

## Minutes of the Third 2016 Council Meeting

Mineralogical Society of America

Saturday, 24 September 2016

Hyatt Regency Denver at CCC

650 15th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202, USA

### Attending:

Rebecca Lange, President  
George Harlow, Vice-President  
Steve Shirey, Past-President  
Howard Day, Treasurer  
Bryan Chakoumakos, Secretary  
Edward Grew, Councilor  
Peter Nabelek, Councilor  
Matt Kohn, Councilor  
Wendy Panero, Councilor

### Not Present:

Rajdeep Dasgupta, Councilor (phoned in briefly)  
Abby Kavner, Councilor (phoned in briefly)

### Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Michael Brown, 2017 Vice-President  
Sarah K. Carmichael, 2017 Councilor (arrived later, as indicated below)  
Sarah C. Penniston-Dorland, 2017 Councilor  
Thomas S. Duffy, 2017 Treasurer

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

### ITEMS

- [1] Roll Call and Introductory Remarks by the President.

Rebecca Lange called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM. All present introduced themselves.

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

A revised agenda was sent by Alex Speer ahead of this meeting, and this agenda was used during the meeting.

*Matt Kohn moved to accept the revised agenda, George Harlow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

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

The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC), Publications Director, *American Mineralogist* Editorial Office, 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* Advisory Council, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Board of Directors, Coordinator of Meetings, MSA Webmaster, Outreach Committee (K-12), MSA Lecture Program Committee, Liaisons to American Crystallographic Association (ACA), American GeoScience Institute (AGI), Clay Minerals Society (CMS), Geological Society of America (GSA), Gemological Institute of America (GIA), Geological Society of America Mineralogy, Geochemistry, Volcanology, Petrology (MGPV) Division, and Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP), International Mineralogical Association (IMA), Pegmatite Special Interest Group, Planetary Materials Special Interest Group.

The European Mineralogical Union (EMU) liaison reports that EMU will meet in September for their annual meeting. After this (i.e. October), he can file a meaningful report to MSA.

Not heard from:

MSA Lecture Program Administrator (but see Section 21(b)), *Ad Hoc* Committee on Earth Materials Data, Friends of Mineralogy (FM), International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD), American Geophysical Union (AGU-VGP Section), American Geophysical Union (AGU-Mineral Physics), Friends of Mineralogy (FM).

*George Harlow moved to accept the Reports to Council with no corrections, Matt Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [4] Revisions, if any, and approval of the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016 Council Meeting. The minutes reflect all revisions previously sent to the MSA Secretary (Section 2).

*Matt Kohn moved to accept the Secretary's minutes for the Second 2016 Council Meeting with no corrections, Howard Day seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [5] Review of Executive Committee actions.

The only Executive Committee activity was a result of a 05/06/2016 message from Dan Hummer, postdoc with Bob Hazen, about their wish to publish a short "blurb" in *Elements* and possibly *American Mineralogist* about "The Carbon Mineral Challenge" (worldwide search for undiscovered minerals). The Executive Committee suggested (1) an announcement via MSA Talk, (2) submit a paragraph to Alex Speer, our Executive Director, who can include it as part of our MSA Society News in the next issue of *Elements*, and (3) a short note about it in the next MSA-Announce message to all MSA members.

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

Roebing Medal (2017):..... *Edward M. Stolper* (Section 23)

Ed Grew reported that the Roebing Medal Committee deliberation process went smoothly and consensus was reached relatively quickly. 10 candidates (6 updated carry-overs + 4 new suggestions) were considered. The gender balance was reasonable (one woman candidate) in view of the relative dearth of potential women candidates. As he didn't expect to vote, the chair contacted potential nominators. There was one instance of a conflict of

interest with a committee member, but it posed no problem as the candidate was eliminated in the first round of voting.

*Howard Day moved to accept the Roebling Medal Committee nominee, Matt Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Dana Medal (2017): .....*Thomas W. Sisson* (Section 26)

Wendy Panero reported on the Dana Medal Committee deliberation process. The committee manifested some dysfunction in communication and enthusiasm towards their task. Four candidates were evaluated. Some discussion ensued, but more so after the report was submitted to Council. The top two candidates received 3 and 2 first place votes, respectively; both were recognized as strong candidates. Typically the award deliberations are conducted by email, because the committee members come from different continents. Council discussed these challenges. Both top candidates age out of eligibility next year. Gender diversity for this award has generally been good.

