

**Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
July 28, 2024, 12 pm – 4:30 pm (CEST)**

In person at Brussels (see last page for details on venue) and online

Join Zoom Meeting

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Council in 2024

Council Members Invitees

Nancy Chabot (President)

Guy Consolmagno (Vice President)

Brigitte Zanda (Past President)

Tasha Dunn (Treasurer)

Jutta Zipfel (Secretary)

Henner Busemann

Sarah Crowther

Elena Dobrica

Lan-Anh “Ann” Nguyen

Denton Ebel

Alvaro Crosta

Marina Ivanova (virtual)

Byeon-Gak Choi(excused)

Guests (in person unless noted as virtual)

Maria Schönbacher (Vice President Elect)

Vinciane Debaille (Brussels Meeting)

Steven Goderis (Brussels Meeting)

Aaron Cavosie (Perth Meeting)

Jeff Catalano (GCA)

Hailiang Dong (GCA) (virtual)

Tim Jull (MAPS)

Daniel Glavin (Publications Committee), Susanne Schwenzer (virtual)

Cari Corrigan (Elements)

Francis McCubbin (Nomenclature Committee)(virtual)

Aaron Cavosie (Impact Cratering Committee)

Ludovic Ferriere (Impact Cratering Committee)

Romy Hanna (Membership Committee)

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

FY 24 Treasurer Report.pdf

2023 Publisher Report_MAPS.pdf

GCA_Annual_Report_to_MetSoc_2024.pdf

JPC report July 2024.docx

Membership Committee Report July 2024.pdf

MAPS Budget 2025.xls

MAPS report July 2024 Brussels tj.doc

Report_for_CouncilM_July2024.docx

2024 Report of the Ethics Committee.pdf

Elements_Recommendation_July2024.pdf

Elements report 2024.docx

Agenda

1. President's welcome; review of electronic votes since last meeting 12:00 pm CEST

The following votes were carried out via email since the last council meeting:

- 23e Follow the recommendation of the Publication Committee that Tim Jull continues for another four-years term as editor of MAPS starting January 1, 2025. (14 May 2024)
- 24e Approval of the addition of bylaws for the Editor of the Meteoritical Society Contributions to Elements-revised version from 15 May. (14 May 2024)
- 25e Approval of the minutes of the council meeting on 7 May. (21 May 2024)
- 26e Approval of the selected first choice, Nicole Nie, for recipient of the Nier Prize 2025. (7 June 2024)
- 27e Approval of the budget for the new fiscal year (June 1, 2024 - May 31, 2025) as proposed by the treasurer. (10 June 2024)
- 28e Approval of the dates for the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society in Flagstaff, USA on 26-30 July 2027. (17 July 2024)
- 29e Approval of the recommendation for funding of three Community Grants and nine Research Grants as selected by the Endowment Committee. (17 July 2024)

2. Brussels meeting

2.1. Meeting status and news (Vinciane Debaille, Steven Goderis) 12:46 pm CEST
V. Debaille and S. Goderis reported that the meeting is all set. Including onsite registrations slightly over 500 participants are expected. There are no major concerns but rather some advice for future meeting organizers. These include to start contacting sponsors at least a year before the meeting as most sponsors were slow to respond and needed time to decide; and to use PayPal rather than Stripe for collecting registration fees in order to prevent delayed access to the payments. The organizers were surprised that the demand for posters was large. They asked first authors to give oral presentations instead which resulted in many authors giving more than one talk. The number of participants volunteering as session chairs was low. Travel grants were highly supportive. It is considered unfortunate that there are no means to support participants from mid-income countries who are not students or early career members.

- 2.2. Travel awards (Tasha Dunn) 12:10 pm CEST

T. Dunn reported that 67 travel awards totaling slightly over US\$ xxx were granted. The average support by person was about US\$ xxx. The NASA travel fund supported 11 students based in the US with US\$ xxx.

The travel awards committee is set up for each Annual Meeting by the organizers of that meeting. It grants travel support based on merits and needs as defined by the committee.

Although it was requested, the treasurer was not involved in the meetings. This, as a consequence, led to several adjustments necessary because specific rules, mainly concerning eligibility, for individual travel grants were not properly considered.

The following discussion raised the question about the percentage of members who applied for travel support. There were 110 applicants, so roughly 22% of the expected 500 participants applied for a travel grant, of which around 60% were successful. Some councilors recommended that it was needed to notify unsuccessful applicants in a timely manner why an application was declined. In order to keep continuity and to transfer knowledge it was suggested that someone on council should become chair of future travel awards committees. This could, for example, be the vice president or past president.

