

**Minutes of the Third 2014 Council Meeting**  
Mineralogical Society of America  
Saturday, 18 October 2014  
Hyatt Regency Vancouver Hotel, 655 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6C 2R7

Attending:

David Vaughan, President  
John Hughes, Past-President  
Howard Day, Treasurer  
Andrea Koziol, Secretary  
Steve Shirey, Vice-President  
Edward Grew, Councilor  
Christine Clark, Councilor  
Kim Tait, Councilor  
Kirsten Nicolaysen, Councilor

Not present:

Wendy Panero, Councilor  
Isabelle Daniel, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Keith Putirka, Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Abby Kavner, incoming councilor  
Matthew J. Kohn, incoming councilor

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

ITEMS

[1] Call to order and Roll Call

David Vaughan called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. All present introduced themselves.

[2] Additions to and deletions from the Agenda, approval of the Agenda.

*H. Day moved that the Agenda be approved, S. Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[3] Accept Reports to Council containing no questions or action items as a group. Reports will be acknowledged by Secretary.

Publications Director, Series Editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry & Monographs Series, MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Board of Directors, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Advisory Council, Coordinator of Meetings, MSA Webmaster, Outreach Committee (K-12), MSA Lecture Program Committee, MSA Lecture Program Administrator, Bloss Crystallographic Fund Committee, Liaisons to the American Geological Institute (AGI), Clay Minerals Society (CMS), European

Mineralogical Union (EMU), Gemological Institute of America (GIA), Geological Society of America (GSA), Geological Society of America Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Volcanology, Petrology (MGPV) Division, International Mineralogical Association (IMA), Pegmatites Special Interest Group, Planetary Materials Special Interest Group, *Ad Hoc* Committee on Earth Materials Data, MSA Representative *Elements* Executive Committee.

Not heard from: Liaisons to American Crystallographic Association (ACA), American Geophysical Union (AGU), American Geophysical Union (AGU-Mineral Physics), Friends of Mineralogy (FM), International Mineralogical Association (IMA), the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD), Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP).

*C. Clark moved to accept all reports as submitted, K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [4] Approve the minutes of the Second 2014 Council Meeting. The minutes reflect all revisions previously sent to the MSA Secretary.

*K. Nicolaysen moved to accept the Secretary's minutes with no corrections, E. Grew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [5] Review of Executive Committee actions (Section 1).

There were no actions by the Committee during the reporting period.

- [6] Accept medal, award, grant, and honor recommendations:

Roebing Medal (2015): .....*Rodney C. Ewing* (Section 23)  
Dana Medal (2016): ..... *Patrick Cordier* (Section 26)  
MSA Award (2015):..... *Nicholas Tosca* (Section 24)  
Distinguished Public Service Award (2015): ..... *J. Alex Speer* (Section 25)  
MSA Fellows: *John Ayers, Dante Canil, Leonid Danyushevsky, Denton Ebel, G. Nelson Eby, Ulf Hal n us, Takao Hirajima, Cin-Ty Lee, Hans-Peter Schertl, Shiv Sharma, Paul Wallace, Michael J. Walter, James D. Webster, Michael L. Williams*  
..... (Section 27)  
Crystallographic Research Grant: .....*Elias Nakouzi* (Section 28a)  
Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant: .....  
..... *Huan Cui and Emily Hernandez Goldstein* (Section 28b)

Council first considered the four awards. There were no comments on the first three listed awards. Councilors expressed their approval of the awarding of the Distinguished Public Service Award to J. Alex Speer.

*K. Nicolaysen moved to accept these four awards as listed in the Agenda. J. Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Discussion continued on the suggested list of recommended MSA Fellows. J. Hughes asked that Michael Walter be removed as he is not a current member. A short discussion followed.

*E. Grew moved that the list of recommended MSA Fellows, as amended, be approved. S. Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

D. Vaughan will phone the new MSA Awardees, and S. Shirey will follow up with a letter. The office will mail the letters and certificates to the new Fellows, and will inform the student grant awardees.