*Matt Kohn moved to accept the Dana Medal Committee nominee, Steve Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

MSA Award (2017): ..... *Dustin Trail* (Section 24)

*George Harlow moved to accept the MSA Award Committee nominee, Wendy Panero seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*SoC The Roebling Medal Committee and Committee for Officers should be chaired by Senior Councilors (3<sup>rd</sup> year) as they have more experience.*

Distinguished Public Service Award (2017)..... *David W. Mogk* (Section 25)

*Wendy Panero moved to accept the Distinguished Public Service Award Committee nominee, Matt Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*MSA Fellows: Jay J. Ague, Bernardo Cesare, Elizabeth Anna Cottrell, Glenn A. Gaetani, Shyh-Lung Hwang, Tomoo Katsura, Yan Liang, Wendy R. Panero, James Kelley Russell, Sean R. Shieh, Michael J. Walter*

Council discussed philosophy of the selection process. For instance, nominees from a teaching college versus a research university are evaluated by different criteria. Council also agreed to approve only 10 Fellows although total MSA membership was sufficient to allow 11: the rationale being that there was a large gap in the ranking between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> candidates.

*SoC communicate to the Fellows Committee to heighten their awareness to evaluate all nominations with appropriate criteria. A council member should chair the Fellows committee. A press release for each Fellow should be prepared by the committee so that their home institution can use it. Other suggestions to elevate the recognition of the Fellows (and the MSA) included adding the names to the luncheon brochure, inviting them to the luncheon, and having them stand and be recognized at the luncheon.*

*Matt Kohn moved to accept the 10 recommended Fellow nominations, George Harlow seconded.*

*Motion passed unanimously.*

Crystallographic Research Grant: .....Gabriela Aylin Farfan

*George Harlow moved to accept the Crystallographic Research Grant awardee, Matt Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant: ..... Allan Lerner and Jessica Hamilton

Peter Nabelek reported on their deliberations in considering over 50 proposals. It was relatively easy to make a short list of 6 proposals. These were re-evaluated by the whole committee.

*Matt Kohn moved to accept the two Mineralogy/Petrology Research Grant awardees, George Harlow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Peter Nabelek moved that the awardees should not hold a PhD and be at least 1 year from completion of their degree when the award money is given (The intention is that the awardee should have sufficient time to spend the money), George Harlow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

The Business Office will send letters signed by the President to Award winners and new Fellows, and e-mails to those who will (and will not) receive the research grants. Contact information for the MSA Presidents:

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[7] Additional items about MSA awards: all included in [6]

[8] Following the recommendation of the Executive Director (Section 3) the Council passed by unanimous consent and signed the resolution approving modification of the Kraus Trust to be able to make grants awards to students, both graduate and undergraduate, of any age. This will be Exhibit E to the Petition to the D.C. Courts (Section 3, Appendix G, page 46-47). The signed copy is added as an appendix to the minutes.

*Rajdeep Dasgupta and Abby Kavner phoned in at 9:45 AM in order to get the unanimous consent to modify the Kraus Award wording. The written unanimous consent from council and the absent councilors will be used to petition the D.C. Courts to make the change.*

*Executive Director had copies for signing at the Council meeting. All 2016 MSA Officers and Councilors (= Trustees of Edward H. Kraus Crystallographic Research Fund) signed, and signatures from the two absent councilors will be obtained by mail. Those present signed copies of the resolution and the Executive Director will send a copy to Rajdeep Dasgupta and a copy to Abby Kavner with the signatures of the other Council members, so they each can sign that copy and forward it on to the other before they return a completed signed resolution to the MSA Office.*

[9] MSA Committee membership and appointed posts for 2017 as recommended by the Committee on Committees (Section 7). Review and fill any outstanding vacancies. Note that the service year is from annual meeting to annual meeting. The actual vote on appointment of Committees and other posts will occur during the First 2017 Council Meeting this afternoon (Section 31).

George Harlow discussed the work of the Committee on Committees, reviewing the new appointments, one by one. Additional relevant comments are inserted.

Tasks of the Min/Pet and Kraus Award committees will be deliberated in 2018, so in effect there is nothing for those committees to do in 2017.

*George Harlow moved that Min/Pet Award Committee rotate two members each year, Matt Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*The Secretary will ask Donna Whitney to chair the Fellows Committee, and Julia Baldwin to chair the MSA Lecture Program Committee.*

The following items were specially mentioned:

- Assignment of councilors as committee chairs.
  - Nominating Committee for Officers: a continuing councilor should chair. (see above)
  - Crystallographic Research Grant Committee: one of the newly elected councilors should chair, i.e., Sarah Carmichael
  - Min/Pet Research Grant Committee: one of the newly elected councilors should chair, i.e., Sarah Penniston-Dorland
  
- MSA representatives to the IMA Commissions on Applied Mineralogy and Ore

Mineralogy: The previous representatives asked to be replaced.

- *Mickey Gunter will serve for Applied Mineralogy.*
- *Several suggestions were made for Ore Mineralogy and will be pursued.*
- Jay Ague was inadvertently requested and agreed to serve on two committees: Distinguished Public Service Medal and Nominating Committee for Officers.

