

98-1 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 15th. March, 1998.

Present: D. Stöffler (President), M. Drake (Vice-President), J. Goldstein (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), H. McSween (Past President), A. Davis, W. Hartmann, G. Herzog, P. Jakeš, H. Nagahara, L. Schultz, P. Warren, B. Zanda.

Apologies: K. Turekian

Guests: F. Podosek (item 5); D. Sears, M. Lipschutz (item 6), C. Koeberl (item 7).

1. Minutes

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending and welcomed the new Council members.

1.2. 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. The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. President's Report

2.1. The meeting in Maui in July 1997 had been a great success, scientifically and financially.

2.2. The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee had not been opposed, thus the officers were elected by acclamation (see Secretary's Report).

2.3. The following have been requested by the President to serve on committees of the Society:

Urs Krähenbühl	Leonard Medal Committee
Tom Ahrens	Barringer Medal Committee
Adrian Brearley	Nomenclature Committee
Jorn Köblitz	Nomenclature Committee
Tim McCoy	Nomenclature Committee

2.4. Two invitations have been received to host meetings in 2003, from Münster and Zurich

3. Secretary's Report

3.1. The Nominating Committee (G. MacPherson (Chair), T. Dickinson, G. Huss, C. Koeberl and S. Ross Taylor) prepared a slate of candidates to take office in January 1999. The names were circulated to the membership, and since no alternative names were proposed by petition, the following were elected by acclamation:

Vice-President:	Gero Kurat		
Treasurer:	Lawrence Grossman		
Secretary:	Ed Scott		
Councillor:	Andrew M. Davis	(US)	2nd term
	William K. Hartmann	(US)	2nd term
	Petr Jakeš	(Czech Republic)	2nd term
	Timothy J. McCoy	(US)	
	W. Uwe Reimold	(South Africa)	
	Ludolf Schultz	(Germany)	2nd term
	Paul Warren	(US)	2nd term
	Brigitte Zanda	(France)	2nd term

3.2. The Secretary thanked the Nominating Committee, particularly the Chair, Glenn MacPherson, for their efforts in this matter.

Action: the Secretary will write to the new Council members, to inform them of their election.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1. The Treasurer circulated a report indicating that the finances of the Meteoritical Society were in good order (Annex I).

4.2. The Investments Committee will be asked to give a formal report at the Annual Meeting.

4.3. Discussion followed about the provision of secretarial assistance for the Treasurer. Council recognises that the Treasurer's job has become more complicated over the last few years, such that some support by the Society is necessary for that office.

Motion: Council proposes that in the year commencing January 1999 the Society will pay \$6000 per year for two years for administrative support to the Treasurer. Also, that in the year commencing Jan. 2001, Council proposes that the costs for the administrative support should be borne partly by raising the membership dues by \$5 per member (\$4500), and partly from reimbursement from the Endowment Fund for services rendered (proposed Grady, seconded Goldstein; allowed to fail).

After discussion, the above motion was amended to two motions:

Motion: Council proposes that in the year commencing January 1999 the Society will pay \$6000 per year for two years for administrative support to the Treasurer (proposed Grady, seconded Goldstein; carried unanimously).

Motion: Council recognises the need to provide financial support to the Treasurer's office, and Council will examine the source of this support on a regular basis (proposed Drake, seconded Hartmann; carried unanimously).

5. Publications Committee

5.1. Podosek submitted a report of the recent activities of the Publications Committee (PC; report attached at Annex II). It has been suggested, by the Publications Committee, and then by Elsevier, that the *GCA* page budget should be reduced, to cut operating costs, which would result in a reduction in personal subscriptions.

Motion: Council proposes that it should support a reduction in pages to 4500 for *Geochimica Cosmochimica Acta* (Drake, seconded Zanda; carried unanimously).

5.2. Concern was expressed about production of LPSC abstracts on CD-ROM only, with reservations about the ability to download text. The President, Andrew Davis and Paul Warren will all discuss this matter with David Black and LPI administration when appropriate.

6. Journals

6.1. GCA: The report from Turekian will be presented at the Annual meeting in July.

6.2. MAPS: The Editor was pleased to announce that *MAPS* now had over 200 library subscriptions; as a result, he provided champagne for Council to drink the continuing health of the journal. Sears was congratulated on the job he had done in building *MAPS* into its present state. Five new Associate editors have been appointed. A formal report will be given in July.

