

Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
January 23, 2024, 3 pm - 5:00 pm (UTC)
online only

Council Meeting Online:

J Zipfel is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Agenda for the 1st Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2024

Council Members Invitees

Nancy Chabot (President)	Elena Dobrica
Guy Consolmagno (Vice President)	Lan-Anh “Ann” Nguyen (1 hour late)
Brigitte Zanda (Past President)	Denton Ebel
Tasha Dunn (Treasurer)	Alvaro Crosta
Jutta Zipfel (Secretary)	Marina Ivanova
Henner Busemann	Byeon-Gak Choi
Sarah Crowther	

Guests

Vinciane Debaille (Brussels 2024)
Steven Goderis (Brussels 2024) - excused
Katarina Milijkovic (Perth 2025)
Conel Alexander (Joint Publication Committee)

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

MetSoc2023 recap.docx
MetSoc_Meetings.2023-12-15.xlsx
Final financial report to MetSoc Council v2.xlsx
Candidate1 GCA EE application.pdf
Candidate2 GCA EE application.pdf
Candidate3 GCA EE application.pdf
JPC_GCA_ExecutiveEditorSelectionReport_2023.pdf

Agenda

1. Welcome (President)

3:00 pm UTC

Announcements and review of electronic votes since last meeting:

- Approval of Elements' budget for 2024
- Approval of minutes from Council Meeting on Nov. 28, 2023
- Approval of fee and payment schedule of Arinex for Perth meeting in 2025

2. Annual Meetings

2.1. Perth 2025 (Katarina Milijkovic)

3:05 pm UTC

25 min

Update on Perth

- A contract was signed with the professional congress organizer (PCO) in Perth, Arinex, amounting to AU\$ 18,000 in 4 installments. The PCO will take care of online registration, website, and financial management, AV, and on site demands, and deal with taxes. They will also provide suppliers and agents necessary for organizing the meeting. Every specific request from LOC that has not been written into the contract can be added as service. Next steps are working on the website and formulating the budget.
- Plan to bring to Brussels many koala clips as promotion for the Perth meeting
- LOC is meeting regularly (LOC and SOC has to be approved by council) and discussing field trip plans, self-guided geology tours.
- Planning on venues: opening night at WA Museum (400 people standing), gala dinner at a restaurant, conference at conventional center including accommodation at walking distance, and lunch caterer inhouse.
- Still negotiating down-payment for banquet and venue. Katarina will inform treasurer as soon as she knows how high of a loan will be needed for securing the facilities
- Working towards keeping registration fees in line with prior meetings.

Questions from council members: Where can students stay affordably? There are affordable hotels in Perth, and if money is left it would be used to support students, e.g., if attendance is larger than currently planned 300 participants; seeking sponsors, e.g., industry.

How long would the website set up by Arinex persist after the meeting? It has not been negotiated yet. There is no requirement for how long a website has to be kept. The UCLA meeting website has already been removed.

2.2. Brussels 2024 (Vinciane Debaille)

3:30 pm UTC

30 min

- Some things are slower than expected, e.g., website is still under construction.
- Initial estimates of the registration fees for early bird are €350 student and €550 member (likely €750 for late and €950 for on-site registration, given the difficulties to plan for additional attendees shortly before the conference). The exact budget will be presented to Council in March and will include more details on the registration fees.

- The meeting is able to use the city hall of Brussels for a very small cost; there will be fees for beverages and security.

Questions and information from LOC:

- Is official security on the conference site needed? So far, the plan is to have students guarding the entrance? Venue is a relative safe place in Brussels, and discussion with Council indicates that official security is not required.
- Deadline? Typically it is the first week of May if agreed with LPI. The recommendation is to have a late deadline, which will further more interesting results to be presented. The deadlines will be worked with LPI.
- Mars conference will be week earlier in LA which may lead to lower attendance from the Mars community.
- Brussels hopes to attract tourists from the Olympics. This may raise prices? MetSoc will continue to encourage members to make meeting plans early due to the neighboring Olympics.
- URL for Brussels website is <https://metsoc2024.brussels/>
- Venues for conference and banquet as well as Barringer lecture room are booked.
- How to handle travel awards? Treasurer will working together with the travel grant committee which should be chaired by a person on SOC. The treasurer has documentation on the amount of funds available, how they can be used and eligibilities.
- Onsite sponsor suggestions are expected soon. What are typical conditions offered?
- The website is planned to stay active until summer 2025.

