

Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society
March 13, 2005, Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, Texas.

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm by President Palme.

Council members present: Pres. Herbert Palme; Past Pres. Gary Huss; VP Joe Goldstein; Treasurer Kevin McKeegan; Councilors Henning Haack, Mike Zolensky, Trevor Ireland, Noriko Kita, Jutta Zipfel; Secretary Jeff Grossman.

Councilors sending regrets: Addi Bischoff, Guy Consolmagno, Marc Chaussidon

Others attending: Tim Jull (MAPS editor), Greg Herzog (Chair Pubs Committee), Hap McSween (2005 Meeting), Victor Grokhovsky, Guy Libourel, G. Srinivasan, and Matt Genge.

The minutes of the 2004 August Council meeting were approved without change.

1. Nominating Committee:

Pres. Palme submitted the names of the following people to serve on the Nominating Committee: Phil Bland (London); Andy Davis (Chicago); Ian Hutcheon (Livermore); Yanting Lin (Beijing); Andreas Pack (Nancy); Brigitte Zanda, Chair (Paris). A motion by Ireland to approve the Committee passed unanimously.

McKeegan suggested that it would be beneficial if Council met at MetSoc meetings *after* all the various Committees had a chance to meet so that they may provide more immediate input to the Council. The Secretary will suggest this to the committee chairs.

2. Treasurer's report:

McKeegan presented a report on the financial status of the Society (Appendix 1). As of 2005 January, only ~750 of 950 members had renewed for 2004. Council discussed possible actions, including enforcing membership claims made when registering for the Annual Meeting, but left the issue unresolved. The Treasurer is setting up a website to allow members to join/renew online by credit card. A 1-year commitment with one company is going to be tested, likely costing \$500-1000. Council gave informal consent to proceed with this plan. Royalties amounting to \$76K have been received from GCA for 2002 and 2003; 2004 royalties have not arrived. The Endowment is up \$34K this year, and the Nier fund is up 8% as well due to favorable market conditions. We are running a budget shortfall over the last few years without considering royalties, but this becomes a surplus of \$20K if royalties are treated as operating expenses. There was discussion about whether we should be relying on royalties to stay in the black, but on the suggestion of Huss, Council agreed that we should settle our membership issues before addressing budget policy.

There was a general discussion about how most effectively to send out renewal notices; this year's was sent as an inserted page with the November issue of MAPS, and was lost or not seen by many members. The alternative of using e-mail was not well received by Council due to its unknown level of accuracy. It was agreed that the next notice will either be sent as a separate letter or as a colored insert in MAPS that would be more likely to be noticed. Goldstein pointed out that we need to include a line for donations on the renewal form. The e-mail list will soon be tested by the President in a letter to members.

Discussion followed about who should be maintaining our e-mail list. Jull agreed to maintain and update the e-mail addresses as well as the general address list. Any e-mail sent to members will be sent by McKeegan

Council informally agreed that members who join the Society in order to register for the Annual Meeting (or later in the year) will be paid through the end of the following calendar year. People who join earlier will only be paid through the end of the current year.

3. Investment Committee report.

Goldstein reported on Investment Committee issues discussed in 2004. The Committee has decided to use the A. G. Edwards brokerage to manage our money, but they have not yet gotten all the necessary paperwork completed to implement this. The investment strategy will be "moderate growth with income." Goldstein recommended that Council should formally determine the investment goals for the Society. The Committee advised Council that a fund raising drive is needed, but because the Society has no specific investment goals, this is difficult. We could sponsor meetings, workshops, receptions at other meetings, etc. Palme will appeal to the members in his forthcoming e-mail for ideas in this area. Previous usage of our donations has included gathering oral histories and meteorite collection in Canada. Other ideas include a Leonard-medal prize, growing the Nier fund to raise that prize, reprinting Buchwald's book on iron meteorites. (Appendices 2a and b contain minutes of the Investment Committee meeting held at LPSC after the Council adjourned.)

4. Membership report.

Palme presented a report (Appendix 3) from the ad hoc Membership Committee set up last summer (chaired by Addi Bischoff and Sara Russell). Keeping non-professional members in the Society has been a problem in recent years. Council discussed the possibility of instituting an Award for which nonscientists would be eligible. Huss will write up a description of such a "service" award for consideration next summer. The Secretary will advise the Nominating Committee that nonscientist members can be considered for Council positions. Along the same lines, the Secretary was also asked to approach Joel Schiff to explore the possibility of affiliation of Meteorite magazine with the Society.

Council next discussed the possibility of having different levels of membership. It was suggested that 50-year members should be converted to life members (not voted on). However, a motion by Huss that Gerald Rowland be granted a life membership due to financial hardship was adopted unanimously.

Council informally agreed with the suggestion by Palme that all new members should get a welcome letter and membership certificate from the President (to be developed by the Secretary), as well as some kind of gift. Jull promised to look into the possibility of providing reprints of Ursula Marvin's article on the history of meteorites, a possible welcome present. Bischoff and Russell will be asked to draft a new Bylaw, permanently establishing a membership committee and delineating its responsibilities and budget needed. Once in place, this committee will be asked to recommend gifts for new members.

