

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society**

March 16, 2003 at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, TX

**Present:** Gary Huss, President; Kevin McKeegan, Treasurer; Ed Scott, Secretary; Gero Kurat, Past President; Councilors: Adrian Brearley, Guy Consolmagno, Christian Koeberl, Sara Russell, Mini Wadhwa, and Mike Zolensky.

**Absent:** Addi Bischoff, Trevor Ireland (Councilors), and Herbert Palme (Vice President).

**Guests:** Tim Jull (MAPS Editor), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor), Hap McSween (Publications Committee chair and 2005 meeting organizer), Thomas Stephan and Iris Weber (2003 meeting).

### **1. Introductions, minutes, etc.**

The meeting was called to order at 1 pm by President Gary Huss who welcomed the new Council members and guests to the meeting. The minutes of the last Council meeting were approved.

### **2. Funding for Nier Prize**

Gary Huss reported that Mrs. Ardis Nier had generously offered a gift of \$500 to augment the sum approved by the Council in Los Angeles for the 2003 recipient of the Nier Award. The Council favored this suggestion and agreed to discuss the amount of the 2004 award next year.

**Motion:** The Council accepts Mrs. Nier's very generous offer and agrees that the 2003 recipient of the Nier Prize shall receive \$1500. Proposed by Wadhwa, seconded Koeberl. Unanimously approved.

### **3. Nominations Committee for the 2005-2006 Council**

Gary Huss reported that he was working on a list of possible names for the Committee that will nominate a slate of candidates for the next Council. The list would be sent to the Council for its approval after consultations with the Executive Committee.

[The Council approved the members of the Nominations Committee on March 31 by email (10 in favor; two members did not vote): Don Bogard (chair), Andy Davis, Mike Gaffey, Monica Grady, Candace Kohl, Hiroko Nagahara, and Dieter Stöffler.]

### **4. New Society Website**

Sara Russell reported that Matt Genge has established a fine new website for the Society: <http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/>, which is now linked to the old site. The council discussed various ways that the website could be used to improve services for members. Kevin McKeegan discussed the possibility of allowing members to renew online but noted that there were security and currency exchange problems to solve. The membership directory could also be put online: Kevin is exploring ways that this could be done. It seemed best to continue to use email for updating addresses etc. Koeberl noted that the printed version of the directory is useful: he would prefer to keep it. Suggestions for sites that allowed nominations to be made for medals were discussed. However, it may be simpler to start with nominations for fellows and best student paper awards. Guy Consolmagno noted that the DPS successfully distributes its newsletter via email and suggested that we might do the same. DPS has adopted rules about permissible categories of news. The Council expressed its thanks to Matt Genge for taking over as webmaster and setting up an informative website for the Society.

## 5. Proposed Changes to Bylaws

The council discussed two proposed Bylaw changes that had been circulated by email a month prior to the Council meeting.

### 1. *The term of the Chair of the Nomenclature Committee*

Jeff Grossman (chair of nomenclature committee) noted that changes were needed to Bylaw article 12.3, which says that, "The President shall designate one of the appointed members to serve as chairman of the Committee. Chairmen shall serve two-year terms ending on December 31 of odd-numbered years." Changes are needed as Tim McCoy's term as Chair ended on Dec 31, 2002. Grossman and Scott proposed the following wording:

"The president shall designate one of the appointed members to serve as Committee Chair for the remainder of their three-year term."

Since Grossman's current term ends on Dec 31, 2004, this would allow him to serve for two years as chair.

**Motion:** The Council approves the proposed changes in wording to Bylaw article 12.3. Proposed by Scott, seconded by Russell. Unanimously approved.

### 2. *Should the MAPS Editor be an ex officio member of the Publications Committee?*

The Society Publications Committee currently consists of six appointed members and one ex officio member, the Society Treasurer. Hap McSween (Publications Com. chair), Tim Jull and Ed Scott have proposed that the Bylaws be changed to make the MAPS Editor a non-voting ex officio member,

When the Bylaws were first drafted, the Editor was not included as a member at Frank Podosek's suggestion as the Committee is charged with reviewing MAPS and nominating an Editor every four years. However, recent experience suggests that communications between the Committee, Editor and Council would be improved if the Editor were made a non-voting ex officio member by changing Article 7.2 to read:

"The Society Publications Committee shall consist of six appointed members who serve staggered three-year terms and two ex officio members, the Editor of Meteoritics and Planetary Science, who is a non-voting member, and the Society Treasurer."

During discussions, Chris Koeberl stated that the Publications Committee, of which he is a member, had not been asked for its opinion.

