

Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
March 06, 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 2nd Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2024

Council Members Invitees

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

Guests

Steven Goderis (Brussels 2024)
Rhian Jones (Chair of the Endowment Committee)
Gordon (Oz) Osinski (Chair of the Outreach Committee)

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

2024 Provisional budget MetSoc 03-01-2024.xlsx
2011-2023_Total costs of annual meetings.png
Perth2025_Council_Discussion.March2024.docx

Agenda

1. Welcome (President)

3:00 pm UTC

Announcements and review of electronic votes since last meeting

Announcements

Hailing Dong has taken on the offer to become Executive Editor for GCA. The official announcement will be out on March, 12. It will be released by The Meteoritical Society and Geochemical Society together.

Draft contract from MAPS is very similar to the previous version, currently being reviewed by a lawyer.

Call for 2028 meeting has been send out in the March newsletter, and the form can be downloaded from the website. There is no rule set that the meeting should be moving but Council should consider that in future decisions.

Ed Scott lecture went well with about 80 people online.

The committees received strong nominations for all awards.

M. Wadhwa asked the president to write in the name of The Meteoritical Society a letter to the US government in support of Mars sample return missions. The executive committee discussed that writing such a letter seemed inconsistent with Article 16 of the bylaws about "Political limitations". The Executive committee offered to distribute an open letter to the membership that could be signed individually by members who are in support. Having a letter asking for support for MSR in that sense would be great.

Electronic votes

- Approval of funding the proposal by T. Burbine for a Meteoritics information booth at the AGU meeting from the operating budget as recommended by the Membership Committee. (7 February 2024)
- Approval of the recommendation for the funding of Endowment Grants and Research Grants as made by the Endowment Committee. (15 February 2024)
- Approval of the requested loan of USD 10,000 needed for a first payment of Arinex as requested by the organizers for Perth 2025. (27 February 2024)
- Approval of minutes from the Council Meeting on 01-23-2024. (29 February 2024)

2. Committees

2.1. Outreach Committee (Gordon "Oz" Osinski)
activities and plans
30 min

3:12 pm UTC

G. Osinski reports that the major focus of the adhoc Outreach Committee during the last year was on social media, mainly Instagram, Facebook, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. He highlights strengths and usefulness for content of the Meteoritical Society, as well as statistics on the audience in terms of age, gender, and nationality for each of these platforms.

All activities could be increased but are very time consuming, if a high level of activity should be maintained or even increased.

In consequence the OC recommends to hire social media coordinator(s) to develop a media plan, and to post regularly. The recommendation is for two part time positions rather than only one. A smaller Outreach Committee should be installed for guidance and input to the Social Media Coordinators, for the development of long-term goals/visions for outreach, and with a focus on content for the website.

The president opens the discussion about the future of the adhoc outreach committee, and its recommendations for two part time positions.

Regarding the part time positions of social media coordinators several questions and recommendations were brought forward:

- Estimate for a good start would be about 10-15 hours/week for each person.
- The Society would need to support this with a fixed amount for services.
- Should be temporary jobs.
- Candidates should be from the scientific field and knowing the topics.
- Could be a bridging job for early career people.
- Money would be better invested in other fields with a high work load, e.g., NomCom.
- Jobs need continuity.
- Should be part of the duties of members of the outreach committee.
- Members of the outreach committee have not enough spare time.
- Being on social media is fundamental to have.
- How much would be the final cost for the society and is it affordable.
- Need for a financial plan.
- Look for enthusiastic students that could be compensated otherwise, e.g., travel support to Meteoritical Society.
- Spend about US\$ 15,000 and more per year for 2 people as a start to see how it works.

Opinions on making the Outreach Committee permanent:

- Exploration work was important and one should be going on making it a permanent real committee.
- Going ahead to form a permanent committee is important.

Motion: Establish a permanent Outreach Committee.

Move Denton Ebel

Second Brigitte Zanda

All in favor (11 votes)

Motion: 20k per year for 3 years starting next FY for the OC to use as discretion to hire for work people to post and interact with social media on the Society's behalf.

Move Denton Ebel

Second Brigitte Zanda

6 in favor

5 not in favor

Follow-up discussion: the responsibility to oversee the work and how the money is spent lies in the Outreach Committee; Not all money needs to be spent per year; The allowance should be reviewed in 2025 and be reconsidered.

2.2. Endowment Committee (Rhian Jones)

3:52 pm UTC

Meteoritical Society Research and Community Grants

30 min

R. Jones reviewed the first two rounds of the Meteoritical Society Research Grants. Research grants are very successful, very international, and rewarding. Endowment grants were renamed to "Community Grants".

