

**Minutes of the Council of the Meteoritical Society**  
**August 12, 2007, 12:30 pm, San Xavier Room, Marriott Starr Pass Resort, Tucson, Arizona.**

**Council members present:** Pres. Joe Goldstein, Vice Pres. Hiroko Nagahara, Treasurer Alan Rubin, Secretary Jeff Grossman, Councilors Rhian Jones, Noriko Kita, Gopalan Srinivasan, Rainer Wieler, and Jutta Zipfel. **Regrets:** Past Pres. Herbert Palme, Councilors Mark Thiemens, Marc Chaussidon

**Guests present:** Keiji Misawa (MetSoc 2008), Gary Huss (Membership Committee), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor), Tim Jull (MAPS Editor and MetSoc 2007), Tim Swindle (Endowment Committee), Nadine Barlow (Barringer Committee); Chris Koeberl (JPC); Matt Genge (Webmaster)

President Goldstein called the meeting to order at 12:16 pm; introductions were made.

Grossman presented the minutes of the March, 2007, Council meeting. These were accepted unanimously without correction on a **motion** by Srinivasan, seconded by Jones.

1. **President's Report:** Goldstein thanked Council members for their service this year, especially the Secretary and Treasurer who had worked to solve many problems including the Society's tax situation. He reported that the letter to the interior minister of Oman (see minutes of last Council meeting) had been sent after Council approval and review (**Attachment 1**). Goldstein also reported that Past President Palme had not yet sent him any recommendations about how the Society should proceed in adopting a code of ethics, as discussed at the last Council meeting. The president also reported the receipt of a letter from Jon Friedrich thanking the Society for its support of his workshop at the American Chemical Society meeting (**Attachment 2**). In general, the Meteoritical Society is doing well.

**2. Meetings Reports:**

- a) *Tucson, 2007:* Tim Jull reported that this year's meeting would stay within its budget of about \$190,000. 72 people were expected to go on the field trip to Meteor Crater. 340 people had registered for the meeting at the time of this report. Donations totaled ~\$33,500, with the biggest donors being the Barringer Crater Company (\$14,000) and Lockheed (\$5000); the NASA Cosmochemistry program provided an additional \$25,000. 327 abstracts were accepted.
- b) *Japan, 2008:* Keiji Misawa presented a list of 11 names constituting a program committee for next year's meeting, including Hiroko Nagahara as chair plus several non-Japanese members. The registration fees are expected to be \$210 (members), \$110 (students), and \$90 (guests). The projected budget is ~\$187,000, based on 300 registrants (**Attachment 3**). A post-meeting field trip is planned to the Iwami Ginzan silver mine. Podosek and Swindle offered the opinion that it may be possible for non-US meetings to get support from NASA, although it may be too late for next year's meeting. It was also suggested that the program committee ask Meteorite Magazine and the Planetary Studies Foundation for donations. **Action:** Grossman will contact the Nancy organizing committee and suggest that they apply to NASA. A **motion** by Rubin, seconded by Wieler, to accept the proposed program committee and the meeting budget was approved unanimously.
- c) *Nancy, 2009.* No members of the organizing committee were present. The President received a letter from Marc Chaussidon (**Attachment 4**) stating that the Goldschmidt conference had been moved from July, 2009, back to June, and therefore the MetSoc meeting could no longer be held back-to-back with it. The organizing committee suggested that Council might now want to change the date of our meeting to August. There was skepticism about whether changing the date

would actually result in significantly increased attendance, and Goldstein point out that late August dates interfere with many academic calendars. Thus, there was no sentiment on the Council to change the date of the Nancy meeting. Discussion followed about what might be done to get the Goldschmidt organizers to take our meetings into consideration during their planning process. **Action:** Podosek agreed to seek information at this year's Goldschmidt conference about who we can contact to work with about future meeting dates; Goldstein will then write a letter stating the Meteoritical Society's concerns.

- d) *Toronto, 2010:* Srinivasan suggested two possible dates for the 2010 meeting: the week of July 25 or the week after that; the Goldschmidt conference will probably be in late June in Tennessee. The venue for MetSoc 2010 has not yet been set. The Royal Ontario Museum is being explored as a possible setting for the banquet. The organizing committee for the meeting has not yet been set either. **Action:** Srinivasan will propose the names of a local organizing committee to Council for approval in March.

