

**Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society
August 6, 2006, Room F 26.3, Main building of ETH, Zürich, Switzerland.**

Council members present: Pres. Herbert Palme; Past Pres. Gary Huss; VP Joe Goldstein; Treasurer Kevin McKeegan; Councilors Addi Bischoff, Guy Consolmagno, Marc Chaussidon, Henning Haack, Trevor Ireland, Noriko Kita, Jutta Zipfel, Mike Zolensky, Secretary Jeff Grossman. **Councilors-elect present:** Hiroko Nagahara, Alan Rubin.

Guests: Tim Jull (MAPS Editor; 2007 Meeting), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor), Rainer Wieler (Chair Pubs Committee; 2006 Meeting), Hasnaa Chennaoui (Desert Workshop), Christian Koeberl (Chair, Joint Pubs Committee), Agnieszka Baier (MAPS), Jay Melosh (Chair, Barringer Committee), Keiji Misawa (2008 meeting), Friso Veenstra (Elsevier).

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. On a motion by McKeegan, seconded by Ireland, the minutes of the March, 2006 Council meeting were approved unanimously.

1. Meetings:

Rainer Wieler gave a brief presentation about the Zürich meeting. There were 370 abstracts accepted and only 4 rejected. 216 papers were selected for oral presentation and 150 were given posters. There were a total of 350 preregistered participants and 33 guests.

Tim Jull briefed the Council on plans for the upcoming meeting in Tucson next year. The total budget is ~\$180,000, and registration fees will be \$335 (members), \$400 (non-members), \$200 (students), and \$150 (guests). Rooms at the resort hotel will be only \$89 + tax. So far, \$48,000 has been donated to support the meeting, and an additional \$25,000 has been requested from the Cosmochemistry program. A **motion** by Ireland, seconded by Zipfel, to approve the meeting budget passed unanimously.

Keiji Misawa informed Council that the dates for the 2008 meeting in Matsue, Japan, have been finalized to 28 July – 1 August, sandwiched between the Goldschmidt conference and the Beijing Olympics. The weather is expected to be hot and sunny. \$63,000 in grants are already in hand. The estimated registration fee, at this point, is \$230 (members) and \$130 (students). Because of this meeting, there will be no NIPR symposium in 2008. Therefore, NIPR is expected to make a significant financial contribution to support the meeting. The trip to Matsue will be long for many members, but Council was reassured that if people make it to Narita by 3 pm, they can make the connection to Matsue that same day.

Hasnaa Chennaoui told the council that the Desert Workshop the previous week in Casablanca was a success, with 80 participants giving 32 talks and 4 posters. Among the 13 countries represented, 29 scientists came from Morocco, 2 each from Algeria, Tunisia, and Oman, 9 from America, 18 from western Europe, 3 from Asia and one from South America. Seven new Meteoritical Society members were recruited from North African countries. Notes from a round-table discussion will be forwarded to the council, including recommendations for setting up a museum in Morocco, and suggested changes to rules for meteorite nomenclature.

Marc Chaussidon asked the council to decide whether the 2009 meeting in Nancy, France, should be in mid July or early August. It was decided to wait to see when the Goldschmidt conference will be held before making a decision.

2. Awards:

The report of the Pellas-Ryder Award Committee, mailed to the Secretary by committee chair Harold Connolly (Appendix 1) was approved on a **motion** by Zolensky seconded by McKeegan. The award for 2005 will go to James E. Richardson Jr. Connolly also informed Council that bylaws will be needed to improve the timing of the presentation of this award.

Jay Melosh submitted the report of the Barringer award committee (Appendix 2a, b), which was accepted on a **motion** from Consolmagno, seconded by Haack. The 2007 prize will go to Christian Koeberl. The Committee is concerned with a lack of submitted nominations. Melosh suggested that a call for nominations be published in MAPS. Bischoff suggested that there also be an email from the President, which should include the need for service award nominations as well. It was agreed that these would be sent in September.

