Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
October 6th, 2026, 3 pm - 5 pm UTC
online only

5th Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2026

Council Members Invitees

Guy Consolmagno (President)
Maria Schönbächler (Vice President)
Nancy Chabot (Past President)
Cari Corrigan (Treasurer)
Jutta Zipfel (Secretary)
Byeon-Gak Choi (excused)
Alvaro Crósta
Elena Dobrică (excused)
Juliane Gross (excused)
Marina Ivanova
Yangting Lin
Yves Marrocchi
Gordon Osinski (excused)

Guests

Romy Hanna (McKay and Wiley Award - Chair)
Jeff Grossman (Nomenclature Committee - MetBull Editor)
Mike Weisberg (Nomenclature Committee - Chair)

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

McKay_Wiley_2026_recommendation.pdf

Agenda & Minutes

1. Welcome (President) 3:00 pm UTC

Announcements and review of electronic votes since last meeting

The president welcomed all present and made sure that the council has a quorum. Since more than 5 council members were present that was the case.

The secretary announced that no electronic votes were held since the last council meeting in August.

2. Committees

2.1 McKay Award Committee (Romy Hanna) 3:05 pm UTC
McKay and Wiley Awards - 20 min

Hanna reported that the McKay Award committee worked smoothly and efficiently. The candidate for the best talk and McKay Award winner was considered best by all judges. Five other students were recommended for the Wiley award. The criteria included clarity of presentation, answering questions, etc. The criteria for how questions were answered was weighted less to minimize the effect of whether the candidate was a native or a non-native

English speaker. This was not clear to all judges. The hand-out document about that criteria will be updated by Hanna to make it clearer. She further recommended to weaken the criteria for innovative science in order to not to penalize students who do not have access to high-level instrumentation.

Hanna noted that it becomes increasingly hard to get judges, mainly because of the high number of student talks that need to be evaluated. This had caused more dropouts and not all talks were consistently judged by five judges.

Recommendations from Hanna for how the quality of talks could be improved are:

- create a document describing what an award-worthy presentation should look like and post it on the website
- have a seminar in the early career initiative seminar series that highlights what an award-worthy talk needs

One council member suggested to have the McKay award winner talk presented in the seminar series, recorded, and posted on MetSoc's YouTube channel. This was considered an excellent idea that should be followed up.

Vote 28: Corrigan moved to accept the recommendation from the McKay Award Committee for the McKay award winner.
Zipfel second. All votes were in favor.

Vote 29: Corrigan moved to accept the recommendation from the McKay Award Committee for the Wiley Award winners.
Ivanova second. All votes in favor.

The president will inform the winners about the outcome.

3. Annual Meetings

3.1 MetSoc 2026 (Jutta Zipfel) 3:25 pm UTC
(almost) final report - 20 min

Zipfel gave an (almost) final report about the annual meeting in Frankfurt. She summarized the final numbers.

- 464 participants registered, and 428 checked in
- 300 senior scientists and amateurs, 12 members from low-income countries, 127 students, and 25 guests
- 511 abstracts were submitted. From these, there were 305 oral presentations and 206 poster presentations
- The student/early-career scientists' lunch on Sunday provided the opportunity for networking between students/early-career scientists and with three senior scientists—Sara Russell, Tomoki Nakamura, and Ralph Harvey.
- Ralph Harvey gave the Barringer lecture, in which he celebrated the 50th anniversary of ANSMET
- Wednesday afternoon and two post-conference excursions went well
- Overall the meeting was judged positively by those who attended

Zipfel also showed numbers for an almost final budget. The budget for the Wednesday afternoon excursions and the post-conference excursions showed a minor surplus of about €50. Since attendees had to pay for these activities it is a reasonable outcome.

The budget for the meeting includes all costs related to the venue and banquet. Overall there is a surplus. The amount of the surplus is currently unclear as it depends on the reduction in cost the university will grant for renting the venue.

Approval by council of this budget was postponed until the final numbers will be known.

4. Council only - open discussion

4.1 President, Jeff Grossman, Mike Weisberg 3:45 pm UTC
Nomenclature Issues

Two issues were discussed:
1) As to which degree should the Nomenclature Committee hold submissions confidential?

Grossman reported that he was interrogated by an investigator from US Homeland Security about documents relating to a meteorite that was seized by US Customs Services. He had brought this up to the Executive Committee who advised him to hand over all documents. At this meeting council was informed about this EC decision. The follow-up discussion strengthened this decision and was not questioned by council.

In this context the question arose about the reliability of information about locations in the database? It is evident that some find or fall locations are better documented than others. However, it would be impossible to point out individual meteorites in the database. It was accepted that Grossman is writing an FAQ for the database that covers the uncertainty that some locations are better known than others.

2) Should the 20/20 rule be waived for a recent meteorite fall in Germany?

The Nomenclature Committee and MetSoc leadership received a request for waiving the type specimen requirement for a recent meteorite fall. The fall is well documented and there are photos of the fragmented main mass published. It was reported to have several 100s grams. The material (< 2 grams) available in an institution does not stem from the main mass but was found close by and was collected independently. A comprehensive classification and study were performed on this material and results are planned to be published in MAPS. But naming the meteorite and publishing results will not be possible without a proper type specimen. Unfortunately, the unknown owners of the meteorite do not react to any contact attempts. Information about the importance of a type specimen through a local newspaper did not receive a response, as far as we know.

The Nomenclature Committee and council are of the opinion that waiving the type specimen rule in this case will weaken its strength and benefit. There were comparable cases in the past, and in none of these the type specimen rule was waived. It was agreed on that this case should not break this rule either.

However, it was also agreed on that the president should draft a letter emphasizing the importance for a type specimen. This letter could be forwarded to the house where the meteorite fell, or through the police (who have this information) to the owners of the sample.

4.2 President
Mandatory membership of Award nominees?

The question at hand was whether it should be mandatory for Award nominees to be members of the Society? There were no strong opinions on council, except for Fellows who must be members in any case. One councilor suggested to make it also mandatory for nominees of the Service Award. However, this was felt inappropriate as Service Award winners will receive the benefit of a lifetime membership.

[The secretary subsequently checked the bylaws again and found that Service Award nominees must be members!]

1. Eligibility: *Candidate should be Member who has advanced the goals of the Society to promote research and education in meteoritics and planetary science in ways other than by conducting scientific research. ....]*

In general, the opinion of Council was that all other awards should be open to candidates providing outstanding science in the scope of the award, independent from whether they are members of the Society or not, though this will be discussed further at an upcoming meeting.

4.3 President
Award nominations in general

There is still a lack of nominations for some Society awards. The leadership tries hard to draw attention to this by sending out regular calls in September to January newsletters and one extra group email to the membership.

Suggestions included to make the call for nominations the top announcement in the newsletter. Further, the president asked all councilors to inform their friends and colleagues to bring forward a nomination for well deserving colleagues.

5. Adjourn 4:25 pm UTC

The meeting was adjourned on time.