Motion: The past president is officially appointed as chair of the travel awards committee.

Move: Guy Consolmagno

Second: Brigitte Zanda

all in favor

3. Perth meeting (Aaron Cavosie) 12:22 pm CEST
A. Cavosie gave a presentation about Perth and its lovely sites. The Conference Center is nice and modern. Currently the early bird registration for full members is estimated to be around A\$ 1100, US\$ 720 or EUR 660. It was unclear whether this fee includes costs for onsite food (lunch?) which are around A\$ 100 per day. Furthermore it was not clear whether the Barringer lecture has been scheduled. As a Post Conference field trip, a multi day trip at the outback stock station is proposed. This will provide a true bush experience with sleeping bags under the open sky, and many more things.

A number of questions were raised by the organizers:

1) Should food be included in the registration fees? More detailed input from the organizers on the various options to be considered must be provided and any decision was postponed to the next council meeting in September.

2) Should the organizers budget for sending out marketing emails? Council was of the opinion that this is not necessary as the current means used for promotion are sufficient, e.g., LPI meeting calendar, website and newsletter of The Meteoritical Society and the website of the organizers, as well as social media.

3) Should the organizers budget for a financial audit at the end of the meeting? Council declined this as the final budget will need to be approved by council and eventually by the audit committee of the Meteoritical Society.

4) Can members of the LOC have complimentary registrations? It is typical for many meetings to give complimentary registrations to those who help run the meeting, but it must be included in the proposed budget and approved by Council. The Brussels meeting noted that many on the LOC paid registration but that they gave complimentary registration to roughly 20 student volunteers to help run the daily activities of the meeting.

4. Elements

4.1 Report (Cari Corrigan) 13:08 pm CEST
C. Corrigan reported that the system with Principle Editors works well and that everything is on track again. Janne Blichert-Toft, the principle editor for geochemistry, will step down by the end of 2024. Further she reported that advertisement in print has dropped by 50 % in the last couple of years. However, paper costs and international shipping costs keep going up. The executive editor, Esther Posner, is exploring possibilities for additional printing in Europe and shipping out from there. Currently any deficits can be covered by the endowment of Elements. She reports that a shop will soon be available online where posters, back issues, or stickers etc. can be purchased.

C. Corrigan asked for ideas about themes for CosmoElements. If interested email C. Corrigan.

4.2 New MetSoc Editor for Elements (Nancy Chabot) 13:20 pm CEST

The president honored and thanked C. Corrigan who has been the editor for the Meteoritical Society Contributions to Elements since the Society joined in 2010. Since C. Corrigan will become treasurer of The Meteoritical Society in 2025, she will step down from her duties as editor. The president recommended E. Bullock at Carnegie Science as next Editor of Meteoritical Society Contributions to Elements. E. Bullock would be ready for a three years position.

Motion: Approve Emma Bullock as the next editor of Meteoritical Society Contributions to Elements.

Move: Jutta Zipfel

Second: Denton Ebel
all in favor

5. Treasurer's Report (Tasha Dunn) 1:10 pm CEST

The treasurer gave her report and highlighted that the current membership counts over 1100 members which is more than for a long time. She explained that the operating fund started into FY25 well balanced but was significantly lower a week later when a large bill from MAPS had to be paid. This meant that the operating fund started with an effectively much lower balance than it should have had. Both investment funds are doing well. Fund management by DA. Davidson is highly beneficial for the Society as is the cooperation with them.

Based on her report the treasurer recommended:

(1) To lower member fees for print subscriptions. Currently US\$ 105 are charged for print subscriptions while Wiley bills the Society only US\$ 52 starting in 2025. Therefore the Executive Committee recommends to charge a universal fee for the new contract period of US\$ 60. Wiley guaranteed print subscriptions for the next 5 years in the recently signed contract. About 160 full paying members ordered a print subscription, and 6 to 10 members from low-income countries receive print subscriptions for free.

Motion: Change the fees for print subscription to US\$ 60.

Move: Tasha Dunn

Second: Denton Ebel
all in favor

(2) Operating fund should be around US\$ xxx which equals a reserve of 10 % as listed in the bylaws.

Motion: Transfer US\$ xxx from the general endowment to the operating fund.

Move: Tasha Dunn

Second: Elena Dobrica, Brigitte Zanda, Sarah Crowther
all in favor

(3) The organizers of the annual meeting of The Meteoritical Society in Flagstaff, Arizona in 2027 need a loan of US\$ xxx to secure the venue.

Motion: Loan US\$ xxx to the Arizona 2027 meeting organizers to secure the venue.