### 3. Awards:

- a. *Barringer Prize:* Nadine Barlow presented the report of the Barringer committee in the absence of Chair Dieter Stöffler. The Committee is looking for ways to increase the number of nominees for the Barringer prize. This year, only three nominations were under consideration. Although the committee did not think the quality of the current nominees had suffered, this is a concern for the future. The committee requested that Council approve a change in the Committee's operating rules that would allow nominations to be made by non-Society members; this was approved unanimously on a **motion** by Srinivasan (seconded by Rubin). Some counselors opined that we need to broaden the definition of research eligible for the Barringer prize or perhaps not give the award every year. **Action:** the president will open a dialogue with the committee and Barringer family to discuss possible changes of this type. The recommendation of the Barringer committee (**Attachment 5**), that Frank Kyte be given the 2008 prize, was accepted by a vote of 7-1 on a **motion** from Haack, seconded by Wieler.
- b. *Leonard Medal (LM) Committee:* Tim Swindle explained a series of committee-proposed changes to the LM committee rules (**Attachment 6**). The Council voted as follows:
- i. Changes to rules governing election of fellows (nominations remain active for 3 voting cycles; committee to make its own nominations every 6 years): **Motion** to adopt (Rubin, second Haack) passed unanimously.
  - ii. Changes to rules governing the Nier Prize (no reprints required; seconding letter to be mandatory; statements about nominees' contributions to papers are optional): **Motion** to adopt (Jones, second Wieler) passed unanimously.
  - iii. Change to rules governing LM (3-year waiting period for renomination): **Motion** to adopt (Jones, second Nagahara) passed 6-2.
  - iv. Change to rules encouraging online submission of all nominations: **Motion** to adopt (Wieler, second Kita) passed unanimously.

Next, the committee recommendations for the LM and Nier Prizes were considered (**Attachment 7**). Jones made a motion, seconded by Haack, to accept Ed Scott as the winner of the 2008 Leonard Medal, which passed 7-0 with one abstention. Council then had a lively discussion of the weight that should be given to a candidate's age in separating equally worthy finalists for the Nier Prize. A wide range of opinions was aired (all members of the Council spoke), with considerable input from LM committee members Swindle and Podosek; no policy decision was made. A **motion** by Jones, seconded by Rubin, to award the 2008 Nier Prize to Shogo Tachibana was adopted on a 6-2 vote.

#### 4. Publications:

- a) *Society Publications Committee*. Rainer Wieler gave an oral report. Several new Associate Editors have been approved for MAPS (Koeberl, Chabot, and Brearley). The Committee continues to be concerned with the finances of the journal and suggested that authors should have to pay the entire cost for excess pages (\$150/page) rather than only \$70/page. Flat page charges are not favored at this time. Wieler explained that the Committee is in favor of allowing MAPS to accept any advertising it wants; however, many Councilors reacted negatively to this, with a majority opposed to accepting ads from meteorite dealers. Councilors did encourage the Editor to explore other sources of advertising revenue. Wieler then pointed out that the journal no longer seems to be printing invited reviews, and several councilors also lamented this; but Jull noted that there has been no incentive to solicit them with rising page costs and total pages.
- b) *MAPS Editor's report (Attachment 8)*. Tim Jull reported that *MAPS* would publish >2500 pages this year, including two special issues. Institutional subscriptions appear to be decreasing somewhat (139 to 132), but the trend is noisy. The journal's impact factor remains fairly static. The MAPS budget for this year is ~\$370,000, however \$40,000-50,000 in debt has accumulated since the journal went to Arizona. Jull proposed raising institutional subscription fees by \$100 without seeking additional revenue from the Society this year. Goldstein expressed concern that we need to form a concrete plan to erase this debt, with all options for raising money on the table including raising dues and using a commercial publisher. Huss suggested that we might want to hire a consultant. Rubin made a **motion** to accept the \$100 increase in institutional subscription rates, seconded by Srinivasan, and passed unanimously. **Action:** The Publications Committee was challenged by Pres. Goldstein to develop a long term plan for the journal to erase debt and how to have a more stable financial base. Goldstein would also work with the committee to add members who have particular expertise or experience.
- c) *Joint Publications Committee Report (Attachment 9)*: Christian Koeberl reported that the JPC has also approved a number of new Associate Editors for *GCA*. All of the format changes to the journal discussed at the March Council meeting were implemented in the spring. The JPC considered whether the practice of immediately posting accepted papers online should be continued, and decided that it was a good thing as long as authors could opt out. The Committee will also be evaluating the Executive Editor in the next few months, in accordance with the bylaws. Podosek has indicated his willingness to serve another term.
- d) *GCA Editor's Report (Attachment 10)*. Frank Podosek discussed improvements in the way that abstracts for the Goldschmidt conference are published: it will now be mandatory that Cambridge Publications process the abstracts, rather than some local agency. Individual subscriptions to *GCA* are rapidly decreasing at the same time that submissions and the number of printed pages are rising. Papers now appear in print within three months of acceptance. Internet access to the journal is growing at a rate of about 30% a year, with 56,000 articles downloaded in February 2007 alone. The impact factor of the journal has been rising steadily.