[7] The Chair of the Nominating Committee for Fellows had two additional items (Section 27):

(a) The committee had a great deal of difficulty with the nomination of Jenny Thompson; for example one member ranked her high enough for election, but another did not rank her at all. Clearly she has given outstanding service to MSA as past-editor of *American Mineralogist*, but her publication record is understandably not on par with the other nominees (understandable because of the nature of her institution and her time-commitments to *Am Min*, etc.). Although her nomination carries over for an additional two years, the chair is concerned that in this case the comparison of apples and oranges is too extreme for a fair consideration using the current and traditional ranking system.

(b) Careful attention is paid to ensuring disciplinary depth and breadth in constituting the committee or that the metric citations/publication be used to create an additional ranking that is in some way combined with those of the voting committee members.

K. Nicolaysen led this discussion, firstly on part (b). One person on her committee never responded to emails, and conflict of interest issues arose with another member. She solicited nominations herself, among deserving people she knew. In addition different disciplinary areas were represented on the committee and persons tend to be most familiar with nominees within their own discipline.

Discussion followed, on setting norms for the committee, looking at publication records but also at resumes of the candidates. K. Nicolaysen recommended that there be disciplinary breadth to this committee, as well as representation from different institutions.

Part (a) was discussed next. A. Koziol noted that she was the nominator for Jenny Thomson's application. Discussion followed. K. Nicolaysen noted the points mentioned above in part (a). The award criteria do include mention of service and teaching contributions. Do we wish Fellow applications to be broader? We certainly have educators who publish in the education literature. C. Clark noted that extent of publications was an issue in the Dana Award committee discussions also. A. Speer made a few comments on the history of this committee, and pointed out that over time membership changes and eventually the right fellow candidates come through.

K. Nicolaysen also noted that no women were on the list of recommended Fellows this year. Only three of the pool of nominations were women. She wondered if a new metric, such as publishing citations or the H-index should be included. She hoped that the committee in the future would be more aware of gender issues. E. Grew said that a good nominator should revise the nomination, strengthen it, and try again.

*S. Shirey moved that the incoming chair of the Fellows Committee, and the out-going chair of the committee discuss the gender equality issues that have come up this year, in particular the low number of nominations for female MSA Fellows. J. Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Discussion continued on the awards for the Student Research Grants. E. Grew, chair of the Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant Committee said that several committee members wondered how much of the student's proposed research was actually their advisor's work. He wondered if a question could be added to the application form asking about this? Of course, an applicant could be truthful or not in their answer. To ask might open a 'can of worms'. C. Clark noted that this question has come up in the past. The proposed research really should be independent research.

*C. Clark moved to approved the Crystallographic Research Grant, and the Mineralogy/Petrology Research grant, to the persons recommended. K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [8] MSA Committee membership and appointed posts for 2015 as recommended by the Committee on Committees (Section 7).

Review and fill any outstanding vacancies. The actual vote on appointment of Committees and other posts will occur during the First 2015 Council Meeting this afternoon (Section 31).

Not all vacancies were filled by the time reports were due for the Third 2014 Meeting. The Secretary read out lists for each committee as known to her as of today, with supplements from the Chair of the Committee on Committees. Any remaining vacancies must be filled soon by the Chair and the Secretary.

*J. Hughes moved to accept the Committee membership and appointed posts for 2015 as amended. K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [9] Other MSA Committee action items relating to committees and appointments:

(a) The MSA President recommends approval of Ian Swainson, currently the 'Letters Editor' of American Mineralogist, as Series Editor for the RiMG series under essentially the same terms as agreed with the current Series Editor. Ian Swainson will continue as the 'Letters Editor' of American Mineralogist (Section 1). Actual vote for approval will be at the First 2015 Council Meeting (Section 31).

D. Vaughan mentioned the fact that Jodi Rosso, former Series Editor for RiMG is now *Elements* Editor. Ian Swainson has agreed to take this position.

(b) The MSA Liaison to the American Geophysical Union (AGU) VGP Meetings Committee recommends that the MSA combine the multiple AGU liaison roles to a single person, who also is on the AGU Fall Meetings Committee (Section 29(c2)). A

single liaison can be aware of the AGU related deadlines, work more directly with the other members of the AGU program committee, and be an on-the-floor advocate for MSA and directly demarcate sessions to be co-sponsored, while they are at AGU doing the meeting planning.

Abby Kavner discussed her role as AGU liaison for MSA. She felt her role was limited in influence. Matt Kohn also talked about his time as a VGP officer for AGU. Discussion tended towards having one person represent MSA at AGU to report back to Council. The discussion was tabled until the President makes his remarks later in the meeting.