Move: Tasha Dunn

Second: Denton Ebel
all in favor

6. Council business

1:54 pm CEST

Discussion

A discussion about what worked great and what worked not so great during the current term of councilors and officers was led by the secretary. In general, the concept of voting via email on routine items is considered great. That allows meetings to be shorter and more concise.

However, it was felt that occasionally there would be a need for more time to consider some items, especially if votes are tight on controversial issues. It was felt that in some cases votes were rushed without allowing for enough discussion on weighing pros and cons.

Suggestions were brought forward that could help:

1) Ask for a straw vote, and have the option to table a final vote. The final decision/vote should follow after more discussion and further input, if the latter is necessary.

2) Schedule extra ad-hoc meetings or schedule 8 rather than 6 meetings per year, to be determined at the beginning of the year. The additional two meetings should be optional and may be cancelled if not needed. The idea is to have these two additional meetings devoted to special themes that need more extensive discussion.

As an immediate measure, it was agreed to devote one hour of the upcoming council meeting in September to the topic of annual meetings, and in particular to the meeting in Perth. In this context it appears important to discuss options and appropriate timelines for abstract deadlines, for sending out travel awards information, and for visa applications.

BREAK

2:15 pm CEST

7. Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta

2:30 pm CEST

7.1. Joint Publications Committee Report

- (supplied by chair Fang-Zhen Teng ahead of time but will not participate)

The report was acknowledged and not further discussed.

7.2. GCA update (Jeff Catalano, Hailiang Dong – virtual)

Hailiang Dong briefly introduced himself as new editor. Jeff Catalano gave his final report and thoughts as executive editor of GCA. He held this position for the last six years. He is thankful for support from the JPC and the membership of The Meteoritical Society. Especially the JPC, led by C. Alexander, has done greatly by leading the search for a new editor. He expects a smooth transition, and is looking forward to sharing his expertise with H. Dong when visiting, and later on as needed. Measures were taken to ensure that the board of AEs remains stable during the transition by asking AEs to stay at least to middle of next year or to leave the board now.

1) **Number of submissions:** There were two substantial highs in terms of submissions in 2019 and 2020 followed by a low in 2022. Since 2023/24 the numbers show again a jump up to over 100 submissions per month. This causes a higher workload for the editorial board. Another trend shows a change in the origin of submissions. While the number of submissions increased by about 10% over the last decade, the number of submissions from Asia increased from ~28 % to 60 % with most manuscripts being submitted from China. Some of these submissions are of lower quality and/or unsuitable causing extra work for the EE to screen and for the AEs to review. If both trends continue it may become necessary to think about a dual-EE model, e.g., by installing a deputy-EE or a co-EE to cope with the workload.

2) ***AEs diversity***: Currently there are 119 AEs. The EE together with the JPC has worked hard to cover a broader range of geographic diversity. They managed to raise the number of AEs coming from East Asia during the last 5 years but it is still low for AEs from low- or mid-income countries. At the same time the gender diversity is slightly up (from 25 to 33.6 % women) but the percentage of women among AEs from China & the global south is lower than 15 %. That shows that growing the geographical diversity is not growing the gender diversity. Reaching both goals remains a challenge. Measures J. Catalano has taken were to nominate a "package" of AEs which are diverse rather than looking only at individual nominations.

3) ***Working with Elsevier*** is challenging but they are more open than they used to be. H. Dong may need support when he has to push on them. Past problems with open access strategies are becoming better as more countries have signed contracts, e.g., Germany signed DEAL. Production problems have been resolved. The existing contract has expired but it is in an automatic renewal mode. J. Catalano says that it may be a good time currently to renegotiate the contract. Motivation for a new contract includes the following items: it could provide more protection because Elsevier could end the current contract at the end of any year currently; extra wording could reduce risks posed by new publishers coming in who do not understand how things work with GCA; some discounts for open access fees could potentially be negotiated; it could protect against the possibility of cutting royalties; and, in general, it could give more power to the societies. In the current contract, the royalty is set to a fixed amount and is not a percentage and therefore it is losing money value every year. Since the GS is the larger society and receives the higher share of the royalties it was felt that GS should take the lead in renegotiating a new contract. The GS has been very supportive of the interests of The Meteoritical Society during the last years. J. Catalano will suggest to the leadership of the GS that it may be a good time to talk to Elsevier. The president expressed the thought that The Meteoritical Society will be supportive of whatever the GS comes up with.

