

96-1 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society held at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas at 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 17th. March, 1996.

Present: H. McSween (President), J. Goldstein (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), H. Wänke (Past President), C. Chapman, G. Herzog, G. MacPherson, H. Nagahara, D. Papanastassiou.

Apologies: D. Stöffler (Vice-President), J. Goswami, D. Sears.

Guests: F. Podosek (item 4); G. Faure, M. Lipschutz (item 5), J. Grossman, K. Keil (item 6); O. Eugster (item 7).

1. President's Report

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending.

1.2. The President listed new appointments to Standing Committees: John Wasson to the Leonard Medal Committee, with Otto Eugster as Chair; Richard Grieve as Barringer Crater nominee to the Barringer Medal Committee, and Michael Dence as Chair; L Grossman and R. Mitterer to the Publications Committee, with Frank Podosek re-appointed as Chair; M. Lindstrom and N. Nakamura re-appointed and Mini Wadwha appointed to the Nomenclature Committee. Jeff Grossman is appointed Editor of the Meteoritical Bulletin. The Nomenclature Committee requires a new Chair, with the expiry of Ed Scott's term of office. Alan Rubin has accepted the post, but is already in his third term of office on the committee (the maximum allowed under Article 12.2 of the by-laws).

Motion: That the by-laws be waived to allow appointment of Alan Rubin as Chair of the Nomenclature Committee until the end of 1997 (Podosek, seconded Herzog; carried unanimously).

1.3. The Endowment Committee is preparing a brochure and covering letter to describe the Society's fund-raising campaign. A letter confirming the tax status of the Society from the US IRS has been received by the Treasurer. The Committee must draft a by-law to cover how the Committee should be constituted, and how it will operate. The President proposed that money from the Pergamon royalties (currently ~ \$75 000, rising to ~ \$105 000 by 1997) be transferred to the endowment fund. After discussion, the issue was left until the end of the meeting, to see if other calls would be made on the funding. This was not the case.

Motion: Council moves that we invest \$75,000 of the monies from the Pergamon royalties in an endowment fund (Wänke, seconded MacPherson; carried unanimously).

Action: A draft by-law covering operation of the Endowment Committee will be submitted to Council at the Berlin meeting.

1.4. The President reported the results of a poll carried out by the Meteoritical Society (MS) and the Geochemical Society (GS) concerning splitting purchase of *GCA* into two parts. The voting was as follows:

	For	Against	Total Membership
Geochemical Society	369	75	1300
Meteoritical Society	54	14	267

Even though the voting numbers were low, the pattern was consistent in both Societies. This is therefore taken as a mandate to continue with the proposal. The President thanked Podosek for his efforts during the negotiations.

1.5. It had been suggested to the President that the names of members of the Nominating Committee should be published, to allow representations to be made to them.

Action: Names of the Committee members will be announced at the Business Meeting of the Society. There will also be an announcement in *Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences* that suggestions can be sent *via* the Secretary of the Society.

2. Secretary's Report

2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated; no corrections were required.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved (accepted by acclamation).

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes

2.2. The Secretary had received no additional nominations for Officers or Councillors of the Society. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was therefore elected by affirmation.

Action: The President will write to the new Officers and Councillors, informing them of their election. The Secretary will also invite them to attend the Berlin Council meeting, as observers.

3. Treasurer's Report

3.1. Finances: The Treasurer circulated a report indicated that the finances of the Meteoritical Society were in good order (Annex I).

3.2. Nier Prize: It was decided to award \$1500 to the Nier Prize-winner, a sum that is not equal to the total interest earned on the endowment, but which would allow safeguard against the stocks performing less well in future years.

4. Publications Committee

4.1. Podosek submitted a report of the recent activities of the Publications Committee (PC; report attached at Annex II). Consensus has not yet been reached on a new Executive Editor (EE) for *GCA*. Ratification will be by fax and e-mail ballot in approximately 1 month's time. The new office must be operational by September. Council had no preferred candidate from those under consideration.

4.2. The new contract for *MPS* with Allen Press has been signed.

4.3. Sears has proposed publishing a Supplement to *MPS*, that contains the abstracts. No extra pages will be required, just an internal re-organisation of pages within the regular issues. Any extra costs will arise from an additional set of covers and mailing. Council's permission is not required for this move, just that of the PC, apart from where it impinges on the financial situation of the Society. The PC has no reason to prevent this development, since in effect we will have 7 issues of *MPS*. The development is therefore tightly bound with the finances of *MPS*, and discussion continued under item 5.3.

4.4. The GS is going to use its share of the Elsevier royalties to subsidise the huge increase in *GCA* subscription rates by ~\$8 per member. Members of the GS get *GCA* as part of their subscription to the GS. Members of the MS get *MPS*, plus the chance to subscribe to *GCA*. There was little support in Council for duplicating this move - it was felt that the monies could be better spent on student travel for MS meetings.

5. Journals

5.1. GCA: The EE presented a report on the current status of *GCA* (Annex III). The President thanked Faure for his service as EE over the last few years.

