPSC.]

4. Meetings:

- a) *2014 meeting bids*: Hasnaa Chennaoui invited the society to meet in Casablanca, Morocco, in 2014 (**Attachment 3a**). She has already hosted a successful workshop on desert meteorites in 2006. The proposed dates would be 7-14 September. Good hotels are in the range of US\$100/night. Wednesday field trips might include Rabat and Marrakech. A 4-day trip to SE Morocco, including meteorite find areas, was also proposed. Support from the University, the Academy of Sciences, the city, and others was anticipated. Registration fees might be ~250€ A second offer for the 2014 meeting was received from Josep Trigo-Rodriguez, who suggested Barcelona as the venue (**Attachment 3b**). It was expected that a formal presentation would be made at the NY meeting next summer [note added 3/15/2010: no Barcelona representative could be found to attend the NY meeting so the offer was withdrawn]. The final selection of the 2014 meeting place was deferred until the next meeting.
- b) *2010 meeting update*: Denton Ebel reviewed progress being made in organizing the 2010 annual meeting in NY (**Attachment 3c**). He showed a tentative meeting schedule. A pre-meeting workshop on disks, meteorites, and planetesimals, and a post-meeting symposium on chondrules are planned. Five special sessions were suggested. The Barringer Lecture will be given by Sean Solomon. The banquet is to be in Chinatown. The total budget is expected to be \$289k, with an estimated registration fee of \$517. On a **motion** by Rubin (second unrecorded), the program committee listed in Ebel's report, with the addition of Nagahara and Deutsch, was approved unanimously.
- c) *2011 meeting update*: Gretchen Benedix reported from the UK via a computer video link on plans for the 2011 meeting in Greenwich (**Attachment 3d**). August 8-12 are still the target dates. The website is under construction. The venue cannot be booked until next July. Hotels are being contacted now. The program committee was unanimously approved on a motion from Jones, seconded by Connolly.
- d) *2012 meeting update*: Trevor Ireland submitted a written report on plans for the meeting in Cairns, Australia (**Attachment 3e**). The proposed dates are 15-20 July. Deutsch suggested looking into moving the meeting dates closer to those of IGC (2-10 August 2012 in Brisbane) so that people can easily attend both meetings. **Action**: Grossman to contact Ireland and inquire about dates.
- e) *2013 meeting update*: Chris Herd gave a brief update on plans for the Edmonton meeting. Students will be able to book double rooms at C\$98/night. There will be Wednesday pm excursions, with a banquet that night at Ft. Edmonton Park. Venues have been narrowed down to the Westin and Crowne Plaza (C\$135/night).

5. Publications:

- a) *MAPS Editor's Report*. Tim Jull presented his annual report and budget request (**Attachment 4a,b**). The last issue produced at the Univ. Arizona has been mailed, and Wiley will ship the January 2010 issue soon. Back issues are now archived at both web sites. The budget request for 2011 is nearly identical to that approved for 2010. Wieler made a **motion**, seconded by Scott, to approve the 2011 budget, which passed unanimously. Confusion was expressed about the relationship between the Wiley and Arizona websites. Jull replied that a new banner would be

placed on the Arizona site directing people to Wiley. He also noted that the back-issue repository at Arizona would stay up for about one more year.

- b) *Society Publications Committee*: Rainer Wieler reported on activities of the Publications Committee (**Attachment 5**). Following a complaint from a society member, the committee is considering what policy MAPS should adopt concerning the publication of mostly-descriptive papers on relatively uninteresting meteorites in regular issues of the journal. Various options ranging from automatic rejection to not having any policy at all were discussed. Tim Jull noted that, following discussions with Wiley, it once again is an option to put such papers in the supplement issue. There was general agreement on council that this was the best solution. Wiley has presented the society with the possibility of starting a new book series in collaboration with MetSoc. This entails no financial risk, but would require us to provide an editor. This resulted in a wide-ranging discussion of who would do it, what the benefits would be, and the nature of the competition in this type of market. No decision was reached. Finally, a new contract with the MAPS Editor is under negotiation. The goal is to have it signed this summer.
 - c) *Wiley report*: Selene Carey gave the first official report to council by the new MAPS publisher (**Attachment 6**). Selene will be the society's primary contact at Wiley. ~2/3 of institutional subscribers had renewed by Feb. 1, about what they expected. >40% renewed as online-only. Back issues to 1997 are now posted on the Wiley site. Papers that are in press are now being posted in Wiley's "early view" system. Wiley is working with MSA to grant member access through the regular membership website, but have not yet gotten this working. Wiley is working on a marketing plan to increase the visibility of MAPS. They are providing an online service by which authors can pay a fee to obtain immediate open access, rather than waiting three years (~\$3000). Some problems with the typesetting of the initial volume have been encountered, and a style guide is being developed. Wiley expects to have the publication backlog eliminated by the end of April, following several closely spaced issues. The question was asked as to whether every member needs to take a subscription to MAPS or could a no-MAPS membership option be offered. Carey said this might be possible, but needed further discussion between Wiley and the society.
 - d) *GCA Editor's report*: Frank Podosek discussed the state of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (**Attachment 7**). The impact factor stands at 4.235, second only to *Earth Science Reviews* (which doesn't publish original research) among geosciences journals. GCA is not influenced by impact factors in its editorial policies. A policy issue that has recently arisen concerns "publication on demand" services, through which authors can publish such things as their dissertations. GCA will consider such things as prior publications in considering whether to accept a manuscript. Similarly, publications in languages other than English will also be considered as prior publications, even for relatively inaccessible languages to the community at large. Podosek finally brought up the issue of authors publishing Goldschmidt abstracts, not with the intention of attending the conference, but instead to get a coveted GCA citation in the abstract volume. The consensus of council was that this was not a serious problem.
 - e) *JPC report*: Dave Mittlefehldt, the new chair of the Joint Publications Committee, presented a report and discussion of recent activities (**Attachment 8a**). Bill Casey was added from the GS side, to replace former chair Bob Byrne. The method by which AEs are selected is being refined. [The rest of the council discussion on this subject has been redacted pending resolution of contract issues with Elsevier -- JNG, 6 Aug 2010]
6. **Membership Committee**: Gary Huss reported (**Attachment 9**) that 135 people still have not renewed for 2010. Each year, we seem to lose 40-50 members and gain a similar number of new members, with students being the most "volatile." Our new brochures have been deployed at various