5. Meetings.

2005, Gatlinburg. McSween gave an update on meeting preparations. Organizers have raised \$37K for student travel. A special session honoring Ross Taylor (80th birthday) plus two sessions on supernovas/nucleosynthesis are planned. MAPS will be mailed ahead of the meeting to save the cost of double printing. Registration fee will be ~\$275 plus a \$45 abstract fee.

2006, Zurich. Appendix 4 is a status report sent to Council by Rainer Wieler.

2007, Tucson. Tim Jull gave a brief update of plans for 2007.

2009 proposal, Ekaterinburg, Russia. Grokhovsky, assisted by a translator, proposed to hold the meeting at Ural State Technical University in 2009 August. Sponsors would include the Vernadsky Institute, the Russian Academy of Science, and the Russian Mineralogical Society.

2009 proposal, Nancy, France. Guy Libourel proposed having the meeting the first week of July, 2009, at the Nancy convention center. Registration will be ~250 Euros. Such an early meeting will require a very early abstract deadline, 2 weeks after LPSC.

2009 proposal, Toronto, Canada. Srinivasan suggested several downtown locations to be hosted by the University of Toronto. Dates (and year) are flexible. Fees would be C\$420-475.

Discussion of meeting proposals: Council decided that the meeting in 2009 should be held in Europe; the Canada meeting should be considered a North American meeting, and the President will ask Srinivasan to resubmit for 2010. Ireland suggested that we need a formal procedure for proposing meetings with fixed lead times. We could then allow people to express interest in a given year, and the President could invite them to present. Council was favorable to this, and it was agreed that we should discuss meeting locations

four years ahead at the Houston council meeting. After a short discussion of France and Russia as possible locations for 2009, Council unanimously adopted a motion by McKeegan to have the meeting in Nancy; the organizers would be asked to attempt to make the meeting later in the summer than was proposed.

6. MAPS report.

Jull reported (Appendices 5 a,b,c) that MAPS has run a \$20K/year deficit in 2004 and 2005. The number of printed pages is again up, causing us to incur penalty costs; we may need to renegotiate our printing contract. Jull proposed to increase institutional subscription prices by \$50 and to assess a charge of \$70/page for each printed page over 15. Goldstein noted that we will probably need more revenue that even these procedures will recover; cutting the number of pages may be necessary. Huss made a motion to adopt the \$70 excess page charge: passed unanimously. McKeegan made a motion to raise the institutional subscription by \$50 to \$950/\$1000 domestic/oversees: passed unanimously.

7. Publications committee report.

Herzog reported on the meeting of the Joint Publication Committee with Elsevier (his notes are in Appendix 6). The Pubs Committee has not yet met this year, but has been charged with finding ways to ensure the long-term financial stability of MAPS. They are concerned by occasional deficits in the MAPS budget and by their impression that many libraries would rather buy journals in bundles than one at a time, as they now purchase MAPS. The Committee is still weighing our options in the area of “bundling” and does not think we need to rush into anything. The Committee also has the preliminary view that electronic and print subscriptions to MAPS should cost the same, but if a library wants both they should pay something extra. More detailed recommendations will be made to the Council at the Gatlinburg meeting.

8. Nomenclature committee report.

Zipfel reported that Monica Grady has left the NHM and is no longer editor of the Catalogue of Meteorites. Caroline Smith will take over both the editorship and the corresponding ex officio seat on the Nomenclature Committee. Sara Russell will shortly resign as editor of the Meteoritical Bulletin. An ad hoc committee including Zipfel, Russell and Grossman recommended to President Palme that Harold Connolly be appointed as Bulletin Editor. McKeegan’s motion to approve this appointment passed unanimously. Council asked Zipfel to draft a letter to Mike Zolensky for delivery to LPI, requesting that LPSC abstracts be screened more carefully for improper meteorite names.

9. Meteoritical Society Website.

Genge reported that he is developing a table entry form for the Nomenclature Committee, as well as tools to put tables through the approval process. These will be ready in ~1 month. He is also working on a database of approved meteorite names. The current web-

hosting service may charge more for adding databases, possibly ~\$15/mo. Genge will be investigating alternative ways to host the web site. Council recommended that a hit counter be added to the site and that we eliminate old University of Arkansas pages remaining from our previous web site.

President Palme adjourned the meeting at 6:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Grossman, Secretary

Attachments:

- “Appendix 1 - TreasurersReportSpring05.doc”
- “Appendix 2a - InvestmentCommitteeMinutesSpring05.doc”
- “Appendix 2b - InvestmentReportSpring05.xls”
- “Appendix 3 - MembershipCommitteeReportSpring05.doc”
- “Appendix 4 - MetSoc2006StatusReport.doc”
- “Appendix 5a - MAPS EditorsReportSpring05.doc”
- “Appendix 5b - MAPS BudgetEstimates2004-2006.xls”
- “Appendix 5c - MAPS SocietyBudgetSpring05.xls”
- “Appendix 6 - PubComReportSpring05.doc”