(c) The Chair of the Committee on Committees has commented that the Membership Committee is rudderless now. It would benefit MSA to discuss the role of the Membership Committee, its charge, and its make-up.

Discussion was tabled until later in the day.

- [10] The Nominating Committee for Officers (Section 8) presented a list of possible candidates for Vice-President, Secretary, and for Councilor. The list must be reviewed, ordered, and approved so that the MSA Secretary can contact those on the list in the sequence decided by Council to invite them to run for office.

A. Koziol said that the Executive Committee had made a list of Vice-Presidential candidates in their meeting on Friday. She then presented this list and some reordering was done by council members.

*C. Clark moved that the Secretary contact the nominated vice-presidential candidates in order as amended. S. Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Discussion of the Secretarial candidates was short as Council was in agreement with the Management Committee's suggested ordering of candidates.

*K. Nicolaysen moved that the Secretary contact the candidates for Secretary, in order given. K. Tait seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

A. Koziol then presented the list of suggested candidates for Councilor positions. Some reordering was suggested by Council members.

*J. Hughes moved that the Secretary contact the candidates for Councilor positions, in order as amended. S. Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [11] Consider recommendations of staff evaluations from the Management Committee of the preceding day.  
Recommendations were reported orally. The Management Committee reported their recommendations, and raises, to all council members present.

*Motion to approve the Management Committee's recommendations was made by K. Nicolaysen. K. Tait seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [12] The Executive Director requests that Council accept the 2014 election results and give permission to destroy the paper ballots and the electronic ballot files upon acceptance (Section 3).

*J. Hughes moved to accept the results. H. Day seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [13] Council needs to confirm date and location of its Spring 2015 Council meeting so arrangements can be started. The 2014 Spring Council's sense was that the meeting would be at the GAC-MAC-AGU Joint Assembly, Montreal, QC, Canada, 3-7 May 2015. This would make the Council meeting Saturday, 2 May 2015 (Section 3).

*SoC: we confirm this date and planning can move forward.*

- [14] The Treasurer (Section 4) has no specific action items relating to 2014 finances for the 2014 Council, but the 2015 budget will need to be approved during the First 2015 Council Meeting this afternoon (Section 31). The Treasurer will describe highlights of both years and answer questions. The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director request a few moments for any brief updates on MSA membership numbers, subscriptions, and MSA finances, if any. During this time they can answer (as best they can) or relay any questions or comments Council might have on the draft of the independent auditors report on MSA finance statements for the years ending 2012-12-31 and 2013-12-31 (Section 3, Appendix I).

H. Day led this discussion. There are no action items for Council but two items to note.

1. The investment portfolio is now at \$3 million and should stay there. There has been a 14% gain over one year but there could be a market correction. MSA has a conservative portfolio asset allocation. At this time there is a large amount of cash allocation but we are holding this to buy after the market correction. Our quality of investments is high and we have a strong portfolio right now.

2. The 2015 budget has a 'worst case' scenario of over-estimating expenses and under-estimating income. A large deficit is projected for next year. Transfers from endowment usually cover this but after transfers there is still a loss of \$90 K. We hope of course that it does not come to this. H. Day pointed out there is only \$76 K unrestricted in the Roebing Fund. Expenses must be watched closely this year.

A short discussion followed. Most of the discussion was put off until the 2015 First Council meeting. A. Speer added some more background on the conservative nature of MSA's investments.

A Speer continued with further comments. He had the current financial statement if any Council member wished to examine it. There is a large balance now for *Elements*

magazine. It is time to invest this money but it is the decision of the Executive Committee of *Elements*.

Memberships are still coming in. A. Speer also had updates on subscribers to *American Mineralogist* by institutions, and commented on the increasing number of institutions that are switching to just electronic (no paper) subscriptions.

Swets & Zeitlinger Group B.V. and Swets Information Services B.V. (Swets) have been declared bankrupt by a court in The Netherlands. Swets is a subscription agency, handling the subscriptions of libraries on an out-sourcing basis. Swets handles 80 MSA subscribers, with 35 being mailed to Swets' forwarding address in Runnemede, NJ. (EBSCO is MSA's largest subscription agency handling 191 MSA subscribers.) This coming during the renewal season means there will be a scramble among libraries and publishers for alternatives. At best it will mean slower rate of renewals with the attendant delay in cash flow, at worst it may cause libraries to re-examine their acquisitions and decisions to cancel many of them.