6.3. MAPS finances: The journal's finances are in a reasonable state (report attached at Annex III). Discussion followed regarding an appropriate level at which institutional rates should be set for 1999. Lipschutz recommended an increase of \$30 to \$360, and that individual dues be raised by \$3 (\$1.50 for students). An alternative suggestion was proposed by McSween, that full dues be raised by \$5, to \$80, and student dues decreased to \$35.

Motion: Council proposes that it should accept the suggestion by Lipschutz that the institutional rates be raised by \$30 in 1999 (McSween, seconded Drake; carried unanimously).

Motion: Council proposes that membership dues be raised by \$5 for full members, but returned to 1997 levels for students (McSween, seconded Drake; 8 for, 2 against, 2 abstentions; motion carried).

7. Society Meetings

7.1. 1998: Dublin: The report was presented by Grady. An outline budget was proposed (attached at Annex IV), and the registration fee of IR£145 (~\$203) accepted. Some concern was expressed that as a result of space considerations, not everyone would be able to attend the banquet.

7.2. 1999: Johannesburg: Christian Koeberl reported on behalf of the Organising Committee. The venue is confirmed as the central campus of the University of Witwatersrand. The OC has appointed an official conference organiser to assist with administrative details. Accommodation will be at the Holiday Inn (120 rooms booked) ~ 1 km away from the campus, and there will be shuttle transport 3 times per day between the hotel and the university. A further 130 rooms have been reserved in student dormitories. Field excursions will take place both before and after the conference, including trips to Vredefort and the Bushveldt. There will be a mid-conference outing to the Pretoria Salt Pan impact crater. Sponsorship has already been obtained from the Barringer Crater Company (~ \$15,000) for student grants. The Planetary Society will sponsor a public event or lecture in Johannesburg. There might be a desert meteorite workshop prior to the conference, in Cape Town, in collaboration with the Geol. Soc. of South Africa. The Programme Committee will convene in Houston, not Johannesburg. The registration fee will be kept within the customary limits, although it was hoped that the abstract fee might not be imposed. After discussion, it was generally agreed that Council would provide support to the meeting (but the abstract fee would not be waived), but more details were required before a decision would be made as to whether monies might be found from the Meteoritical Society, or from its Endowment Fund. Uwe Reimold to provide the Meteoritical Society with a detailed financial request for the support of students and other activities (public lecturing?) at the next Council meeting in Dublin. A concern was expressed about safety in Johannesburg; Koeberl reported that if common-sense precautions were taken, there should be no problems.

7.3. 2000: Chicago: The original proposal, that the meeting be held at the Field Museum, was no longer possible, as the Museum was not going to renovate its meeting rooms. The conference would therefore be held at a conference hotel downtown. This will decrease transport costs and provide a wider range of eating places. No extensive field trip programme was planned, although there was the possibility of a boat trip on Lake Michigan.

7.4. Future meetings: No formal invitation has yet been received from the Vatican for the meeting in 2001, although informal discussions have taken place. A firm date for the 2002 meeting in S. California is also still being awaited. Two invitations have been received to host the meeting in 2003, from Münster and Zurich. An informal expression of interest has also been made by Rosa Scorzelli in Rio de Janeiro. All three institutions will be invited to make presentations at the Council meeting in July.

Action: The President will write to Münster and Zurich, and the Treasurer to Rio, with invitations to make presentations to the Council at the meeting in July.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. The Chair of the Barringer Medal Committee had circulated revised procedures for award of the medal. Most of the changes were accepted by Council.

Action: the Secretary will re-type the Procedures, and return to the Barringer Medal Committee.

8.2. There was some discussion about the reported theft of meteorites from the Museum in Rio de Janeiro. It was agreed that Council required further details of the accusations and their outcome before any possible actions might be considered.

Action: Drake will attempt to find out from the Brazilian authorities and from the US Embassy in Rio de Janeiro what was the current situation regarding the thefts and the alleged thief.

No further business. Meeting closed at 5.10 p.m.
Monica M. Grady, 1st May 1998