**Motion:** the Council requests that members of the Publications Committee be asked for their opinion on the proposed change in the Bylaws, Proposed by Zolensky, seconded by Brearley. Passed unanimously.

## 6. GCA Editor's report

In his report (Appendix 1), Frank Podosek summarized changes that had been made in the editorial office personnel at St Louis. Three full-time assistants are currently employed. Elsevier has appointed a new Production Manager for GCA, Eric Kun.

The Editorial Office polled authors of papers that appeared in print in 2001 and 2002 to find out if they were satisfied with GCA's production. Only a handful of authors had experienced serious problems. Podosek will compile a more detailed summary for discussions with Elsevier this summer to find out what can be done to minimize future problems.

The number of articles in each issue will be increased for a few months to reduce publication delays.

## 7. Meteoritical Bulletin and Nomenclature Committee

Sara Russell described problems that had arisen with the classification and approval of large numbers of new meteorites from the Sahara. One dealer was reluctant to follow the procedures for new meteorites and was considering not seeking official names. Some dealers were reluctant to supply the 20% or 20 g of a new meteorite to a recognized museum. Others thought that names should be approved faster.

Podosek and Jull discussed what steps may be needed to enforce the embargo on unofficial names in papers and abstracts that appear in GCA and MAPS. In future, meteorite names will be sent to Jeff Grossman, the chair of the Nomenclature Committee, for checking when manuscripts are submitted. Brearley raised the question of the cost and feasibility of classifying large numbers of ordinary chondrites.

Gary Huss discussed reasons why the current system may not be responsive to dealers and offered to convene a meeting at Münster for collectors, dealers, curators, researchers, and other interested parties to discuss the current system of assigning official names. He will invite all concerned. [It will be held on August 1 at 4 pm.]

## 8. Annual Meetings

### 2003 Münster

Thomas Stephan reported for Elmar Jessberger on the preparations for the Meeting in Münster in 2003 on July 28 to August 1. Financial projections suggested that funds would be needed from other sources. Possible sites for the banquet were discussed in view of a conflict with the earlier plans for a tent in the Schlossgarten. Huss noted that he had written to Jessberger to reassure him that the Society, not the Annual Meeting organizers, is responsible for adverse financial effects arising from unforeseen international crises.

### 2005 Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Hap McSween reported on the preparations for the 2005 meeting (Appendix 2). He requested a loan from the Society to be repaid after the meeting and approval for the membership of the organizing committee: Drew Barringer, Dan Britt, Guy Consolmagno, Ted Labotka, Hap McSween (chair), Tony Mezzacappa (Oak Ridge National Lab), Jeff Moersch (Univ. Tennessee; treasurer), Larry Taylor, and Herbert Palme. \$5000 is needed now to book the meeting and banquet facilities (\$2500) and reserve buses, prepare websites etc. He expected to make another request for an additional \$5000 nearer the meeting time for travel costs for the program committee and other expenditures.

**Motion:** The council approves the organizing committee membership for the 2005 meeting and the request for advance funding submitted by Hap McSween. Proposed by Zolensky, seconded by Brearley. Passed with 8 in favor; 1 abstention.

### 2006 Zurich

The proposed dates, July 23-28, were approved by the Council.

### 2007 Tucson

Tim Jull reported that the organizers were considering meeting at a large resort hotel in the first week of September. He would check for possible conflicts with those dates.

### 2008

Gary Huss reported that two people had expressed interest in hosting the 2008 Annual Meeting: Mitsuru Ebihara, who suggested a meeting in Tokyo, and Ping Kong, who invited the Society to Beijing.

Ebihara reported that plans had been discussed for the National Institute for Polar Research to host the Annual Meeting in Tokyo. 2008 would be a logical time to meet in Tokyo as the returned asteroid sample from Muses-C is expected in 2007.

Huss agreed to circulate electronic copies of Kong's invitation to Beijing and invite both Kong and Ebihara to make formal presentations to the Council in Münster.

Guy Consolmagno offered to write a Guide for Meeting Organizers based on his experiences and a DPS guide. An informal committee of Consolmagno, McKeegan, and Wadhwa was established to help edit Guy's guide and ensure that the current notes for meeting organizers were incorporated.

## **9. Treasurer's Report**

Kevin McKeegan, who took over officially from Tim Swindle as Treasurer on January 1, presented his report and accounts (Appendix 3). He visited Tucson last October to meet with Swindle and Jull to ensure a smooth transition. A MAPS budget for 2003 was agreed on as well as new financial procedures. Library subscriptions and income from color costs, back issues, and abstract volume fees from meeting registrants would go directly to Tucson. The difference between the budgeted costs and the income paid directly to the Tucson office would come from the Treasurer in the form of quarterly payments sent at least one month in advance.

