

Meteoritical Society Council Meeting
January 20, 2026, 3 pm - 5:30 pm (UTC)
online only

Thema: Zoom-Meeting von J Zipfel

Agenda and Minutes for the 1st Meeting of the Meteoritical Society in 2026

Council Members Invitees

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

Guests

Emma Bullock (Elements financial report)
Tom Burbine (LPSC 2026 booth)
Tasha Dunn (Endowment Committee)
Dominik Hezel (Annual Meeting 2026 in Frankfurt, Germany; Audit Committee)
Imene Kerraouch (LPSC 2026 booth)
Millarca Valenzuela Picon (Annual Meeting 2028 in Antofagasta, Chile)
Rhonda Stroud (Annual Meeting 2027 in Flagstaff, USA)
Mike Weisberg (Nomenclature Committee)

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

Audit Committee Report for the Fiscal Year 2025.doc
Endowment Report to Council_011226.pdf
NC_Report to Council_01_20_2026.pdf
Elements Council Jan 2026.pdf

Minutes and Agenda

1. **Welcome (President and Secretary)** 3:00 pm UTC

Announcements and review of electronic votes since last meeting

The Secretary announced that the only electronic vote held since the last Council meeting on November 18, had been on the minutes of that meeting which were approved unanimously.

The President informed about the new membership of committees, the status of the database with LPI, and the status about finding a permanent address for the Society.

2. **MetSoc Business and Committees**

- **Elements (Cari Corrigan/Emma Bullock)** 3:05 pm UTC

Financial report

15 min

Corrigan reported on Elements, and its current standing. Over the last year Elements magazine received about 2000 citations/yr. Due to the option to opt-out of print, a single print run had gone down to about 10,000 issues. As of 2026, Cari Corrigan is no longer the chair of the Executive Committee; her replacement is Sylvie Demouchy. Thematic topics for 2026 are in place and the principal editors will meet in March to decide on upcoming topics for the next couple of years.

Corrigan reported on the budget and explained major issues with it. The biggest problem is related to print and shipping costs which amount to about 1/3 of the total budget. The revenue for print advertisement had steadily decreased over the last years, so that the budget ran a deficit. Additional expenses in 2026 are due to the need for contracting a new graphic designer to be trained on the job. The current one will retire by the end of the year. By far the biggest costs are caused by high prices for international shipping from the US. Strategies to break even in the budget are switching to a printer in Germany and shipping internationally from there; their costs for international shipping are almost a factor of three lower than in the US while printing costs per issue are only marginally more expensive. The aimed-for solution is a hybrid model where issues for the US are printed and shipped within the US while all other issues are printed and shipped from Germany. The percentage is that 1/4 will be printed and shipped in the US and 3/4 will be done in Germany. Following this scheme and starting in June, the budget should break even.

A vote was held to approve the budget as recommended from the Executive Committee of Elements, and the following motion was entertained:

Vote 1: Motion to approve the budget for Elements.

Move Nancy Chabot

Second Jutta Zipfel

All in favor

Corrigan asked for recommendations for a replacement of the principal editor for petrology, and any suggestions for a Cosmo Element article or a planetary issue.

- **Endowment Committee (Tasha Dunn)** 3:20 pm UTC

Investment guidelines

15 min

Dunn reported on the last quarterly meeting of the Endowment Committee (EC) with Andrew Crowell, the advisor from D.A. Davidson, who manages the Society's investment fund. Over the last year, the investment fund was doing well. The EC proposed moving 600k into a more ethical portfolio. Furthermore they recommended an investment strategy of 65/35 \pm 5 %. This is mainly because the two accounts are run at two different strategies i.e., 60/40 and 70/30. With moving more money into the more ethical account this ratio will change over time. Recommending an investment strategy of 65/35 \pm 5 % will allow the EC for more flexibility within the proposed margins.

A motion was entertained:

Vote 2: To move US\$ 600k from the MFP portfolio to the Blackrock portfolio and approve an investment strategy of 65/35 \pm 5 percent.

Move Tasha Dunn

Second Nancy Chabot

All in favor.

- MetSoc booth (Tom Burbine/Imene Kerraouch)
Report on AGU 2025 and proposal for a booth at LPSC
20 min

3:40 pm UTC

Burbine and Kerraouch reported on the AGU 2025 booth. Further booths are planned for LPSC and AGU in 2026.

The booth was one of the best of all booths and much better compared to 2024. This was thanks to Kerraouch's efforts to make it look great and make people feel welcome.