5.2. MPS and 5.3. MPS finances: Discussion of these two items was taken together, partly during discussion under item 4.3. Sears sent a report on the current status of *MPS* (Annex IV). The journal's finances are in a healthy state (Annex V, prepared by Mike Lipschutz). Sears wishes to produce a Supplement containing the abstracts in 1996, but Lipschutz prefers this to wait until 1997, when the increased institutional subscriptions can be tied to an increase in the number of issues. Discussion followed regarding an appropriate level at which institutional rates for 1997 should be fixed, based on a projected page limit of 900 pages, including an additional set of covers for a Supplement.

Motion: That the 1997 institutional rates be raised by 14% (Herzog, seconded MacPherson; carried unanimously).

Motion: That the number of issues of *MPS* in 1997 is increased to 7, the 7th issue being a Supplement containing the abstracts (Herzog, seconded Chapman; carried unanimously).

Action: There seems to be a discrepancy between the figures produced by the Treasurer, and those from Lipschutz. They were asked to reconcile their numbers, and bring a proposed dues increase to Berlin.

5.4. Following from the decision to create a Supplement to *MPS*, Sears wishes to include the *Meteoritical Bulletin* with the abstracts. The Editor of the *Bulletin*, Jeff Grossman, expressed his concern, and that of the Nomenclature Committee, that the *Bulletin* might be capped in length, given that it will be in competition with the abstracts. The timing of publication of the *Bulletin* will now be restricted to once a year (previously it was approximately once every 18 months), and that there might be almost two years in between the finding of a new meteorite and publication of its details in the *Bulletin*.

Motion: Council expresses its concern that the *Meteoritical Bulletin* might be capped in length. Council advises the Editor of *MPS* that the page target is 750 pages for the 6 regular issues, with the abstracts and *Meteoritical Bulletin* bound together as a Supplement (Podosek, seconded Herzog; carried unanimously).

Action: The President will convey the results of this discussion to Sears.

6. Society Meetings

6.1. 1995: Washington D.C. (MacPherson): The meeting was a great success, and the conservative budget set by the Organising Committee was rewarded by a surplus between ~\$8000 - \$9000. This was mainly the result of contractors submitting final accounts lower in cost than their estimates. MacPherson suggested that the surplus be returned to the membership by subsidising the abstract fee at the Hawaii meeting. Council generally did not like the link being made between meeting surpluses and future expensive meetings. It was felt that the abstract fee of \$35 was not unreasonable. The profit from the Washington meeting will therefore be returned to central funds, and the possibility of subsidising the Hawaii meeting discussed under item 6.3.

6.2. 1996: Berlin: Stöffler was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a detailed report of the progress of the meeting organisation (Annex VI).

6.3. 1997: Hawaii (Keil): The contract has been signed with the Maui hotel, and a reduced rate agreed for 4 days before and after the meeting. There will also be a workshop prior to the meeting. There will be a field trip to a local volcano on the Sunday before the meeting, and to the Big Island and observatory the weekend after the meeting. Wednesday afternoon will be free, with a trip to the most recent lava flow on Maui (1794). There will be two parallel sessions. Keil has approached NASA and the Barringer Company for sponsorship for student travel, and raised ~\$40 000. He cannot see any further major possibilities for sponsorship. This compares with the amounts of \$70

000 and \$65 000 raised by Washington and Berlin, respectively. The meeting is going to be an expensive one, since everyone will have high travel costs, although the favourable hotel price negotiated will help with expenses. Keil therefore requests the Society to subsidise the meeting with a one-time donation of \$8 000. This will be returned to the Society if the meeting records a surplus.

Motion: Given the unique situation of Hawaii, for which all delegates will have extensive travel costs, Council moves that the Society subsidises the Hawaii meeting to an amount up to \$8 000 (MacPherson, seconded Wänke; carried unanimously).

6.4. 1998: Dublin (Grady): A letter has been received from Ian Sanders in Dublin, proposing that the dates of the 1998 meeting be 27th -31st July.

Motion: Council moves to accept the dates of the 1998 Meteoritical Society Meeting as 27 - 31st July 1998 (MacPherson, seconded Podosek; carried unanimously).

Action: The Secretary will inform Ian Sanders that the dates proposed were accepted.

7. Nier Prize

7.1. The Leonard Medal Committee presented its first choice candidate as Laurie Leshin, with T. J. McCoy second.

Motion: Council moves to accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee to award the 1996 Nier Prize to Laurie A. Leshin (Chapman, seconded Wänke; carried unanimously).

7.2. The draft certificate produced by the Secretary was accepted. It was determined that the Nier Prize-winner will not be required to make a formal presentation at the Annual Meeting or write a paper for *MPS*, but there will be a citation and response with the presentation at the award ceremony at the Annual Meeting.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. The President drew Council's attention to the need to up-date the by-laws, to change all references to *Meteoritics* to *Meteoritics and Planetary Sciences*. This is not regarded as a substantive change, and will be carried out by the Secretary.

8.2. Wänke expressed concern that the current funding crisis at ESA has caused the postponement of all missions by 1 year. This places the joint ESA-NASA mission INTERMARSNET in jeopardy, as it has a very narrow mission window. Wänke asked the Society to send a letter of support for the mission to the Director-General of ESA.

Action: The President will send a letter of support for INTERMARSNET to the Director-General of ESA, drafted with assistance from Wänke.

No further business. Meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.

Monica M. Grady, 26th March 1996