McKeegan reported that it had taken a while to get a new credit card system in operation but the backlog of dues renewals should be cleared shortly. At the end of 2002 we had 955 members, down slightly from the record high of 977 for 2001. For this year, McKeegan predicted ~950 members.

Huss presented an outline for the format of the Society finances (Appendix 4), which would help to ensure that the MAPS budget recognizes other Society expenses. Adoption of the new format would take many months. McKeegan explained that the budget will have three parts: operating accounts, Endowment budget, and a MAPS budget set by the Editor in consultation with the Council.

Consolmagno reminded meeting organizers to contact the Treasurer to ensure that participants registering at the member rate have paid their annual dues.

## **10. MAPS Editor's report**

Tim Jull circulated his report (Appendix 5). The transfer of the editorial office from Fayetteville to Tucson, which cost \$30K including start up costs, had gone smoothly. Manuscripts had been accepted in Tucson since September-October of last year. The transfer of 750 boxes of back issues, which are currently stored in a University warehouse, cost \$4700. Kim Elliott has been appointed Managing Editor and Agnieszka Baier is the new Production Manager. The January issue went to the printer a week before the meeting and the February issue would follow shortly. On line access through Ingenta would be available for 2003 issues to members with a password. NASA ADS continues to provide electronic access 12 month after publication. Six Associate Editors had resigned (Asphaug, Goldstein, Hartmann, Taylor, Cassen, and McKeegan) and four new ones had been appointed following approval by the Publications Committee (Caffee, Righter, Pierazzo, and Treiman). Some changes in the format for references had been made in

accordance with The Chicago Manual of Style. Existing policies for the publication of meeting abstracts and the Meteoritical Bulletin in the MAPS Supplement would be continued.

Jull recommended that the library rates for 2004 should remain at the level set for 2002 and 2003: viz., \$830 for North America; \$880 elsewhere including air delivery. One possible concern was that the number of submitted papers would continue to grow. The possibility of instituting page charges above some length limit was discussed.

**Motion:** The Council accepts the MAPS Editor's recommendation to keep the library rates for 2004 at the 2002 and 2003 levels. Proposed by Koeberl; seconded by Kurat. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council discussed the 10 gift subscriptions for libraries in the Czech Republic, Poland, and the former Soviet republics that were previously funded by the Society, the Barringer Crater Company and some members. The Barringer Crater Company has indicated that it could no longer support this scheme. Jull estimated the marginal costs of these annual subscriptions at \$100-250. For 2003, the costs could probably be absorbed into the budget with some minor contribution from the Society. Jull noted several ideas that had been discussed with the Publications Committee for the longer term including selling off back issues to support this scheme. The Council agreed with his recommendation that he write to libraries that had not contacted him asking them to justify their free subscription.

**Motion:** The Council accepts the MAPS Editor's suggestion that libraries that had written to justify their free subscription should continue to receive MAPS, but other libraries should be asked by the Editor to explain their continued need for a free subscription. Proposed by Consolmagno, seconded by Wadhwa. Motion passed unanimously.

The Council warmly thanked Tim Jull for ensuring that the transfer of the MAPS editorial office to Tucson had gone smoothly.

## **11. Future of MAPS**

President Huss addressed the Council on the future directions for MAPS in an electronic world. He reported that Elsevier subscriptions for hard copies were decreasing while electronic subscriptions were increasing; the total remains approximately level. Another trend was to package journals subscriptions together. The possibility of setting separate electronic rates for libraries was discussed. Hap McSween noted that the GSA is continuing efforts to bundle geological journals.

## **12. AOB**

The Council discussed the news that the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz would be closing the cosmochemistry and geochemistry departments when their current directors retire.

**Motion:** The Council views with concern the proposed closure of the Cosmochemistry and Geochemistry Departments at Mainz and requests the President to express this concern to the President of the Max Planck Society. Proposed by Consolmagno and seconded by Kurat. Passed unanimously.

A list of members of all Society Committees for 2003 was circulated with the agenda to council members (Appendix 6). This list is also available on the Society website. The meeting ended at 6 p.m.

Ed Scott, Secretary. 6/10/03

Appendices

1. GCA Editor's report.
2. Report on 2005 Annual Meeting.
3. Treasurer's report.
4. Proposed Outline for Budget: Huss.
5. MAPS Editor's report.
6. Committee members for 2003.