In the past, the main income for the journal was member + institutional print subscriptions with some additional income from sale of author page charges and offprints. Today there is a more diverse income stream, making it harder to determine how to price these and to predict the income. In addition to print subscriptions, MSA has income from electronic subscriptions, electronic aggregates (GSW), copyright royalties, pay-per-view, author payments for page charges, offprints, e-links, print and online color, open access, print-on-demand, and back issue sales.

De Gruyter had interest in eight new subscribers to the journal. This is more significant than it seems as the number of new subscribers in the last 20 years has been 2, maybe 3. A. Speer explained further what DeGruyter and Charlesworth are doing on our behalf in different markets.

[15] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) has informational items for Council attention (Section 6):

(a) FAAC presents to Council the preliminary results of the audit and asks that such presentation be recorded in the Council minutes.

D. Vaughan presented this item. Council is also asked to consult section 3 appendix I. The audit presented to Council is a fair statement of operations.

(b) FAAC asks Council to note that accumulated debits and credits between the investment portfolio and the General Operating Fund have been cleared by reducing the amount of retained earnings on our books.

A. Speer explained that accumulated debits and credits between the Roebing Fund and the General Operating Fund (GOF) have been cleared by reducing the amount of *retained earnings*. The Roebing Fund is both an endowment fund that supports several programs

(life dues, lecture program, etc.) and the reserve fund of the society wherein the retained earnings are kept. A large balance that the Roebling Fund owed the GOF had accumulated over the last few years because MSA did not need the cash and it made little sense to redeem investments when the market was down. In any case, it made little sense to redeem investments to transfers cash to the GOF, then transfer the same cash back to the Roebling Fund as retained earnings. Instead, the cash was kept in the investments of the Fund, and reclassified from an amount owed, to retained earnings.

- [16] The *American Mineralogist* Science Editors (Section 12(a)) recommend abbreviating subtitle of the journal from “An International Journal of Earth and Planetary Materials” to “A Journal of Earth and Planetary Materials”. The “International” seems self-conscious; and international submissions are (and have been for some time) strong in any case.

There was no discussion of this item.

*K. Nicolaysen moved to abbreviate the subtitle of American Mineralogist to “A Journal of Earth and Planetary Materials”. J. Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [17] The *American Mineralogist* Editorial Office (Section 12(b)) has two items:

- (a) Approval for 2016 production schedule change (Section 12(b), Part I.1)

Starting with volume 101 (which starts summer of 2015 but is online/in-the-mail in 2016) MSA:

- (1) publish online 12 times a year, monthly, and
- (2) publish in print 6 times a year.

The number of submissions and accepted papers are up (Section 12(b), Appendix A). The Journal Production System (JPS) will be operational to provide an infrastructure for this growth. A change in the frequency of publication will allow more economical handling of these increases. The authors should get published faster online by this change. Readers will have a consistency of knowing when to expect the new issue. All papers that appear online would appear in the print version, but in this new model, we decrease costs associated with the printing, binding and delivery by 2 volumes. The editorial office workload should smooth out. The savings from print should pay for the increase in online costs.

Rachel Russell introduced this item. In the worst case scenario, the journal will break even financially, but it is likely that this new schedule will actually save money. The numbering of issues and pagination will track by the on-line issues not print issues.

*Motion to approve the 2016 production schedule as in the agenda was made by C. Clark. J. Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- (b) A discussion and Sense of Council regarding appropriate “recognition” for Associate Editors (AE’s) and reviewers (Section 12(b), Part I.2).

Presently AE’s are gifted with membership in MSA during their tenure (thus providing them with online access to the journal regardless of their institutional and member status) and a luncheon if they attend GSA, as well as access to preprints, discounts on RiMG’s, free online color, etc. In total, this is a substantial amount of about \$6,000 or more annually as we have greatly increased the numbers of AEs that serve the



journal. Previously a much smaller number of AE's were given free electronic access to the journal, costing forgone revenue of \$1,000 or less.

