

Minutes of the First 2013 Council Meeting
Mineralogical Society of America
Saturday, 3 November 2012
Harris Room, Westin Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte, NC

Attending:

John Hughes, President
Mike Hochella, Past-President
David Vaughan, Vice-President
Howard Day, Treasurer
Andrea Koziol, Secretary
Kim Tait, Councilor
Christine Clark, Councilor
Pamela Burnley, Councilor
Guy Hovis, Councilor
Kirsten Nicolaysen, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
Rachel Russell, managing editor, *American Mineralogist*
Jenny Thomson, editor of *American Mineralogist*
Darryl Henry, member and past treasurer
David Bish, member and past president
Mickey Gunter, member
Stephanie Moore, Doctoral Candidate, University of Texas
Kyle Ashley, Doctoral Candidate, Virginia Tech

Not Present:

Isabelle Daniel, Councilor

Note: Motions and Council action items are presented in *italics*; SoC = sense of Council

ITEMS

[1] Call to order and Roll Call

J. Hughes called the meeting to order at 3:29 PM.

[2] Approval of 2013 business matters [1] through [6], listed below.

2013 Budget

[1] Approve 2013 Proposed Budget included in the Treasurer's Report, with any modifications as a result of more recent Council-approved actions (Section 4 **Appendix B**, in the Treasurer's Report for the Third 2012 Council Meeting).

Motion to approve by C. Clark, seconded by Howard Day. Motion passed unanimously.

Authorization for the Treasurer and Executive Director to Conduct Financial Affairs of the Society

[2] Approval of the Non-Corporate Resolution (**Appendix**). The MSA Treasurer is authorized to conduct the financial affairs of the Society. J. Alexander Speer, Executive Director of the Society, is authorized to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions.

Motion to approve by K. Nicolaysen, seconded by C Clark. Motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Committee Appointments for 2013 Council Year

[3] Approve suggested Committee member and chair assignments and other appointed posts (Section 7, Report of the Committee on Committees to the Third 2012 Council).

There was no discussion of this item. *Motion to approve by H. Day, seconded by K. Nicolaysen. Motion passed unanimously.*

Appointment of Editors for 2013

[4] Marten Kunz, Ian Swainson and Keith D. Putirka are appointed Editors of the *American Mineralogist*. Jodi Rosso is appointed Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* and *Monograph* series. Andrea Koziol is appointed the MSA Event Editor for *Elements*. Kenneth W. Bladh is appointed Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*

M. Hochella said there were great finalists for the editorship vacated by Jenny Thomson. Discussions with Jenny and with Rachel Russell were very helpful and we are fortunate to have Keith Putirka as new editor of *American Mineralogist*.

Motion to approve by C. Clark, seconded by Guy Hovis. Motion passed unanimously.

Authorization of Mail and Telephone Ballots

[5] Mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots may be used whenever necessary and allowed to conduct the affairs of the Society.

Motion to approve by K. Nicolaysen, seconded by P. Burnley. Motion passed unanimously

Conflict of Interest Policy

[6] One requirement of the new IRS Form 990 is that MSA have a procedure to review MSA's Conflict of Interest Policy with Council, have every 2013 Council members sign a Conflict of Interest Information Form annually (copies will be brought to the meeting for you) and that there is a record that this has been done.

All Councilors were informed of this and signed the required forms.

[3] Any Items Tabled from the Third 2012 Council Meeting

There were no items to discuss.

[4] Future of MSA

The Fall, 1996 Council asked that an agenda item on the future of MSA be included at each First Council meeting.

J. Hughes introduced this topic, with emphasis on three items.

1. Fund-raising. It has been a good year in terms of benefactors' donations. John asked all present to stop by MSA's Benefactors' booths at this meeting and thank them for their donation.

2. Relationships with the collecting community. It is good to have a MSA presence in this community, as they are an important part of the Society. There could also be potential donors there who wish to support the many activities of the Society.

3. The next generation of MSA members. This year, there are 832 student members, about 1/3 of total membership. Many students have figured out they save money by becoming a member, and then buying the Dyar, Gunter and Tasa mineralogy textbook at the reduced member rate. At present we convert 12% of student members to full members. How can we get this to a higher rate, say to 20%?

J. Hughes pointed out that we attract the students with a great textbook, and they become a member for a year. We need to keep the students as student members. We have *Elements* and student discounts – what else could we offer? Then we would like to transition these student members to full members.

Discussion followed, and the visiting students were especially asked for their opinions. The Dyar, Gunter and Tasa textbook was discussed first. K. Ashley suggested developing an app (application) for the book, as so many students are used to accessing information on their tablet computers or their smart phones. If such an app existed, students could pull up the textbook or a reference guide in the field or in the lab instead of bringing the physical textbook with them. Mickey Gunter, after noting that textbook sales were down due to the used book market, noted that textbook users often do not look at the DVD provided with the book, which does have chapter information. He cautioned that money to develop an app would be an issue. Others suggested a computer app for a mineral database (covering identification and properties for example) would be of interest. Finding the right person to develop such an app and the cost of doing so were concerns.

Discussion shifted to conferences, when current MSA members could interact with new and student members, and other avenues to engage students. A number of ideas were suggested. These included:

- More actively pursuing cross-disciplinary meeting sessions or activities, with structure and tectonics researchers for example.
- Sponsoring a student breakfast or lunch, followed by a panel of speakers, featuring young scientists in various mineralogical fields, including industry. The focus of the panel could be on careers in the mineral sciences, or on cutting edge research in the mineral sciences.
- If such a panel discussion takes place, have it recorded and available on the web.
- Start a mentorship program as is done in other societies. J. Hughes cautioned that MSA should be aware of the risk of a bad mentor/mentee combination.
- Sponsor a booth at the regional GSA meetings, which would be more likely to reach undergraduate students.

- Create a space for students in the Society perhaps *via* a student affairs committee, and have the students decide how they want to communicate, and what presence, if any, should be for them on the MSA webpage.
- Consider offering smaller monetary awards that would be for undergraduate and graduate student research. These might have be solicited, judged, and awarded on a different timetable than what is currently used for research awards.
- Offer a best student paper and/or best student poster award at GSA meetings.
- Offer mineralogical/petrological field trips and subsidize student costs to attend such a field trip. One possibility could be a field trip affiliated with the conference series suggested by Keith Putirka, described during the 3rd 2012 Council meeting.
- Have available branded pens and pencils at the MSA meetings booth to get our name out and be more visible to meeting attendees.
- Consider an intermediate membership category for graduate students. “Student” membership rates apply only for undergraduate students. J. Hughes cautioned that this option may be more difficult to implement than it may appear.
- Open our labs and facilities to students to help out with student research. Those MSA members willing to participate could have their names made available to MSA student members.

J. Hughes closed the discussion by noting he would be considering the ideas presented, especially the idea of a student breakfast at GSA, which did receive vocal support from a number of Council members.

Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

Adjournment

Motion to approve by C. Clark, seconded by G. Hovis. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea M. Koziol, Secretary



