

## **Meteoritical Society Council Meeting**

**Please note this council meeting has 2 parts:**

**September 17, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (UTC)  
and  
September 17, 2024, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (UTC)**

### **Part 1**

**September 17, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (UTC)  
online only**

## **"Perth Meeting"**

Join Zoom Meeting

### **Minutes and agenda for part 1 of the 5th Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Council in 2024**

#### **Council Members Invitees**

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

#### **Guests (in person unless noted as virtual)**

Aaron Cavosie (Perth Meeting) x  
Vinciane Debaille (Brussels Meeting) x  
Steven Goderis (Brussels Meeting) x  
Katarina Miljkovic (Perth Meeting) x  
Nick Timms (Perth Meeting) x

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

*Metsoc original budget August 2024 V4.pdf*

*Metsoc Budget V5 - 10 September 2024.pdf*

*MetSoc 2025 Schedule of Deliverables.pdf*

**Agenda**

1. President's welcome and introduction 1:03 pm UTC  
Short welcome and introduction round of those present.

2. Perth meeting (Katarina Miljkovic and Aaron Cavosie) 1:08 pm UTC

A short summary of the presentation by K. Miljkovic is given here:

Calculations are based on the assumption that 350+ delegates will come to the meeting. The early bird registration fee for a full member is set to A\$1100 or US\$720 and €660 (Brussels €575). To break even the number of delegates needs to be between 350 and 400.

Flights will be long and expensive but accommodations are relatively cheap and a number of block rates have been negotiated, and will be available through Arinex & booking.com website. Hotels are located on the Terrace within walking distance of the venue. Alternatively, CAT buses are serving that area at no cost.

The venue is the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre (PCEC). Rooms for poster sessions, the Barringer lectures, and scientific sessions, meeting areas and technical needs are located close to each other in one wing of the center. Currently, rooms for three parallel sessions, each for 140 people, are reserved.

Food on-site includes a morning tea and afternoon break except for days with poster sessions. During poster sessions there will be finger food and drinks. There are several places located close to the venue that offer lunch or dinner at moderate costs. The welcome reception will be at the Museum of Western Australia with the opportunity to see the meteorite exhibit. The banquet in Frasers Kings Park offers a 3 course sit down meal plus a DJ for entertainment.

At registration, a large badge will be provided in which a small version of the program can be folded in. Sessions are planned for Monday until Friday afternoon. Poster sessions are on Tuesday and Thursday. Optionally, posters can be on display through the entire week depending on the number.

On Curtin campus: a workshop could be held on Sunday morning, e.g., about Martian meteorite petrology. Organizers are open to ideas. An Early Career lunch can be organized on Sunday. A board room for the council meeting can be arranged.

Website is live.

The LPI schedule for handling the meeting was shown and had the following information. The abstract submission deadline is set for April 29, 2025. The final program will be online available on June 02. The information about travel award selection will be send out by June 03. Those who need a visa to come to Australia have to be registered with an accepted abstract before they can apply for

a visa. The organizers will not provide letters of support on the basis of an intent to those that have not yet paid the registration fee because the immigration office will not accept that. Getting a visa might take between a month and a few days.

Wednesday afternoon activities (or for any other day) can be booked through a company called NatureBoss, offering a range of outdoors activities.

A preliminary budget had been distributed prior to the meeting. Current activity involves active search for sponsorship from industry and institutional partners.

Open questions were answered and discussed.

- Early career researchers (ECR) are within 10 years of their PhD.
- Workshop is paid for independently from the meeting and does not show up in the budget.
- Ideas for a workshop? One suggestion was to look for topics that overlap with the meteoroid and meteorite community.
- Dress code at the banquet, to be smart casual, is fine
- Member selection for the scientific organizing committee (SOC) for Brussels was handled by the organizers. The chair will be nominated by the LOC but council has to approve the SOC. Brussels' organizers tried to select people that covered all topics. The recommendation was to have more people than necessarily needed because there is little time to set up the program. In Brussels, for unforeseen reasons some SOC members were unavailable when needed.
- Council decided at its last meeting in July that the Past President becomes chair of the Travel Award Committee. It was suggested that council should take on the task to review the awards applications in order to gain continuity in the selection process, given the difficult rules. In that case, the Award Committee would work independently from the SOC, and not be in the responsibility of the organizers. It would need access to the abstracts in the LPI system.