#### 5. Finance:

- a) *Endowment report (Attachment 11)*. Tim Swindle gave a brief discussion of the Society's investments, which have been showing a good return over the last year, somewhat below the rate of gain of the Dow. His committee has been working on an informational brochure to distribute to members and prospective donors.

- b) *Treasurer's report (Attachment 12a,b)*. Alan Rubin presented a summary of the finances of the Society during fiscal 2006 and the abbreviated fiscal year from Jan. 1 to May 31, 2007 (the one-time result of the bylaws changes last March). Rubin noted that there are discrepancies between the amount of money collected for *GCA* subscriptions and the amount of money that we are ultimately billed; he is investigating the causes. The Society now holds corporate liability insurance to protect its officers in the event of lawsuits. We also have now obtained a credit card that the Treasurer can use to conduct Society business. An accountant has been hired, and he has completed our delinquent tax forms for 2002 through 2005. The Society has been assessed penalties by the IRS which are expected to approach \$36,000 for our failure to file these forms; half of these penalties have now been waived, and it is expected that the other half will also be waived. Tax forms for 2006 as well as the abbreviated fiscal year are being prepared by the accountant, and will be filed in a timely fashion. The Society's total assets are now approximately \$660,000. Rubin is working on finding an interest-bearing account that can be used for some of the operating funds that are not part of the endowment. Finally, Rubin presented a budget for the full fiscal year running from June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008. Council unanimously approved the budget following a **motion** by Rubin seconded by Jones. **Action:** Grossman to ask Council by email to approve the Treasurer's report after the Auditing Committee finishes its work.

## 6. Membership:

- a) *Committee Report (Attachment 13)*: Gary Huss did an analysis of our dues structure and discovered that we take in \$16,000 less in total dues than we pay out to *MAPS* each year (\$98,200); the number of new members needed to make up this shortfall is not easily attainable. (We are using *GCA* royalties to make up the difference; this financial source may not be available in the future.) The Membership Committee still managed to recover ~60 members in arrears, raising membership from 770 last year to 860 now. It may be possible to recover up to 60 additional nonpayers from 2006. When this task is complete, the Committee will concentrate its energy on recruiting new members. Huss also reported on how other societies deal with the issue of setting dues for people in developing countries. Most base their rates on a World Bank list. AGU has an endowed program to pay dues for members from such countries. One solution for us may be simply to ask people from these countries if they need lower dues to maintain membership. The Committee is also investigating the economics of life memberships in the Society. In addition, the Committee is developing a final recommendation on how to handle people who join the Society midyear, to resolve the question of which journal issues they should receive. Finally, welcome packages for new members are being developed, along with a membership brochure.
- b) *Bylaws change (Attachment 14)*: The Membership Committee submitted a change to the bylaws affecting the timing of the Service Award. This was adopted unanimously following a **motion** by Jones, seconded by Srinivasan.

## 7. Website

Matt Genge reported that the Society website is running smoothly and he answers many inquiries to the webmaster. He is currently investigating whether a university can host our website, relieving us of our monthly fees to a commercial ISP. Imperial College should be able to provide this service to us at no cost. Genge will soon begin the process of reprogramming in order to migrate the site.

## 8. Nomenclature Committee:

Jutta Zipfel reported that Meteoritical Bulletin 92 has now been submitted to *MAPS*. Many new Antarctic meteorites are being reported by recent Chinese expeditions. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Bulletin, with a total of 9947 meteorites published during that time. The NomCom is wrestling with problems of how to handle its increasing workload, which is placing considerable stress on the Editor and AEs. The issue of how the Meteoritical Bulletin Database, run by Grossman, should be connected to the NomCom and its publications is also being discussed, with no obvious answer yet. Also, the NomCom is still trying to decide how best to handle issues brought up by last year's letter from the Oman government. Zipfel has requested (**Attachment 15**) that the Society help in the development of a mandatory form to accompany each new meteorite, stating that the sample is legal and that the submitter holds the Society harmless in the event of a lawsuit. A long discussion followed, with many Councilors expressing concern over who could or would sign such a form, and whether the practical effect of instituting such a policy might be to drive submitters away from the Society. No consensus emerged, however it was generally felt that if the NomCom really wants to pursue such a solution, it should be linked to future actions being considered in the area of ethics (under development by Herbert Palme). Perhaps submitters could simply be asked to endorse a Society ethics statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Grossman, Secretary

[Also entered into the record: **Attachment 16**, Report of the Pellas-Ryder Committee for 2007, approved by email April 24, 2007]