8. Meteoritics and Planetary Science

8.1 MAPS update (Tim Jull)

2:40 pm CEST

Submissions are back to where they were before Covid -19. The rejection rate went slightly up and the impact factor went slightly down. The major change will be the new submission system, which should be implemented by end of August. Meanwhile the old and new systems will be in operation at the same time. Wiley has signed a new contract with The Meteoritical Society. There is the need to sign a new contract with the University of Arizona for hosting the editor. The number of authors publishing open access is about 65%, a significant raise since 2020-2021 (25%).

Finally T. Jull reports on the budget which is a few percent higher than the last one but there is some payment missing from the UoA. The treasurer has checked the numbers against the budgets from Wiley and from The Meteoritical Society and concludes that it is all set.

Motion: Approve the budget for MAPS.

Move: Tasha Dunn

Second: Denton Ebel

all in favor

The editor and the executive committee have been pleased to work with the Wiley representative managing the contract side. A meeting with the counterpart for the production side has been scheduled for Tuesday in Brussels.

As a last note T. Jull raised concern that knowledge may get forgotten that the lower allowance for the editorial office in the new Wiley contract requires additional financial support from the Society in future years. This new contract, starting in 2025, will give the Society substantially higher royalties that will be used in part to subsidize the editorial office.

8.2 Publications Committee (Danny Glavin)

2:55 pm CEST

D. Glavin gave the report on behalf of the chair S. Schwenzer. The PC met three times over the last year and focused mostly on the new contract with Wiley. They are pleased that it has been signed.

Members of the PC are happy that Tim Jull will continue as editor of MAPS for another 4-years term until December 31 in 2028. They have seen the publisher's report and note that the main readership is in the US, China, and Europe. In addition, they are happy that the three most read papers reflect the scientific diversity of the community. *...with the #1 highest viewed article is about the meteoritic origin of Tutankhamun's dagger, the second most viewed about organics in Winchcombe meteorite and the third most viewed on numerical models of airblasts in impacts.*

An item of concern is that it is very difficult to get reviewers for submitted manuscripts. It could help to bring in junior AEs and look for broader geographical diversity. There are however concerns that junior AEs may face problems if decisions are contentious or if the authors do not agree. Potentially having a mentor in support could help. Another concern is that young researchers, even if they are in a stable position, will not take on the extra workload as they need to focus on their career. C. Goodrich stepped down as AE. She will be difficult to replace since she covered a broad field of expertise and knowledge.

D. Glavin points out the need for an AE with expertise on organics handling the OSIRIS-REx and Hayabusa2 sample analysis papers (Bennu and Ryugu), especially since the current AEs for that field are Co-investigators on the missions. In the future, when samples will be distributed among the community, it will become even harder to find others to avoid conflicts of interest among AEs, reviewers and authors. Some names have been suggested and C. Herd tentatively agreed to start end of this year. Looking for more geographic diversity may help to fill in that gap of expertise in the field of organics.

9. Impact Cratering Committee (Aaron Cavosie, Ludovic Ferriere)

3:20 pm CEST

A. Cavosie gave a short report about the activities during the last year. Work was done to reach the committee's primary goals:

First goal: Articulate diagnostic criteria used to confirm impact craters. A first draft is finalized.

Second goal: Applying this list to terrestrial impact craters, and come up with a list of confirmed impact craters. It will be the next step to post it online.

One activity included the organization of a workshop at the Los Angeles meeting and presenting the initiative in abstracts at the meetings in Los Angeles and Brussels.

Another activity was to submit three ICC proposals to IUGS to be included in the Second 100 IUGS Geological Heritage Site book series. All three proposed geological sites (Rieskrater, Meteor Crater, Bosumtwi) were accepted.

L. Ferriere reported about plans to publish the list on the society's website as a first step. A Database will follow and ideally should be hosted by The Meteoritical Society on its website. Access for hosting the list should be easy and could be done any time. The database may need more time. It is planned to reach a broader community through publications e.g., in MAPS, CosmoElements, etc.

It is recommended to bring in new members to the committee in 2025.