After discussion the following timeline was suggested: Since the application for travel awards and the submission of the abstract are two different processes, both should have the same deadline on April 29. Both committees can work in parallel on the program and travel awards and aim at May 15 to have the program and travel awards selection ready. On May 16 the Awards committee will send out notifications to people that their abstract has been accepted and that they have been selected for a travel award.

- Registration fees for a guest rate will be added to the budget, expecting about 50 guests.
- Be persistent in contacting industrial sponsors as they are slow to respond.

K. Miljkovic was asked to send her list with questions to the Executive Committee and they will be answered individually.

**ADJOURN**

**2:08 pm UTC**

## Part 2

September 17, 2024, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (UTC)  
online only

Join Zoom Meeting

### Minutes and agenda for part 2 of the 5th Meeting of the Meteoritical Society Council in 2024

#### Council Members Invitees

Nancy Chabot (President) x

Guy Consolmagno (Vice President) x

Brigitte Zanda (Past President) x

Tasha Dunn (Treasurer) x

Jutta Zipfel (Secretary) x

Henner Busemann x

Sarah Crowther x

Elena Dobrica x

Lan-Anh “Ann” Nguyen x

Denton Ebel x

Alvaro Crosta x

Marina Ivanova x

Byeon-Gak Choi (excused)

#### Guests (in person unless noted as virtual)

Maizey Benner (Membership Committee) x

My Riebe (McKay and Wiley Awards) x

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

*MembershipCommitteePresentationSept2024.v2.pdf*

*MentorProgramFeedbackReportColor.pdf*

*MetSoc Early Career Lunch suggestions*

*2024McKay\_Wiley\_Letter\_to\_Council\_final.pdf*

#### Agenda

- President reviews votes by email since July 28, 2024 4:03 pm UTC  
Introduction round of councilors and guests.  
Electronic votes since last meeting: 36e Approval of the minutes from the council meeting on 28 July 2024. (5 September 2024)
- Membership Committee and MetSoc lunch 4:06 pm UTC  
2.1 Membership Committee updates (M. Benner)

M. Benner shared slides reviewing the activities of the Membership Committee (MC) over the last months.

- Two members will exit end of 2024. The big question is about Ian Sanders who is organizing the Ed Scott lecture series. It would be better for him to stay on for another year and keep organizing that lecture series. The president explained that new members on the

MC will be appointed by the President. She had sent to council a check list with names of about 260 Society members that do not currently serve but are interested in becoming members of committees. Council should review that list and suggest potential candidates.

- Recent activities included: selecting the Service Award winner, organizing the Early Career (EC) lunch, and organizing a pilot Mentor program at the Annual Meeting in Brussels, and discussing potential next speakers for the Ed Scott lecture series.
- Ideas gathered at the EC lunch and during the mentorship program will be discussed at the next MC meeting on October 6.
- Current membership is the highest number ever with 1121 members.

#### 2.2 Mentor/Mentee program post-meeting survey (M. Benner)

- The pilot mentor program was well accepted and received overall positive feedback. Overall 25 mentors and 37 mentees signed up. 13 mentors had 1 mentee and 12 mentors had 2 mentees. R. Hanna paired them according to research interests whenever possible.
- Responses to the post-meeting survey are detailed in the report that was distributed to councilors prior to the meeting. Most found attending the program was beneficial. Problems were that some mentees could not connect with their mentors. The MC recommends continuing the program at future meetings with adjustments. Recommendations will be sent to council after MC's fall meeting.
- Suggestions from council: separate responses to Q5 (if the program was beneficial) between mentors and mentees. In total 64% felt attending the program was beneficial. In absolute numbers that are 40 people. It would be interesting to see whether that 40 people are mostly mentees or mentors. Is there any recommendation for making the relationship between mentor and mentee long-lasting? There were not many guidelines imposed for this program. The immediate responses from present councilors and guests who participated in the program was that it was perfect not to have too many guidelines. This will not set the expectations too high and will set low barriers for participation which will eventually increase the number of participants.