Questions about Brussels

- Prices for hotels for members and students? There are various options and everyone is in charge to make their own arrangements. This information will be given on website.

The president reports that there will be a student event at Brussels, an idea developed in cooperation with the membership committee and students on the LOC. A young scientist event will take place Thursday evening in a Brewery. The brewery is brewing a special beer for the conference.

2.3. Frankfurt 2026 (Jutta Zipfel)
10 min

4:00 pm UTC

Update on the meeting

- There is a decision on the venue for the conference and banquet at the Campus Westend in Frankfurt.
- A number of 250 to 300 hotel rooms, single and double occupancy have been blocked covering a range of tiers and prices. The blocked rooms can be cancelled about 2 months before the meeting with no costs.
- Everything else is work in progress.

Questions

- There are no options for student housing. But reserved hotel quotes are relatively low at the low price margin.
- Are there any football tournaments at the time of the meeting? No.

The president announces that the call for 2028 annual meeting will go out in February and that applications are expected until April.

The final report for UCLA shows that they did lose US\$ 38,000. The loss is mainly due to unexpected expenses and a slight overestimate of potential attendees. Past meetings show that there is a difference in how many people go to meetings in Europe versus the US with the latter typically having lower attendance.

3. Committees

3.1. Joint Publications Committee (Conel Alexander) 4:10 pm UTC
 Executive Editor search for GCA
 15 min

Briefly goes over the report concerning the EE search for GCA.
 The JPC, in consultation with Jeff Catalano, agreed on the advertisement, with the aim to have a nominee by the end of the year to start negotiations with Elsevier and have enough time for the transition. They received 10 applications (1 was so late that it could not be considered) and interviewed the top four applicants. As a result the JPC is recommending their top candidate.

Nancy reports from meeting with JPC and GS ECs together with Jeff Catalano as representative for EE of GCA. If councils of both societies were to approve the recommendation, then the position could be offered and, if accepted, the person could start negotiations with Elsevier.

Questions arose about desk rejection, and how they are checked? The main reasons for desk rejections are non-fitting topic, or technical papers without new data. Another question was whether AEs were involved in the decision? Half of the JPC are AEs on GCA.

Motion: Accept the recommendation of JPC to approve it.
Move Denton Ebel
Second Brigitte Zanda
All in favor (12 votes)

3.2. Endowment Committee (Tasha Dunn) 4:25 pm UTC
 Update on the ESG (Environmental, social, and corporate governance) investing;
 proposal for MetSoc travel award changes
 15 min

Following up the recommendation of council to move towards more ethical investments, the Endowment Committee asked DA Davidson to look into options. It decided to invest part of the Endowment Funds into ESG portfolio from Blackrock and monitor its development; if done well more funds could be transferred.

The EC received an email asking about definition and funding for early career researcher for travel awards. Since the MetSoc travel award currently defines early career researcher as within 5 years of being granted a degree, it is inconsistent with the MetSoc membership definition which defines everyone within 10 years of your terminal degree as early career members. This category amounts to about 15% of the membership. The EC decided to make both consistent applying the membership definition.

Motion: Make the early career definition for travel grant consistent with all across the MetSoc policies.

Move Denton Ebel

Second Brigitte Zanda

All in favor (12 votes)

Nancy will update website.

The treasurer proposes to spend an additional 1 % out of the Endowment Fund to direct it towards the expanded Early Career Travel Awards. Currently only 4 % out of the Endowment Fund are spent although bylaws allow to spend up to 5 % each year. Since the first round of expanded travel grants would be spent in FY24, the total of 5% should be spend for Endowment and Research Grants in FY23.

Motion: Approve the recommendation of the treasurer to spend in total 5% out of the Endowment Fund with 1 % being directed towards Early Career Travel Awards and 4% for Endowment and Research Grants starting in FY24.

Move Jutta Zipfel

Second Denton Ebel

All in favor (12 votes)

4. Open discussion

4:40 pm UTC

20 min

There was a lively discussion on how to ask for proposals and how to prioritize applications for future annual meetings. There was general agreement that costs of future meetings should be reasonable and not, for example, exceed registrations fees of prior meetings, and if possible even be lower.

The secretary was asked to draft an application form that could serve as guidance and standard. The form should be available for applications for the 2028 meeting.

5. Adjourn

5:16 pm UTC