

METEORITICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society held on 15 March, 1992, at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas, USA.

Present: E Anders (President), H Wänke (Vice-President), R Hewins (Treasurer), A Graham (Secretary), M Ebihara, G Kurat, G Lugmair, D Sears, T Swindle, D Woolum. Apologies for absence: M Grady, K Rasmussen, R Taylor.

Guests: M Lipschutz (for items 7 and 9), G Faure (for item 8), P Jakes (for item 6), T King (for item 6), R Brett (for item 10).

1. The President opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He outlined the main issues to be raised at the meeting, emphasizing the importance of some of these. A number of letters had been written on behalf of the Society, including the following: 1. An appeal to the US Office of Government Ethics, asking them to rescind a proposed rule that would have made it virtually impossible for US government scientists to hold office in a scientific society. (The rule was indeed rescinded, after protests by 33 scientific societies and over 1000 individuals). 2. An appeal (ghost-written by Richard Grieve) to the South African government, asking them to refrain from opening the Pretoria Salt Pan to farming and other destructive uses.

2. Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the last meeting had been circulated. Those items in italics are explanatory and do not form part of the minutes as they refer to events that occurred after the meeting. MOTION: That the minutes of the last council meeting be approved (Wänke, seconded by Woolum; passed unanimously).

Matters arising: None

3. Treasurer's Report:

The report was distributed to members present and is attached to these minutes (Appendix 1). There would be a net loss of about \$4000 in 1991. The on-going total capital assets now are \$50,479.10.

MOTION: That the report be accepted (Woolum, seconded by Swindle, passed unanimously).

The Treasurer reported that invoices for *Meteoritics* production were now being sent to him for payment and that the extra cost of the abstracts volume was not fully covered by the abstracts fee. No request had been received to date from the organisers of the Copenhagen meeting for a ban to provide operating funds. The first royalty payment for *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* has been received. On the recommendation of the Publications Committee, it is being kept in a special fund for a possible new journal, to be published jointly with the Geochemical Society. There is now a clear need to subdivide the accounts to identify separate transactions associated with specific functions, for example the "meetings" fund and the GCA "royalty" fund.

4. Constitution Amendments:

The proposed amendments had been sent by fax to all councillors on 10 February,

1992. The revised Articles are attached (Appendix 2).

4.1. Amendment to Article 3.2:

The Constitution, though it defined an Executive Committee, does not provide guidance on the process of decision-making by this committee. The Constitution amendment proposed is to rectify this.

MOTION: That this amendment be put to the Society membership (Swindle, seconded by Woolum; in favour 8, opposed 1, passed).

4.2. Amendment to Article 3.3.

The Nominating Committee should consist of five members, not three, to provide a more balanced representation of the diverse fields currently covered by the Society.

MOTION: That this amendment be put to the Society membership (Anders, seconded by Sears; passed unanimously).

ACTION: The Secretary to put these amendments to the Society with the next full membership mailing.

5. Bylaws Amendment:

Amendment to Article 5.2.

The proposed amendment had been sent by fax to all councillors on 10 February, 1992.

The amendment was revised to read:

... For urgent issues, the Committee can authorise mail or fax ballots, preceded by informal discussion, in lieu of a special meeting. The vote on such a ballot is subject to review at the next regular Council meeting.

MOTION: That this amendment be accepted (Swindle, seconded by Woolum; passed unanimously).

6. Society Meetings:

1992 - Copenhagen: Unfortunately, neither Buchwald nor Rasmussen were able to attend the meeting. The proposed budget was distributed. Anders explained that the registration fee announced in the first circular (approximately \$250) included two unusual items totalling about \$40: the transport pass and DIS fee, which entitles us to substantially lower hotel rates. This should be explained in the next circular. No student grant loan request has been received to date.

MOTION: That the budget for the Copenhagen meeting be approved (Wänke, seconded by Swindle; passed unanimously).

MOTION: That the Treasurer be authorised to provide an advance of \$3500 if requested by the organisers of the meeting (Sears, seconded by Wänke; passed unanimously).

ACTION: Anders to write to Buchwald on the following points:

1. The make-up of the registration fee should be clearly stated in the next circular.
2. The organising committee should be aware of the availability of the loan funds from the Society (\$3500) and that they should apply to the Treasurer should they wish to use this loan facility.