#### 2.3 Meteoritical Society Early Career lunch (M. Benner)

- The Early Career (EC) Sunday lunch meeting was very successful. When reaching the 100 registrants during early registration it was closed, and about 50-60 people actually attended the lunch. People were very engaged and mingling and stayed for about 3 hours. R. Hanna and M. Benner are contacts for the meeting organizers to setting up the EC lunch in Perth as well. M. Benner recommended that the Perth organizers should look for a local student to help with the organization on-site. At Brussels, the EC students were asked to mingle and talk to each other to make friends. White paper boards could be used to note ideas. Such ideas were aimed on how EC students could get better involved in the Society and at meetings. Suggestions covered many different ideas, e.g., about online workshops that would be helpful for them to learn, or about types of networking events they would like to see either online or at future meetings. The MC will evaluate these suggestions and will present 3-5 top suggestions to be considered by council.
- Comments from councilors to the list: The Meteoritical Society website can be updated easily; the idea to have online workshops is excellent; these two new programs should be more advertised on the website and in newsletters; EC lunch meeting is important, especially for students who are more isolated and for the first time attending a Meteoritical Society annual meeting; considering installing slack/discourse or similar software on the Society's website to have a more direct way for members to communicate outside their

institutions for exchange or for getting information out, e.g., job opportunities; it is good to have students on the program committee.

- McKay and Wiley Awards (M. Riebe) - COUNCIL-ONLY 4:33 pm UTC

M. Riebe reported that the student talks at the annual Meeting in Brussels were evaluated along the same dimensions that have been used the years before. There were 5 judges assigned for every talk, and at least three judges for every talk returned their scores. Two scores were calculated: a) simple average and b) a normalized score based to the judges average scores (leveling out differences in scoring between individual judges). In order not to discriminate non-native English speakers, she further evaluated how the handling of questions, by giving that less weight, affected the scoring. She did not note much change taking that into account.

M. Riebe noticed, however, that two main problems cause scores to be imperfect:

1) The talks are evaluated by different judges. That is why the scores are normalized to the average scoring of each individual judge.

But

2) not all talks a judge sees are of the same quality and a simple normalization to the average score of a judge may give false results.

Therefore the top 12 talks as based on the scores outlined above were selected and evaluated further by looking at the detailed comments given by the judges.

Two talks were ranked highest. The McKay Award Committee therefore recommended both as winners for the 2024 McKay award. Five talks were recommended for the 2024 Wiley awards.

The winners are a great representation of the community. Three areas of student residence were defined, English speaking (USA, the UK, and Canada), Europe minus the UK (Switzerland, France, Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and Sweden), and the Rest of the World (Morocco, Japan, Brazil). The percentage of students evaluated from those areas match nicely the percentage of award winners from the same areas.

Among the five students recommended for the Wiley awards are two from Europe minus the UK and one from the Rest of the World.

The president thanked M. Riebe for the thoughtful approach. She saw this evaluation as an excellent model for how to evaluate the talks in future and for how to come to a recommendation for winners.

Open questions were addressed in the following:

- There is no barrier, for neither financial nor regulative reasons, to support two McKay award winners. It would be consistent with the bylaws.
- How can the approach developed by M. Riebe be made sustainable? M. Riebe will write down guidelines for what she did. She also suggested forming a smaller "core committee" consisting of the chair and 2-3 co-chairs as it is very difficult to have an engaged and open discussion with 40 people. A smaller group selected by the chair could distribute the work load. A more open discussion could lead to a fairer outcome. The president will follow up with M. Riebe on specifics for changing the guidelines accordingly.

- Would it be possible to increase the number of award winners? The Meteoritical Society leads the McKay award, and it was stated that for the McKay award, two winners should be the exception rather than the rule. The money for the Wiley award is fixed in the contract with Wiley.
- Could there be a way for students to mark themselves as native or non-native speakers? It would be very helpful to have this information for evaluating them fairly, because now the judges have to guess. Disclosure of this type of information cannot be forced on applicants but it could be made optional.
- Is there a way to increase the prize money, as it does not keep up with inflation? The Society has the means to increase it for all awards, unless specific requirements, regarding the prize money, were associated when the money was endowed. The money for the Wiley awards is fixed but it could be an option to supplement Wiley awards with other sources from the Meteoritical Society. The treasurer ensured that the specific award funds are healthy enough to take out more money, and that it would be good for the Society to spend that money. The treasurer should make this an action at the November council meeting and come up with recommendations.

**Motion 37: Follow the committee's recommendations and award prizes to two McKay Award winners in 2024 given the exceptional circumstances.**

**Move:** J. Zipfel

**Second:** H. Busemann

all in favor

**Motion 38: Follow the recommendation of the McKay Award committee for the Wiley Award winners.**

**Move:** J. Zipfel

**Second:** B. Zanda

all in favor

**ADJOURN**

**5:00 pm UTC**