It has been suggested that reviewers be rewarded in some fashion. Each year perhaps 500 or so people review at least one paper. Few people review more than two in any year. The Editorial Office has no means to track "credits" or "used credits" that could be redeemed in any reward system. The Business Office likewise is not prepared to track "credits" and it would be cumbersome and time-consuming. It is strongly felt that being a reviewer is the duty of every author and working scientist. We honor them in a list of published names each year. We also now make available "reviewer badge stickers" they can pick up at GSA.

There are 90 Associate Editors (AE's). They now receive a gift of membership in MSA at \$80 per person. Rachel has generated ribbons to give to reviewers who are here at the MSA meeting.

It was suggested that a certain % reduction (perhaps 50%) in dues for the AE's instead of completely free dues be offered.

*K. Tait moved that Associate Editorship membership dues be changed from 100% to 50% payment. J. Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[17a] The *ad Hoc* Committee on Earth Materials Data (Section 10(a)) asks MSA to consider the draft statement of commitment between Earth and space science publishers, editors, and societies; and data facilities and consortia (Section 10(a) Appendix A). Can MSA support it and join as a signatory?

A. Speer led this discussion. He and Rachel Russell attended the most recent meeting. The idea is if authors are required to archive data, they need instructions. There needs to be a 'best practices' list of things to do. Rachel pointed out that funding agencies will require grantees to have data available. *American Mineralogist* will ask but not require a data link.

The draft statement of commitment came in too late for action but will go to the Publications Director (Vice-President) for next year, and the Director will work with Rachel on this.

*SoC: we ask the Publications Director to consider the proposal for adoption and make recommendation to the Executive Committee soon.*

[17b] The MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine has one action item requiring a vote and a several requests (Section 16):

(a) Approve the cost for an annual subscription for *Elements* to participating societies at \$15/member and institutional subscriber.

*J. Hughes so moved. H. Day seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

(b) Forward nominations for the "geochemistry" Principal Editor to your *Elements*' representative (B. Dutrow) by 25 November.

(c) Please stop by the *Elements* booth and wish Pierrette well. It will be her last meeting as *Elements* Executive Editor.

(d) Please send Pierrette/Jodi any information for People in the News.

(e) Review *Elements*' in the past year, and send comments, concerns, and thoughts about the publication to your representative.

Items (b) through (e) were informational but Council was asked to note all of these.

[18] The Benefactors Committee (Section 9(a)) asks Council members to relay any prospective donor corporations and contacts therein to John M. Hughes, Chair of this committee.

J. Hughes introduced this topic. It is time to prepare for the MSA Centennial celebrations. Council was asked to refer to section 9 for his campaign. He asked Council to converge on improvements and send comments to him. First letters as part of this campaign will be sent out in early 2016. J. Hughes welcomed any contacts or leads. K. Nicolaysen asked if donor names could be listed in our society news pages in *Elements*. A Speer explained that this generates bad feeling among other societies. A short discussion followed on how contributors could be recognized in a visible way.

Discussion then started on item [20]:

[20] There are two items regarding the MSA Centennial Celebrations.

(a) Following discussions at Council, President Vaughan invited former MSA President Peter Heaney to lead a small Working Group to begin serious discussion of plans for our Centennial celebrations (Section 1). The hope is that the group be quite informal, to avoid forming yet another MSA Committee.

Peter agreed to take on this task. President Vaughan left it up to Peter as to who else might be involved, although he was asked to certainly involve John Hughes and Barb Dutrow, the key Centennial 'fund-raising people'. The only request was that any proposal needs to come both with a realistic estimate of the costs involved, how those costs would be met, and identify a person (or persons) prepared to do the work needed to 'make it happen'.

A short discussion was led by D. Vaughan. Ideas from Council members are welcome.

[19] The Short Course Committee (Section 19) has two items for Council:

(a) Review the revised proposal and budget from Carl Steefel, Simon Emmanuel, and Larry Anovitz for a short course on Pore Scale Geochemical Processes to be held in conjunction with Goldschmidt 2015 (Section 19, Appendices A and B). The committee recommended acceptance of this proposal, pending resolution of a few budget details, in

our last report. The organizers are ironing out budget, venue, and timeline details in consultation with J. A. Speer and J. Rosso.

A. Speer updated Council on the details of this short course, and how one sets up Short Courses at Goldschmidt meetings. MSA paid some deposits, but Geochemical Society organizers will do much of the work.

