

Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society

March 14, 2004 at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, TX

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

Absent: Addi Bischoff.

Guests: Frank Podosek (GCA Editor); Thomas Stephan and Iris Weber (2003 meeting); Rainer Wieler (2006 meeting); Ping Kong, Keiji Misawa, Akira Yamaguchi (2008 annual meeting invitations); Jeff Grossman (Met. Bulletin).

Participating by phone: Tim Jull (MAPS Editor).

1. Introductions, minutes, etc.

The meeting was called to order at 1.30 pm by President Gary Huss who welcomed Council members and guests to the meeting. The minutes of the last Council meeting were unanimously approved.

2. 2005-2006 Council

The report from Don Bogard, the chair of the Nominating Committee, was emailed to the Council on September 1, 2003 (Appendix 1). Scott reported that council members unanimously responded by email that they were completely satisfied that the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for the 2005-6 council had been selected in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Committee rules. Since no additional nominations were received by February 15, the next council will consist of the slate nominated by the Nominating Committee:

President: Herbert Palme

Vice President: Joe Goldstein

Secretary: Jeff Grossman

Treasurer: Kevin McKeegan

Councilors: Addi Bischoff, Marc Chaussidon, Guy Consolmagno, Henning Haack, Trevor Ireland, Noriko Kita, Jutta Zipfel, Michael Zolensky.

3. GCA Editor's report

In his report (Appendix 2), Frank Podosek summarized recent changes that have been made in the production of GCA. Since January 2004, papers have been typeset by another branch of Cadmus: four issues have been produced with only one minor glitch. In future, hard copies of figures will not be required from authors submitting electronic artwork.

To cope with the increasing production times, issues 3-7 of GCA will average 256 pages (equivalent to 6000 pages per year). Podosek hoped to decrease the production time from six to three months in about a year. The page budget (currently 4500 pages/year) will be reassessed at that time.

4. Treasurer's report

Kevin McKeegan presented his report and a draft of the 2003 budget (Appendix

3). The final budget will be presented following consultations with the MAPS and GCA offices and agreement on a new format for the Society budget.

The total number of members at the end of 2003 was 878 including 91 students, 108 retirees and 7 lifetime members. This is down significantly from the post-Rome high of 977. Membership renewals for 2004 were handled by email for the first time to save money and increase efficiency. To date, 576 members have renewed for 2004: about the same number as this time last year. Although electronic access to MAPS can be quickly terminated for late payers, cutting hard copy delivery is more complicated. The possibility of instituting a late fee, or a charge for sending back issues to members with expired subscriptions was discussed. McKeegan will discuss with Tim Jull how and when to terminate MAPS subscriptions for non-payment of dues. McKeegan is seeking a replacement for Dewi Faulkner to help with the book keeping and dues collection.

The endowment funds have recovered significantly. A brief report from the Investments Committee was circulated (Appendix 4). The Committee is reexamining the Society's investment strategy. After some discussion about the correct way to list the MAPS gift subscriptions in the accounts, McKeegan suggested he would email a proposal to the Council.

5. Annual Meetings

2003 Münster

Thomas Stephan and Iris Weber presented the final report and financial accounts from Elmar Jessberger for the Münster annual meeting (Appendix 5). There were 309 registrants including 67 students, and an additional 51 guests. A small surplus of 3,400 euros currently remains (about 2% of the total expenses) because of currency fluctuations, fewer participants than expected for the Wednesday excursions, and other causes. Some funds will be needed to pay for administrative help from students, when these items are finalized. Jessberger requested that the council use the remainder to support a workshop in October 2004 on the Origins of Planetary Systems.

Motion: The Council approves the request by the organizers of the Münster annual meeting to use the funds remaining to help support a workshop on the Origins of Planetary Systems. Proposed by Consolmagno, seconded by Kurat. Passed: 11 in favor, 1 abstention.

2004 Rio de Janeiro

Since Rosa Scorzelli was unable to attend, Ed Scott presented a summary of plans and financial estimates for the Rio meeting (Appendix 6). Current plans, assuming 240 registering members, indicate a small loss of \$3000.

Because of the difficulty in transferring funds from Rio to MAPS for the abstract volume, abstract authors will be directed to the MAPS website to pay a \$45 abstract fee after submitting their abstracts at the LPI website.