In the absence of committee chair Elmar Jessberger, Leonard Medal committee member Frank Podosek discussed the recommendations of the committee for the 2007 awardees and the 2006 fellows (Appendix 3). Podosek reviewed in detail the procedures followed by the committee to make its selections. Chaussidon made a **motion**, seconded by McKeegan, to accept the committee's recommendation of Michel Maurette for the Leonard Medal, which was approved. Huss then made a **motion**, seconded by Bischoff, to accept Thorsten Kleine as the winner of the Nier prize, which was also adopted. Zolensky then made a **motion**, seconded by Haack to accept the proposed list of new Fellows (P. Cassen, F. Kyte, J. Matsuda, M. Petaev, F. Rietmeijer, S. Russell, S. Sandford, M. Wadhwa, and S. Weidenschilling): passed.

3. Publications:

Tim Jull presented the MAPS Editors report for 2006 (Appendix 4). The number of papers continues to rise. There has been a slow increase in the cost/page, but this has basically tracked inflation. The number of institutional subscribers is down by 8. The recently instituted page charges for long papers have not yet affected anybody, but the average length of papers is slowly going down in response to the policy. The bottom line of the 2006 budget is a \$10,000 surplus; the last 5 years shows a \$10,000 deficit, but this is not increasing, indicating that the budget is basically in balance. No increase is anticipated for the Society contribution to the MAPS budget. Jull concluded with a brief discussion of impact factors and the effect of the NASA/ADS online service on subscriptions (not very well-known).

Wieler reported that the Society Publications Committee had nothing to report.

Frank Podosek gave the GCA Editor's report (Appendix 5). The news from the journal is basically good: the new production company is inexpensive, but doing great work... there have been no complaints in 6 months. Most of the small format changes to the journal, discussed at

the March Council meeting, will be rescinded. Papers are now appearing in print within 3 months of acceptance, which is a big improvement over previous years. A new submission format is being considered, and will probably be implemented soon.

Chris Koeberl followed with a report on behalf of the Joint Publications Committee, which he began to chair last January. The committee has added two new members and reviewed a number of new associate editors for GCA. On the request of the Council last March, the JPC also reviewed the changes that have been recently made to GCA, and discovered that they were made without the approval of anybody! This is why they are being rescinded. The committee also discovered that a surprising increase in the cost of reprints arose from a typographical error. Friso Veenstra participated in the discussion, and noted that a contract does exist that gives MetSoc 2.5% of the GCA profits, and GS gets 5%. We may need to revisit this arrangement in the future. Veenstra will eventually submit a report to the Council.

4. Finance:

McKeegan discussed the fact that he has not filed the Meteoritical Society's tax forms in several years, and our corporate status with California has long since lapsed. He has contacted an accountant to help us with our delinquent paperwork. The cost for the service is estimated to be approximately \$5,000. We might be liable for significant penalties. However, no contract is yet in place with the accountant. Grossman expressed concern about officer liability if we don't fix these problems. If we have MSA do our accounting, it may be practical for us to reincorporate in Virginia.

McKeegan then presented the Treasurer's report (Appendix 6). We currently have 769 members who have paid dues in 2006, an increase of 230 from March, and including ~80 new members, one third of whom are students. The total number who paid in 2005 was 805 paid, including people who paid their back dues this year. McKeegan projects a final 2006 membership of approximately 875. Bischoff, Jull, Baier, and Palme discussed the fact that our membership lists are in very bad shape, but Grossman pointed out that this would be fixed through our contract with MSA. The Society is running a profit mainly due to the fact that we offset a shortfall in revenue with our large royalty payment from Elsevier. We also made a profit last year on the Gatlinburg meeting. Huss pointed out that in the past we always worried that GCA royalties might stop, and so we put most of the money into the endowment fund. However, royalties have instead grown from \$30,000 to ~\$55,000/year. Goldstein suggested that we form a subcommittee to make a proposal about what fraction of the GCA money should be used to balance budget each year, and what fraction should be placed in the endowment. Palme appointed Huss, Rubin, McKeegan, Goldstein to do this task. Bischoff brought out the fact that MAPS can save ~\$10,000/year if we drop the 100 members who are seriously delinquent in paying their dues. This led to a rediscussion of our policy on dropping delinquent members, which was settled at the March meeting, but will need to be put in writing in order for MSA to implement it this fall. Next, there was a **motion** by Goldstein, seconded by Bischoff, that new members joining the Society in the middle of a year should only receive issues of MAPS from that point forward instead of being mailed all the back issues; this passed unanimously. It was noted that such members would still have electronic access to these past issues. Finally, McKeegan recommended that there be no dues increase this year.