The new brochure was printed out and put on a backdrop stand provided by Romy Hanna. The Society provided a large number of Elements Magazines (the Sample Return issue with a printing error on its cover page) to be given out for free. Allan Treiman provided a number of meteorites for display. Further they offered brochures, food, drinks, and gifts for those joining the Society. Few volunteers were helping out staffing the booth. Hundreds of interested people were visiting wanting to learn about meteorites and the Society, and asking many questions. Forty nine new members joined onsite.

The cost for a booth at LPSC will be about US\$ 3,400, and for AGU26 in San Francisco US\$ 6,000 is needed. This includes costs for booths and everything else that will be provided. Higher costs for AGU26 include costs for dealing with more logistic difficulties compared to LPSC.

Overall the AGU25 booth was very successful and it would be great for the Society to continue promoting meteoritics, and being represented at larger conferences.

The following recommendations were suggested:

- a) Make more brochures part of the outreach activities of the Society. Create different versions for different audiences and covering different educational topics on, e.g., impact craters, The Moon, planets, etc.
- b) Improve the booth.
- c) Have more gifts, e.g. pillow cases, scarves
- d) Lower costs for professional membership. US\$ 80.00 was too much for many.

Burbine should provide the treasurer a financial statement about past expenses over the current FY. The treasurer will pay LPI directly for the LPSC booth. For the AGU booth a cost estimate needs to be provided by April to be approved by Council by email.

Further requests were to welcoming new members, and an announcement/report for the website. (Both were announced in the February newsletter.)

- Nomenclature Committee (Mike Weisberg)
Proposal for changing the rules for the NC
15 min

3:54 pm UTC

Weisberg gave an update on the NomCom:

- 2000 meteorites were approved in 2025.
- Membership: Ten voting members are on the committee plus 3 ex-officio members. Associate editors and regional consultants improve efficiency. At the end of 2026 two members are rotating off the committee. The MetBull editor needs to be replaced by the end of the year. An ad hoc committee was formed to seek for potential candidates.
- Four meetings of NomCom during the year.
- The new layout for the database is now online.

Weisberg proposed updates and changes to the NomCom procedures document for making the NC more efficiently.

- 1) Wording for article 12.
- 2) Addition of procedures for establishing dense collection areas; appointing one of the committee members for handling dense collection names.
- 3) Update on voting procedures. Voting optional members are not expected to vote on all meteorites, making it sometime hard to reach the required 2/3s votes. It is proposed not to count them in reaching a 2/3 vote for a proposal.
- 4) Adding procedures for embargoed meteorites.

These revisions have been reviewed and received approval from NomCom. Weisberg asked for approval from Council.

Vote 3: To approve the changes recommended by the Nomenclature Committee to their guidelines.

Move Cari Corrigan

Second Elena Dobrica

All in favor.

There is a concern about the LPI stability and the future of the database. Such concerns are currently discussed on NomCom. Ideas are that the Society could take over more responsibility in the ownership. The offer stands that NomCom could discuss this possibility, and come back to Council. One question was whether the software used by LPI is open source?

Comments from Hezel with respect to the database, explained that data cannot be owned, only the infrastructure. Software should be easy to be transferred. Suggestion to use the Astromet infrastructure? There is a current DFG program funding projects related to data

transfer from the US to a German host. Inform Schönbächler who is looking into issues with the MetBull database, and recommend her to contact Hezel.

- Audit Committee (Dominik Hezel) 4:10 pm UTC
Audit report for FY24 and suggestion to eliminate the committee
15 min

Hezel reported that there were no issues with the treasurer's report. He further reported that the committee never had much to do, and that it took about 30 min to 1 hour to check the documents. This is mainly due to the excellent treasurer reports that greatly facilitated work of the committee. Therefore the committee thought that it would be no longer necessary, and recommended to abolish the committee. Hezel recommended that the task could be taken over by members on Council instead.

The past president informed about her experiences as chair of the audit committee when it was first established. Its duties had changed from the early times enormously simply by having now external tax consultants, and using a financial software. It is now easier for the treasurer to keep the books balanced. These improvements make an audit committee obsolete.

The treasurer emphasized that she would appreciate if somebody would look over her report. It was agreed that this could be assigned as a duty to the past president and vice president, and a third member on Council. Alternatively a professional audit (CPA) could be hired for performing a low-level audit if needed for some reason.