The following discussion brought up ideas on how to broaden attention of members for these programs.

- Keep on going with posting calls and news reports on website and newsletter.
- Announce it through outreach committee/social media.
- Publish final reports.
- Encourage recipients to present the outcomes at meetings and the MetSoc meeting in particular and ask them to acknowledge support by MetSoc.
- Send a list to the program committees with names of Research Grant winners so they could highlight such presentations e.g., with a star in the program but also have them mentioned by session chairs.

3. Annual Meetings

3.1. Brussels 2024 (Steven Goderis)

4:05 pm UTC

Budget

30 min

S. Goderis presents the budget for the Brussels meeting. The major guidance for the organizers was to make the meeting inclusive as much as possible but also as cheap as possible. Everyone should participate in all social events. Cost balance depends on number of participants.

Income is coming from institutional grants and sponsors, and through the registration. Registration fees were set to early bird, regular and onsite registration with a full member fee for early bird registration of € 575 and of € 775 for regular registration. Dates were set early for abstract submission between April, 1 and May 14, 2024 and the announcement of program and travel grants is aimed to mid-June. Therefore most attendees are expected to register as early bird. The number of participants is expected to be around 470 to 500.

Workshop is not included in the main budget and should break even.

The following discussion touch on:

The budget being tight and that there should be considered to built in a contingency of about 5%. Why is public transportation included? Councilors are supportive of this as it is not very expensive.

How many parallel sessions? 3 sessions in parallel, may add to the venue costs? It will not be a major additional cost to have 3 rather than 2 parallel sessions. Not all sponsors did reply yet.

The budgeted overall costs are in a range comparable to most other meetings during a period of the last 12 years. Calculating with 475 participants seems reasonable compared to the last three European meetings where numbers were above 500.

How many students should be on the program committee? A good number would be around 2-4 students. Due to the Summer Olympics in Paris hotel costs may increase, and it is recommended to book as early as possible.

Motion: Approve the budget as is.

Move Tasha Dunn

Second Jutta Zipfel and Guy Conselmagno

All in favor (11 votes)

3.2. Perth 2025 (Nancy Chabot)

4:35 pm UTC

Vote and discussion in-person meeting only,

and window for abstract submission

10 min

1) Consider and approve an in-person only conference.

There were several arguments put forward why a hybrid meeting would be a good option, most of it because of high travel costs that may not allow a larger fraction of the membership to attend a meeting in Australia. On the other hand, considering time zones and differences it may be less attractive to join virtually if that means presenting a talk at night hours. The experience from the past has shown that the option of virtual attendance has not been taken on and was less than 10%. In addition, the costs expected to make it virtually are exceedingly high. If comparing benefits, it seems better to subsidize student travel than virtual attendance. Finally, it was agreed on to ask the hosts to consider alternative options, if available, for virtual attendance that may come at no or low cost, e.g., listen only.

Motion: Approve an in-person meeting.

Move Tasha Dunn

Second Alvaro Costa

9 in favor

1 abstain

1 not in favor

2) Abstracts open in August 2024 and close them February, 1 2025. The need for this would be that travel grants need to be granted early in order to have enough time for participants to finish travel plans.

The president pointed out that the exact dates are not up to Council to decide but need to be discussed and agreed on with LPI.

The request was opened for discussion and councilors were asked to give guidance for the hosts about their request in general.

There were no reasonable grounds given what would justify such an exceptionally long period for abstract submissions. Furthermore if, the abstract deadline should be early in February everything needs to be pushed up, e.g., travel grant supporters need to be contacted early. It might act disincentive or even counter productive as the time between writing an abstract and presenting the work may have led to substantially different results. If needed for applying for a visa, the hosts could write and send invitation letters at any time. It is not clear why a meeting in Australia should need different deadlines and procedures than other meetings some place else in the world.

The outcome of the discussion showed that Council is in favor to keep abstract submission and deadline more as it usually is. If hosts think that it needs to be done differently they should give Council a really good and convincing reason. Furthermore, Council agrees to ask hosts to make the registration fee as low as possible.

4. Open discussion

6:03 pm UTC

Denton Ebel raised concern that the LPSC has become less of a place for meteoritics over the last years. This may have a negative effect on the scientific community and US participation on meteorite studies. It was pointed out that mission driven results on asteroid samples from e.g., Bennu and Ryugu were presented at LPSC. Both are strongly related to meteoritics and keep that bond among meteoritics, space mission and planetary exploration.

5. Adjourn

5:00 pm UTC