2005 Gatlinburg, Tennessee

A written report on the preparations for the 2005 meeting in Gatlinburg with a proposed budget had been submitted to the Council by Hap McSween (Appendix 7). Following an earlier suggestion by Chris Koeberl, a post-meeting field trip is planned

to the Middlesboro (Kentucky) and Flynn Creek (Tennessee) impact craters. The organizers requested that the Council approve their plan to provide only LCD projectors for electronic presentations and overhead projectors for transparencies. This is the last year that slides will be used at the LPSC.

Motion: The Council has no objection to the request by the 2005 meeting organizers to dispense with slide projectors. Proposed, Zolensky; seconded Brearley. Passed unanimously.

2006 Zurich

Rainer Wieler presented preliminary plans for the 2006 Annual Meeting. It will be held in the ETH main building using two modern lecture halls each seating 300 people. An auditorium seating 450 people will be used for the plenary sessions. There is plenty of poster space next to the lecture halls, and other facilities such as internet rooms are available. The meeting site is only 10 minutes by train from the intercontinental airport. Hotels around the meeting venue cost at least CHF 130 per person including taxes and breakfast, but Wieler hoped to negotiate special rates. There are cheaper hotels for CHF 80 (+10), but they require the use of public transportation to reach the meeting site. The Youth Hostel provides very comfortable accommodation for ~40 CHF per person in a 4-bed room.

The banquet may be held near the lake. On Wednesday afternoon, various excursions are being considered, e.g., to Lucerne, Rhine Falls, boat trip on lake.

Wieler would be talking to the LPI and Tim Jull about handling abstracts and preparing the meeting program. He hoped that abstract fees would be collected separately by MAPS, as for the Rio meeting. Registration fees for members would be ~330-380 Euros (excl. abstract fee). Wieler will ask ETH and Swiss organizations for support. Meeting facilities including posters, audiovisual equipment, and internet access would be free.

2007 Tucson

Tim Swindle reported on plans for the Tucson meeting. Several bids had been obtained from nearby conference centers. Dates would be finalized in Rio. The last week in September looked possible (Sept 24-28). Swindle and Tim Jull have assembled an organizing committee consisting of Betty Pierazzo, Dante Lauretta, Laurie Leshin, Gary Huss, Bill Boynton, and Mike Drake. The possibility of having an event at ASU in Tempe was being considered (flights to Phoenix are often cheaper than to Tucson). Excursions to Meteor Crater (Dave Kring) and to the Kitt Peak telescopes were possible. The banquet may be held in the Sonoran Desert Museum. Hotel room rates would be around \$150 at the conference center hotels. Another possibility is to hold the meeting at the Convention Center.

2008 Invitations from Australia, China, and Japan

The Society received three offers to hold the Annual Meeting in 2008. These offers had been discussed at the last Council meeting and were presented formally in Houston. Dr. Keiji Misawa and other scientists at the National Institute of Polar Research invited the Society to hold its annual meeting at Fujiyoshida, at the foot of Mt. Fuji (about 1

hour from Tokyo). Dr. Ping Kong on behalf of the Institute of Geology and Geophysics, Chinese Academy of Sciences invited the Society to Beijing, two weeks before the Olympic Games. Dr. Trevor Ireland on behalf of a group composed mainly of scientists from the Australian National University offered to host the meeting in Cairns or Sydney. After the three presentations and questions from council members, the council discussed the relative merits of the meeting sites.

Motion: The Council accepts the offer from Mitsuru Ebihara and the NIPR to host the 2008 Annual Meeting in Japan. Proposed Zolensky, seconded Russell. Passed: 7 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstention. (Ireland absent for this vote.)

Guidelines for meeting organizers

The detailed “Guide for Annual Meeting Organizers”, which was kindly prepared by Guy Consolmagno, was circulated to the Council members for their approval (Appendix 8). The guide does not replace the brief list of guidelines compiled over many years by successive councils, but provides far more useful advice.

Motion: The Council approves the “Guide for Annual Meeting Organizers” assembled by Guy Consolmagno. Proposed Koeberl; seconded Zolensky. Passed unanimously.