Vote 4: To abolish the Audit Committee, with its duties to be performed by the past president, the vice president, and a third person from Council chosen by those two.

Move Jutta Zipfel

Second Marina Ivanova

All in favor.

3. Annual Meetings

- Frankfurt 2026 (Jutta Zipfel/Dominik Hezel) 4:25 pm UTC
Planning progress, Field trips, preliminary budget
25 min

Zipfel gave an update on plans. So far, the catering for banquet, coffee breaks, and poster sessions were booked. The LOC is looking for a Barringer lecturer. The SOC had received suggestions for special sessions and workshops. Three post conference field trips were arranged, and planning was almost finalized.

Hezel explained the budget. The largest items had been finalized, e.g., catering, conference management support and technical support from LPI. Finally a reduction will be granted from the University, the exact amount has not yet been decided on. Taken together these costs will amount to about €240,000. Further miscellaneous items are estimated to add up to €30,000.

Calculating with 500 attendees and keeping the registration fees as low as possible, and adding the money from sponsors, the budget will be on the positive side. Once more numbers are finalized and the costs are better known, the registration fees can be adjusted to balance out the budget more closely.

The budget should be finalized and approved by Council on the next meeting scheduled for March 24th. The loan was used for paying the technical support from LPI. Hotel rooms at different categories are announced on the website.

- Flagstaff 2027 (Rhonda Stroud)
Updates and approval of LOC and SOC members
15 min

4:48 pm UTC

Stroud gave an update on the meeting plannings.

- 1) A logo for the meeting had been designed by the Barringer Crater Company.
- 2) A LOC-Core team was announced to be approved by Council.
- 3) A list with local members on the SOC was put together but was not yet completed. Stroud had not yet reached out to international colleagues. The plan is to finalized membership on the SOC by the time of the March 24th Council meeting.
- 4) Stroud raised concerns that planning for the meeting became difficult as the attendance from international colleagues cannot be predicted for 2027. It was good that the Cosmos Meeting was approved for Santa Fe, a week prior to the MetSoc meeting. There may be some crossover of international guests.
- 5) Having the Icebreaker reception at Lowell is uncertain. LOC is currently looking for a backup plan.
- 6) Open planning ideas were: A Musical & Scientific show at the Barringer Lecture, Meteorite Expo, Live Desktop SEM Demos, Flagstaff Astrotourism, Hopi dancers for the opening reception, Colorado River water rafting post conference excursion.
- 7) URL for the website was secured.

Questions from Council addressed potential hiking opportunities for Wednesday afternoon.

Vote 5: Motion to approve the LOC for the Flagstaff meeting, and to add to it the organizer of the 2028 meeting.

Move Cari Corrigan

Second Jutta Zipfel

All in favor.

- 4.3. Antofagasta 2028 (Millarca Valenzuela Picon)

5:05 pm UTC

Updates on planning,
15 min

Valenzuela reported that meeting dates are still tentative but likely the best because of the university winter break. This will allow to held in the university the Icebreaker, Workshops, committee meetings planned for the first meeting day.

She expects about 400 attendees to come. The aim is to engage the Latin American community to join and contribute to the meeting. The MetSoc meeting should become an impulse and push for the Latin American meteorites' community.

Valenzuela proposed two venues, either Hotel Antofagasta or Enjoy Casino. Both venues can accommodate up to 500 persons.

Hotel Antofagasta

Advantage: Nice location, old town, restaurants and shops in the neighborhood, venue for many astronomical meetings in the past.

Disadvantage: It is not safe to walk in the streets at night. Unsafe area for everyone.

Enjoy Casino

Advantage: located in a very safe area, next to UNC campus, close to the museums of the Huanchaca which could be used as venue for the Icebreaker or Banquet.

Disadvantage: Price is 3x higher than for Hotel Antofagasta.

In order to become attractive for Latin American attendees the price is important.

Registration fees should be low, otherwise they likely will not come. For this reason it remains uncertain which venue to chose.

Valenzuela showed a list with potential members of the local organization committee from Chile or other countries in South America.

Major sponsors and supporters were secured. Support is mostly in logistics and not monetary.

Valenzuela had questions about loans from MetSoc, which could be given if needed for e.g., a venue deposit. The president recommended Valenzuela to discuss open questions with the Vice President who will be on the local organization committee and be President at the time of the meeting.

4. Adjourn

- Meeting ends

5:25 pm UTC

The President ended the meeting and thanked all councilors and guests for their contributions.