*C. Clark moved to approve the Short Course on Pore Scale Geochemical Processes proposal. K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

(b) Review the proposal for a workshop on diffusion processes submitted by Sumit Chakraborty and Ralf Dohmen (Section 19, Appendices C-E). A previous and similar workshop was highly successful, and the proposers intend to build on the previous success. The workshop would be jointly supported by MSA and Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft (DMG), with MSA's primary responsibilities being administration of registration of participants from U.S. institutions and advertising. MSA would have no further financial commitment. The Committee is highly supportive of the workshop and recommends its approval.

There was a short discussion of this topic.

*K. Nicolaysen moved to approve the workshop on diffusion processes proposal. C. Clarke seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[21] Relationships with other societies. There are four items here:

(a) MOU MSA with MinSoc and GSL. Following the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between MSA and the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain (MinSoc) and the Geological Society of London (GSL, British equivalent of GSA), telephone discussions have been held between our three organizations aimed at collaboration in the following areas (Section 1):

- 1) Publicizing each other's publications
- 2) Distinguished Lectureships
- 3) Liaising over Short Courses and Books
- 4) Workshops
- 5) MSA Centenary

D. Vaughan led the discussion of this topic. Most of these items were for Council's information.

(b) MSA as a possible 'Associated Society' of GSL. Following MSA's signing of the MOU with Geological Society of London (GSL), GSL approached MSA to see if we would consider becoming an 'Associated Society' (Section 1 Appendix A). This became a distraction from following up on the MOU because of GSL's requirement that we have a society 'Code of Conduct'. We believe that a solution to this problem has now been identified. At the AGI Member Societies meeting in Vancouver, which is after the MSA Council meeting, an AGI initiative seeking to revise the current Code of Ethics for

Geoscientists is to be presented (Section 29(b), item 5). Depending on what emerges, it is possible that MSA making aware the revised "AGI Code of Ethics" to its members would be acceptable for a GSL Associated Society.

D. Vaughan explained that an "Associated Society" is a new concept for the GSL. He hoped that MSA would be one of the first associated Societies. This process has been held up by the requirement for a society 'Code of Conduct'. A. Speer explained the current range of codes for professional societies. A discussion followed on the implications (legal and otherwise) of differing codes of conduct, and how differing codes of conduct would affect MSA and its members. After discussion, it was thought best to wait for the AGI (American Geological Institute) meeting and see what develops. A. Speer will keep Council informed.

*SoC: Council will wait until the AGI final report is issued, and consider it then. It is also acceptable for the Executive Committee to act on this if necessary.*

(c) EarthCube and Editors' Roundtable. The Executive Director reports on EarthCube and the Editors' Roundtable (Section 3). If MSA wishes or needs to be directly involved in EarthCube, it can do so by participating in the Liaison Team that is under development. MSA is participating in the EarthCube-related Editors' Roundtable. The first meeting of the Roundtable is 2-3 October 2014. In both cases these events are after submission of the MSA BlueBooks. Any significant developments with either of these that require Council awareness or action will be reported at Council.

A. Speer introduced this topic. The goal is a geoscience cyberinfrastructure. He asked Council to note the organizing chart on page 21 section 3, in particular the Liaison team. If MSA wants to get involved, it would be here as part of this team. In his opinion MSA does not need to get involved in an official way at this time. A. Speer continued with reporting from the Editor's Roundtable meeting, which is most pertinent to MSA at the moment. The National Science Foundation is strongly supporting funding cyberinfrastructure. The Sloan Foundation also is involved in open data publishing. NSA has funded several data facilities, and this is a way for them to 'talk' to each other. It is a way to determine best practices for the future.

(d) [if tabled from this morning] AGU. The MSA Liaison to the American Geophysical Union (AGU) VGP Meetings Committee recommends that the MSA combine the multiple AGU liaison roles to a single person, who also is on the AGU Fall Meetings Committee (Section 29(c2)). A single liaison can be aware of the AGU-related deadlines, work more directly with the other members of the AGU program committee, and be an on-the-floor advocate for MSA and directly demarcate sessions to-be co-sponsored, while they are at AGU doing the meeting planning.