3. The deadlines for abstracts should be 18 May (4 May for student award abstracts)

1993 - Vail: King reported on progress. The meeting will be held in the Westin

Resort Hotel. The registration fee will be under \$200. Accommodation will cost \$99 per room (each room allows double occupancy) and will be available at this price from the Saturday before the meeting until the following Friday night (inclusive). Very limited student accommodation will be available in a condominium near the hotel. The banquet will be held in the hotel. Sessions are planned to run 8.30-5.30 with a lunch break 12.00-1.30. Wednesday afternoon will be free. Field trips are planned to start from Denver airport. Negotiations are in hand to appoint an official carrier airline.

ACTION: President to write to United Airlines enquiring about support for student travel.

1994 - Prague: Jakes reported on the progress to date.

The organising committee is planning a registration fee of \$180 excluding the abstract fee. All accommodation is planned to be on a single metro line connecting to the meeting hotel (Hotel Forum). There will be some \$30 rooms available in private homes. Excursions are being planned, one of these to moldavite localities.

1995 - 96 meetings:

1996: An invitation had been received from Münster (D. Stöffler) for the 1996 meeting. This was a reiteration of the offer received to host the 1994 meeting. There were no other offers for the 96 meeting.

MOTION: That the Council accept the offer from D. Stöffler to host the 1996 meeting of the Society (Hewins, seconded by Woolum; passed unanimously).

ACTION: The President to write to Stöffler informing him of this decision of Council.

1995 - Anders reported that there had been a "feeler" from K Keil about hosting the 1995 meeting (a US meeting) in Hawaii. This depended upon the completion of new building. There are currently no other offers. The Council would welcome an offer from Hawaii to host the 1995 meeting.

[Keil has subsequently written that he is not able to host the 1995 meeting due to delays in construction]

7. Publications Committee Report:

Macdougall was not able to attend the meeting but provided a written report. Lipschutz highlighted some of the points. He also reported that the Joint Publications Committee had been asked to provide the Geochemical Society council with a list of options for publishing a new journal in five years time (when the current contract with Pergamon Press expires).

8. Geochemica et Cosmochimica Report:

Editor Faure provided a written report and made the following points: the projected number of pages for 1992 is 4400; the rejection rate for submitted papers is currently 40%; the mean review time is 115 days. Considerable concern was expressed over such a deterioration of manuscript handling times, but Faure thought that a speed-up was neither feasible nor necessary.

The President thanked Faure. In view of our 1991 vote that only one formal report was needed per year, it was agreed that this should be provided at the March meeting.

ACTION: The Secretary to note this in the "Secretary's Duties"

9. Meteoritics:

Editor's Report - Sears introduced the managing editor, Joyce Roth, to the Council and provided a written report which included the editing status of associate editors. He made clear his aim to publish 50% of articles within six months of submission and outlined how this is to be achieved. The publication of the abstracts was planned as a 5th issue of Meteoritics each year. In 1992 this issue of Meteoritics would be the abstracts volume at the Copenhagen meeting. Sears also reported a higher manuscript submission rate and the "reappearance" of 6 "lapsed" institutional subscriptions. He reported that there had been no decline in the March subscription totals for the last few years. Marketing of Meteoritics: Sears had surveyed the institutional subscriptions and made a direct mailing to selected departments and individuals. Allen Press are willing to promote the journal for a fee, but Sears and Lipschutz prefer first to try some obvious things on their own.

Lipschutz reported on the financial position of the journal and provided a six year summary. The 1991 loss would be about \$6000 with a projected deficit in 1992 of \$3600. He recommended an institutional rate of \$125 for 1993. After discussion of the needs of the journal for funds to allow the editor some flexibility to accept more papers and to cover the cost of the fifth issue, an institutional rate of \$150 was suggested. MOTION: That the institutional rate for 1993 should be \$150 (Woolum, seconded by Kurat; 8 in favour, 1 against, passed).

Proposals to increase the members dues should be considered at the Copenhagen meeting. More accurate page and cost projections are required to assess the need for and size of a dues increase.

Abstracts: Sears described the production of the Abstracts issue by Allen Press and how this will work for the 1992 annual meeting. The actual *Meteoritics* issue will be available for attendees at the meeting. A revision of the abstract deadlines announced in the first circular for the Copenhagen meeting should be made. The revised deadlines are 18 May (4 May for student award abstracts).