meetings, but have had little effect on membership. To attract new members, Huss again brought up the question of whether we might affiliate with *Meteorite* magazine, and council favored having the committee continue to investigate this possibility. The Service Award has had no new nominations in two years. Council urged the committee to solicit new nominations on its own, as other award committees do.

7. Finance

- a) *Treasurer's Interim Report.* Alan Rubin gave a mid-year report on FY2010 (**Attachment 10a,b**). MSA is still doing an excellent job managing the membership renewal system. Rubin has worked closely with the Audit committee in the last few months, and they have been helpful in identifying accounting problems. The transition of the treasurer's duties to Treasurer-elect Jones has already begun. This year, we have received ~\$2500 in contributions to the McKay and Nier Funds, and the Endowment account stands at \$420,000. Our accounting bill for tax preparation was again very high (~\$4000). Our corporation is in good standing with the California tax board, and paperwork has been filed to regularize our situation with the California Secretary of State's office. The Elsevier royalty plus our Wiley start-up funds will give us a large surplus this year.
- b) *Endowment committee report:* Tim Swindle reported that the performance of the Endowment fund was worse than expected during the market downturn, but it recovered well, at a rate intermediate between those of stocks and bonds (**Attachment 10c**). The Endowment has been transferred to an account with Merrill Lynch. Uwe Reimold and Joe Goldstein have joined the committee. In the past six months, there have been three requests to use Endowment money. The only one not yet approved was for student-travel support at the upcoming Nordlingen-Ries conference. Connolly made a **motion**, seconded by Scott, that \$1500 be so allocated; this passed without dissent. The committee will be working on fundraising, especially through its "legacy project" to attract members to donate to the Society via estate planning. We also need to do a better job in thanking our donors, especially at annual meetings. **Action:** the committee will draft a document outlining various procedures that should be followed. [Note added 18 March 2010: the Endowment committee met at LPSC and submitted a brief report of their activities in **Attachment 10d**.]
- c) *Audit committee report:* Denton Ebel reported that Treasurer's Report for FY 2008 has been revised, and now has been approved by the Audit committee (**Attachment 11**). Nancy Chabot is working to complete the audit of the report for FY 2009. The committee is working on a procedures document to specify how future audits are to be performed. Grossman suggested that one improvement would be to have the committee terms synchronized with the fiscal year, which will allow the committee adequate time to complete an audit before committee rotations occur. **Action:** Grossman to submit a bylaws change prior to the next council meeting.

8. **Elements magazine:** Hap McSween formally invited MetSoc to become a participating society in *Elements* magazine (**Attachment 12**). He suggested that this would be an excellent way to increase membership, as >15,000 people read the magazine. *Elements* issues, which come out bimonthly, are always topical, with articles aimed at an undergraduate level. There have already been issues of interest to MetSoc, including ones on Mars, the Moon issue, diamonds, and a forthcoming one on Cosmochemistry; an issue on impacts is being planned. Half of each issue is made up of newsletters for the sponsoring societies. Many recipients of the magazine read it cover-to-cover, including the newsletters of societies to which they do not belong. MetSoc will get 1 page in each issue. The costs will be \$15/member, or ~\$15,000/year for us. Scott made a **motion**, seconded by Deutsch, that the council "endorses the recommendation to join *Elements*. The President should appoint an ad hoc committee to study the matter, to report by the next council meeting." This passed unanimously. **Action** items for the committee are to: 1) advise council on 2011 dues, given the intention to join *Elements*; 2) to investigate with Wiley whether the society can offer membership options that do not include a subscription to MAPS.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.