Some of this was discussed in the morning but discussion continued here. Abby Kavner pointed out there are several liaisons but someone involved with the meeting planning is most important. Discussion ended with a Sense of Council.

SoC: There will be a single person to liaise with AGU. For now that representative is Abby Kavner.

[22] MSA procedures for Policy Statements: <http://www.minsocam.org/msa/policy.html> require that the MSA Council reevaluate a position statement every 4 years, to assess whether it retains relevance and purpose as it did when adopted. Both the Asbestos (Section 10(b) Appendix A) and the Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks Policy Statement (Section 310(c), Appendix A) require re-approval by vote of Council in the Fall of 2014. At its Second 2014 meeting, MSA Council considered the options:

1. simply reaffirm the existing policy.
2. decide to not reaffirm the policy and delete it from the website.
3. ask an individual to review and possibly revise it.
4. ask the original proposing committee to review and possibly revise it.
5. ask a new committee to review and possibly revise it.

Option 4 was chosen with input from others welcomed. The original proposing committees comprised:

- Asbestos: John Brady, John Hughes, Pamela Burnley, and Dave Bish
- Preservation of Natural History Collections: George E. Harlow, Peter Heaney, John Hughes, Jeffrey Post

(a) “Preservation of Natural History Collections: Minerals and Rocks”. Members of the original *ad hoc* committee conferred and came to the conclusion that the present statement (Section 10(c) Appendix A) is still appropriate and timely for MSA and should be renewed as is. They paid attention to the discussions and proposal on the same subject by GSA and think that GSA’s proposed statement goes in policy directions that MSA should not pursue. Harlow has taken the issue up with the Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP), which also concluded that the present statement by MSA appropriately addresses the subject.

(b) “Asbestos”. The original *ad hoc* committee members have decided that no changes are necessary in the resubmission for approval of the MSA Policy on Asbestos (Section 10(b) Appendix A). The statement was well-vetted upon its original approval.

Council was reminded that option 4, ask the original proposing committee to review and possibly revise it, was chosen at the Second 2014 MSA meeting in Sacramento. Discussion followed, on such topics as possibly including a briefing note or background information. It seemed clear we (MSA and writers of Policy Statements) should stay within our area of expertise. Even so, as may be the case with the Asbestos statement, there can be difficulties and potential legal problems. Abby Kavner discussed the origin of the Asbestos statement (i.e. controversy about California’s state rock).

The original committees have reconsidered the statements and have not changed them. If council wishes to edit the statements, then Council needs more time to reconsider them. C. Clarke volunteered to review the statements for the Second 2015 Council meeting.

*C. Clarke move to accept and reaffirm both policy statements, as written. K. Nicolaysen seconded. Motion passed with one abstention (J. Hughes).*

(c) MSA President Vaughan suggests that MSA ‘Policy Statements’ be accompanied by a separate ‘Briefing Note’ providing the background information on the subject. An example is given for ‘asbestos’ (Section 1 Appendix B). Where a document such as a policy statement and, particularly, a briefing note which meets the approval of the MSA Council is available through another society, it should be acceptable to provide a link to that document from the MSA website. (An example is the Briefing Note on Shale Gas - and ‘fracking’ - provided by the Geological Society of London, Section 1 Appendix C).

Discussion was then taken up on section (c). Should Council explore briefing notes? Caution is warranted – we must have a way of vetting the statements. Perhaps professionals in the field could review the statements, or we could open the statements to the MSA membership. Some brainstorming is needed on this topic, and proposers should also involve the original authors of the policy statements.

*SoC: S. Shirey and C. Clarke will pursue preparation of briefing notes for each Policy Statement.*

K. Nicolaysen asked if an appropriate paper published in *American Mineralogist* were available, could that be a better outlet and less litigious. This sounded like a great idea. Such an article could perhaps be transformed into a briefing note, as the US Geological Survey has done with their publications and Fact Sheets.

[23] The officer/committee organization of MSA and the BlueBooks can often obscure overall trends. A few seemingly disparate threads were listed.

D. Vaughan asked that items in this section be tabled and moved to the First 2015 MSA meeting, to the section on the future of MSA.

D. Vaughan bid goodbye to K. Tait and C. Clarke, outgoing councilors, and J. Hughes, out-going past President.

*C. Clarke moved to adjourn the meeting. K. Tait seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Koziol, Secretary