Memorials: Sears was not fully satisfied with the present Bylaw 8/4, requiring the advice of the Executive Committee on the publication of memorials. Responses were often incomplete or indefinite. The President suggested that this function be assigned to the Leonard Medal Committee, which should advise the editor on the selection or solicitation of memorials for publication in Meteoritics. This would require a revision of the bylaws.

ACTION: Sears to liaise with Graham on this revision.

The outgoing editor's report was circulated.

10. Leonard Medal Committee Report:

Papers had been sent to all councillors with a new nomination for John Wasson, the Committee's first choice. Kurat asked why there had been no up-dated nomination for [name withheld – Sec.] the committee's second choice. The President assumed responsibility for this omission. In his 29 July 1991 letter to Kurat (committee chairman) he asked that both nominations be updated. Following Kurat's resignation, the President

asked Brett to do only Wasson, as the discussions at Monterey had shown Wasson to be the stronger candidate. The Committee recommends that their first choice candidate, John Wasson, be awarded the Leonard Medal.

MOTION: That the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, that John T. Wasson be awarded the Leonard Medal for 1992, be accepted by Council (Woolum, seconded by Swindle; 7 in favour, 2 abstentions, passed).

ACTION: The President to inform Wasson of the award.

Brett reported that the Committee, drawing mainly on lists provided by Anders and Bogard, had greatly enlarged the pools for Leonard medal and fellow candidates to 29 and 35 respectively. The President enquired whether the Committee needed any help from Council in preparing full nominations, but Brett saw no need at present.

Brett enquired of Council whether a joint award of the Leonard Medal would be countenanced. Council agreed that this was possible. Brett was asked to consider whether any members of his committee were serious candidates for medallist or fellow, in which case they should be removed from the committee in order to restore their eligibility. The President thanked Brett for his work.

11. Any other business:

1. Nominating Committee Membership - Graham. H Y McSween Jr was a member of the Nominating Committee and has been nominated for the position of Vice-President. He and the committee wish it to be made clear that, once he became a candidate for a council position, he no longer took part in any activities of the committee. This was not made clear in the notice which was sent to the membership announcing the Nominating Committee's slate and the secretary has apologised to McSween for this.

2. Report on the delay in the publication of the December issue of Meteoritics - Wänke. A report on the decision of this sub-committee is attached. Briefly, Anders had not put a hold on the journal, only on the editorial while discussions on the content of the latter were in progress.

3. Kurat pointed out that he had resigned from the Leonard Medal Committee after receiving a copy of the President's letter of 19 July to Brett, appointing Brett chairman as of 27 July and seeming implying Kurat's dismissal. The President explained that he had given the 27 July date in the mistaken belief that the terms of office began and ended right after the annual meeting. After checking with the bylaws, he realised his error and on 30 July sent out a correction. The President regretted the event and the misunderstanding. His letter correcting the mistake had, unfortunately, not prevented Kurat from resigning.

Prepared by A L Graham, Secretary, 23 March, 1992

Attachments to March 1992 Minutes:

1. Financial statement
2. Revised Constitution Articles
7. Report of sub-committee on delay of December Meteoritics.

ONLY for Councillors not at the meeting:

3. Copenhagen budget

4. Joint Publications Committee Report
5. GCA Editor's Report
6. Meteoritics Editor's Report
 - Financial Predictions
 - Out-going Editor's Report

THE METEORITICAL SOCIETY

Amendments to the Constitution: March 1992

1. Article 3.2

secretary of the Council; together with the Treasurer, they shall constitute a standing Executive Committee. By unanimous vote, this committee can act, ad interim, upon all matters affecting the welfare of the Society that, in their judgment, do not call for submission to the entire Council; but all the transactions of this Executive Committee, except those expressly authorized by the Constitution and Bylaws, shall be reported to the Council at its next following meeting.

2. Article 3.3.

An election of Officers and Councilors of the Society shall be held in each even-numbered year. Nominations for Officers and Councilors of the Society shall be prepared by a Nominating Committee, of five members, which shall be proposed by the President and approved by the Council prior to May 1 of each odd-numbered year and shall hold office until the close of the next election.

Bylaws change.

Article 5.2:

.... For urgent issues, the Committee can authorize mail or fax ballots in lieu of a special meeting. The vote on such a ballot is subject to review at the next regular Council meeting.