10. Membership Committee (Romy Hanna)

3:36 pm CEST

R. Hanna reported on recent activities:

- The first student lunch at an annual meeting was a great success. About 50-60 people (70-80% students, then postdocs and few early career) attended the lunch. The major focus was to find out how to get students more involved into the Society. Yes, students want to become more involved, and the MC received more ideas on how to do so. In general, it was good to have a Sunday lunch and it should be done at future meetings in collaboration with the organizers. The students were happy that they could meet already on Sunday in a smaller group, before the whole community meets at the ice breaker.
- For the first Mentor/Mentee Pilot Program 37 mentees and 25 mentors signed up. It was unclear why the number was not larger. Some students expressed that they did not realize it was an option. R. Hanna tried to pair people up by matching their research interests. The idea behind the program is to get students involved in the greater research community, to go to lunch early in the week, talk about their research, and introduce them to senior scientists of interest. A survey will follow. One outcome is already clear the MC needs to have clear boundaries to whom to admit as mentee and mentor if the program continues in the future.
- The Ed Scott Lecture is led by Ian Sanders who lines the speakers up, and organizes the Zoom. The question was raised whether the lecture series should be ongoing or a one-time thing only? Council thinks it would be good to have the lecture series to be continued and to be handled by the MC. Especially the recordings which are posted on the website serve as a great outreach item, and as a source for preserved community memory. Since the lecture series can be run at low cost, the donation could be used to sponsor something else for the membership. The Scott family is very open for suggestions on how to use this donated money.

11. Nomenclature Committee (Francis McCubbin – virtual)

3:54 pm CEST

- F. McCubbin showed that three members of the NomCom are in their final year and need to be replaced. This includes himself, so that a new chair is needed. He will contact the president in the next couple of weeks with suggestions for potential successors.
- Three regional consultants were appointed. They help with determining place names for dense collection areas. Appointed were Djelloul Belhai to provide input for Algeria, Libya, and Mali, Elycheikh Navie to provide input for Mauritania, and Hasnaa Chennaoui to provide input for Morocco and Western Sahara. The plan is to add additional regional consultants in future in particular for China.

- Workload is still high but manageable. Changes implemented since last year are helpful. (1) More NomCom members now have editorial duties which increases the number of meteorites requiring editorial approval only. (2) At any time there are about 30-40 open submissions for the full committee to vote on. (3) Regional consultants help to decrease the time looking for appropriate names for dense collection areas. (4) Although not yet used NomCom appreciates the flexibility to increase the membership beyond 9 if the workload should increase.
- Meteorites are of broad interest as expressed in MB 112. There is a steady increase of daily views of the Meteoritical Bulletin Database over the last 20 years. The submission of new meteorites is steady between 2000 and 3000 per year.
- There are complaints about NomCom decisions taking too much time. Currently there are 150 active open jobs and 300 tabled jobs. A deputy editor may be needed if the number of tabled submissions is growing. This would be a one-time job that could stabilize the process.

There are worries that NomCom cannot cope with the workload going forward. Currently there is no way to lower it. For example, to vote on everything that is up takes 3-4 hours every 2 weeks of F. McCubbin's time. The president is concerned that this one committee is asking so much more time from its members than others. One suggestion was to add a member who is ready to act on problems and solve them, e.g., long-time tabled meteorites or contested special problems. F. McCubbin emphasizes once again that recent measures taken help to reduce the workload, and that it is manageable.

There was a meeting about the MBDB which is hosted on the LPI servers. There is no timeline yet when the database will be moved to Adobe ColdFusion, a high-performing application server, for security reasons. The source code will then be no longer accessible from the outside, and there is concern that its user interface may not meet the requirements from NomCom and/or the community. There is a clear indication that The Meteoritical Society wants to be able to review any item before it is made public by LPI. It has not been decided who would do that but the Database editor and NomCom will be involved.

12. Ethics Committee (Brigitte Zanda)

4:19 pm CEST

B. Zanda reports on this last year since the committee was installed. Luckily there was only one incident. Both the offender and the offended person received letters from the president. The offender wasn't aware of anything. The offended person acknowledged the efforts taken by the ethics committee and the Society.

It was discussed what records should be kept as documentation and where they could be kept and for how long. One suggestion was that only the chair of the Ethics Committee should keep the records in a form and at a place not accessible to unauthorized people. It was further suggested the Ethics Committee should discuss the options, determine what GS does, and make a recommendation for how to proceed.

4:37 Group photo taken.



ADJOURN

4:39 pm CEST

Brussels – meeting location info for Sunday July 28

Please, see the map below.

Council Meeting at 12 to 4:30 pm

The Palace of the Academies, room Bordet (follow signs). The room will be opened by the concierge.

Address is "1 rue Ducale", and can be reached by bus/metro stops "Trone" (Buses 12, 21, 38, 54, 71, 95 and metro 2 and 6) and stop "Palais" for tram 92 and 93.

Registration at 3 to 5 pm

Registration will be in the patio of the Palace of the Academies.

Welcome Reception at 5 to 8 pm

In the City Hall (Hôtel de Ville). The City Hall is a ~15 min walk away from the Palace of the Academies.