Goldstein followed with a report of the investments committee (Appendix 7). All of the Society's funds have now been transferred to AG Edwards. We are invested 40% in fixed income, 5% in real estate, and 55% in equity-stock funds. The Nier fund now represents ~10.8% of the endowment. It was agreed that Tim Swindle will chair this committee next year when Goldstein becomes president.

Grossman briefed the council on his exploration with MSA to have them take over our membership functions, including maintaining the roles, collecting dues, producing mailing lists, running elections, and signing up new members. Council was presented with a draft agreement (Appendix 8) that we might sign with MSA. Jull suggested we get legal representation in this process. All people currently receiving MAPS would go on the initial list sent to MSA. As soon as possible, we would use the new system to send out a dues notice. It was suggested that a reminder letter would be sent to members at the beginning of January, and at the end of March people who had not paid would stop receiving the journal and would receive a termination email. However, the Membership Committee would be charged with determining the exact schedule at its meeting later in the week, and would communicate the results to the Secretary. [Note added 10 Oct 2006: the Committee decided that we should send dues notices at the end of September/early October, send out reminders in early January, send a 30-day warning on March 1, and change member status to inactive on April 1.] Ireland made a **motion**, seconded by Huss, to accept the draft contract in principal, and allow Executive Committee to conclude negotiations with MSA and sign the agreement: passed unanimously. The Zolensky made a **motion** that we accept the optional clause in the contract and pay a one-time fee of \$1500 to allow MSA to enroll our new members for us: passed unanimously.

McKeegan asked for a sense of the Council on whether we should ever sell our mailing list. His response was a resounding no. We will, however, publish the list in MAPS as we have always done.

5. Other matters:

Bischoff and Huss, on behalf of the membership committee, noted that plans to draft an official letter welcoming new members to the Society had been delayed until we had approved a new logo for the Society. The committee will complete this in the near future. Ursula Marvin is in the process of updating her article on the history of the Society to be sent as a gift to members. The membership committee is pleased that we've recruited 85 new members, a large improvement over last year at this time. There are only 2 candidates in the pool of nominees for the 2007 service award, so we need to solicit more nominations. It was agreed that this would be done in an e-mail in the next few weeks.

Grossman presented council with the results of the logo contest which he had administered in the spring (Appendix 9). The winner was an entry by Rosa and Marcos Scorzelli, which received 34% of the 432 votes cast (representing a 43% turnout). Members would be informed of the winner at the business meeting and in the newsletter.

Zipfel reported that the Meteoritical Bulletin is going back to a publication schedule of two issues per year. The online database continues to work well and is growing in popularity, having reached 700 searches/day this summer. The Nomenclature Committee is still experiencing

delays in the classification of new meteorites, and is discussing new procedures to expedite the process as much as possible.

Rubin expressed a desire for the Meteoritical Society to establish better contacts with local and national societies with an interest in meteoritics. He agreed to contact some of them and send them complimentary copies of MAPS as part of our initial show of good will.

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey N. Grossman, Secretary.

Attachments:

Appendix 1 - Pellas-Ryder Award Report.html
Appendix 2a - Barringer report 2007.pdf
Appendix 2b - Barringer documentation 2007.pdf
Appendix 3 - Leonard Medal Committee Report 2007.pdf
Appendix 4 - MAPS Report to Council 8-06.doc
Appendix 5 - GCA report Zurich.pdf
Appendix 6 - Treasurer report 08-2006.doc
Appendix 7 - Endowment Comm Report.pdf
Appendix 8 - MetSoc-MSA draft agreement - 24 July 2006.doc
Appendix 9 - results of logo contest.doc