6. MAPS Editor’s report

Tim Jull circulated his report (Appendix 9) and participated via telephone. He reported that the MAPS operations had stabilized, and that the journal was in pretty good shape. His report contains the estimated expenses for MAPS for 2004 and 2005. Jull made three requests to the Council:

1. The library subscription rates, which had not been raised since 2002, should be increased ~8.4% (equivalent to 2.7% per year over the last three years) to \$900 for “domestic” addresses (including agents) and \$950 for “overseas” addresses.
2. The Treasurer should contribute \$98,200 from members in four equal installments in 2005, as for 2004.
3. The Treasurer should cease to collect the \$36 “airmail surcharge” from overseas subscribers. (All overseas shipments are sent by airfreight and local mailing.)

Motion: The Council approves the three requests made by the Editor regarding MAPS finances for 2005. Proposed McKeegan, seconded Consolmagno; passed unanimously.

In 2003, MAPS published 115 papers totaling 1,875 pages and a Supplement with 255 pages for a total of 2130 pages. Printing had almost “caught up” with the printed publication date. The March 2004 issue was about to go to the printers. The possibility of instituting page charges for papers that exceeded 15 pages in length was discussed.

To help reduce the time for papers to be reviewed, MAPS is instituting an on-line submission, tracking and reviewing system, which is being purchased from a vendor, Scholar One. Hard copy submissions would still be accepted. The submission rate to MAPS had increased. Jull hoped to add more AEs, especially in the impact field, which had seen a large increase in submissions. Jull hoped that the size of MAPS would not increase beyond ~2200 pages per year.

7. Publications issues

President Huss reported that there was no more news from Geoscience World, a proposed electronic journal aggregate. A proposal from Blackwell Publishing for the publication of MAPS had been circulated to Council members (Appendix 10). Huss asked the Publications Committee to report to the Council in Rio on these publication options, an earlier proposal from Springer, and the possibility of providing separate electronic library subscriptions to MAPS.

8. Meteoritical Bulletin and Nomenclature Committee

Sara Russell reported that the next Bulletin would shortly be posted on the Society website. A few problems had been experienced with electronic submissions of new meteorites. It was hoped that a new webpage would soon allow information on new meteorites to be submitted in the format used by the Bulletin.

Jeff Grossman reported on two concerns that had been raised at the meeting in Münster to discuss new meteorites. These related to providing unique names for new meteorites with well-documented recovery sites and the requirements for type specimens of paired meteorites. The Nomenclature Committee is addressing both concerns and will make a recommendation in Rio.

9. Funding for Nier Prize

In 2003, Mrs. Ardis Nier generously offered a gift of \$500 to augment the \$1000 approved by the Council in Los Angeles for the 2003 recipient of the Nier Award. For 2004, McKeegan noted that the Nier fund assets were still not large enough to keep the award at \$1500. To remedy this, several steps were discussed.

Motion: The Council approves the Treasurer's suggestion to take the \$1000 for the 2003 winner from the endowment funds, rather than from the Nier fund. Proposed Koeberl, seconded Palme; approved unanimously.

Motion: The Council requests the Endowments Committee to ascertain what sum should be transferred from the Endowment Fund to the Nier Fund so that the Nier fund would be adequate to maintain an annual award of \$1500. Proposed Palme, seconded Zolensky; passed unanimously.

10. Other business

Guy Consolmagno reported on correspondence he had with the IAU on whether the IAU had endorsed the Meteoritical Society as the body responsible for naming meteorites. According to Iwan Williams, the president of Division III (Planetary Systems Science), Mike A'Hearn, past president of Division III; and Ingrid Mann, president of Commission XXII (Meteors and Interplanetary Dust, which includes meteorites), it would be possible for the IAU to give the Society an official endorsement as the organization responsible for the naming of meteorites if the MetSoc were officially a member of the ICSU (International Council for Science).

A list of members of Society Committees for 2004 was circulated with the agenda to council members (Appendix 11). This list is also available on the Society website. The meeting ended at 5.45 p.m.

Ed Scott, Secretary. 6/28/04

Appendices:

1. Report of the Nominating Committee.
2. GCA Editor's report.
3. Treasurer's report.
4. Investments Committee report.
5. Münster Annual Meeting report.
6. Rio Annual Meeting report.
7. Gatlinburg Annual Meeting report.
8. Detailed guide for hosting Annual Meetings.
9. MAPS Editor's report.
10. Proposal from Blackwell Publishing.
11. Committee members for 2004.