*SoC is that serving on two committees in this case is not a problem, but generally should be avoided.*

*Matt Kohn moved that Council accept the Committee on Committee report of membership changes to the MSA Committees, Edward Grew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

From the MSA President (Section 1)

A third member for the Benefactors Committee needs to be identified whose “portfolio” will be donors (both corporate and individuals), bequests and testamentary gifts, especially the “Second Century Campaign”, and other large sources. John Hughes will continue his highly valuable efforts with our established corporate donors. The MSA office will continue handling the practical aspects of membership giving.

*Council discussed that this particular person must be well spoken and well connected. Suggestions include Steven Shirey and Barb Dutrow. We need an organized campaign to target corporations involved in mineral industry, high-end mineral/gem dealers/collectors, and successful individual MSA members/alumni.*

From MSA Liaison to the AGU Fall Meeting (Section 29c).

MSA Liaison to the American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting Committee asked to be removed from this position. The position should be annually re-assigned to an MSA member of the AGU program committee, preferably in the VGP section, which is in a position to work directly with AGU meeting programs.

*Council suggested that Cin-Ty Lee would be a good MSA Liaison to AGU.*

From the Short Course Committee (Section 29c).

Tom Trainor, has not responded to any of the short course memos or discussions in over 1.5 years. The Committee Chair suggested that he be removed from the committee, but SoC is to let him cycle off in 1 year.

From the MSA Executive Director (Section 3).

The sense of the 2016 Spring Council was for a March 1 deadline for Min- Pet and the Kraus Crystallography Research Grant applications. This needs to start with the 2018 award because the 2017 grants will be decided at this Third 2016 Council Meeting.

During 2017, MSA will advertise a March 1, 2018 submissions deadline for 2018 grants.

The grant committees will need to come to decisions and make recommendations to the MSA Executive Committee by April 15 so that approval can be given in order that awardees can be informed and checks sent by May 1. The 2018 Committees will be making the recommendations, so there will be essentially no tasks for the 2017 Committee.

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

Sharing Comments from Committee members. Based on Item [8] of the Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting of 2016.

*SoC that any comments from Committee Chairs about their function should be passed along to next chair of the Committee on Committees.*

[11] 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.

The Executive Director noted the Secretary position will appear on the 2017 ballot uncontested, because Bryan Chakoumakos is willing to serve a second term as Secretary.

Matt reported on the general deliberations of the Nominating Committee for Officers.

*George Harlow moved that Council accept the ranked list for Vice President, Edward Grew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Matt Kohn moved that Council accept the modified ranked list for Mineralogy/Crystallography Councilors, George Harlow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*Wendy Panero moved that Council accept the modified ranked list for Petrology/Geochemistry Councilors, Matt Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*The Secretary will contact nominees following the ranked list until two candidates agree to run in the election for Vice President and four candidates agree to run in the election for Councilors.*

[12] Staff evaluations and recommendations from the Management Committee of the preceding day were reported orally and are not recorded in the minutes.

[13] The Executive Director requested that Council accept the 2016 election results and be given permission to destroy the paper ballots and the electronic ballot files upon acceptance (Section 3).

*Matt Kohn moved that Council accept 2016 election results and give permission to destroy the ballot files, Edward Grew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Sarah Carmichael, 2017 Councilor, arrived.

[14] Council considered dates and location of its Spring 2017 Council meeting.

*George Harlow moved that the Spring Council meeting should be held on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at MSA Headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia, Howard Day seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

*SoC that the Spring Council meeting should extend over 1.5 days to include brain-storming at a less formal setting, e.g., restaurant.*

[15] The Treasurer (Section 4) had no specific action items relating to 2016 finances for the 2016 Council, but the 2017 budget will need to be approved during the First 2017 Council Meeting to follow (Section 31). The Treasurer will describe highlights of both years and answer questions.

Howard Day reported a general trend of slower growth in the MSA investment portfolio. Alex Speer presented and commented on the IRS 990, Virginia tax form 500, and the 2014-2015 MSA Financial Statements and Independent Auditors' Report (Section 6, Appendix F). The FAAC will review the final audit report and the IRS Form 990 in time for the November 15 filing deadline.

[16] The Financial Advisory and Audit Committee (FAAC) presented three important informational items for Council attention (Section 6).

(a) As of June 30, 2016, the total MSA investment portfolio was \$3,084,458, essentially unchanged from the value of \$3,092,256 on the same date in 2015. On the other hand, after surviving the market antics in the first half of 2016, including Brexit, our investment portfolio on July 30 reached \$3,170,574, a new high watermark. The high point was reached on 2016-08-15 at \$3,206,091.91. The number has hovered about \$3.19 million since then. Given the unpredictability of the investment world, MSA will continue with a conservative investment strategy. Alex Speer commented that MSA's use of an investment advisor allows MSA to react in a timely manner to changing market conditions.

(b) On the banking or operating account side, our combined MSA checking account balances totaled \$828,755, a decrease from \$1,141,780 on the same date a year ago. These balances fluctuate due to the timing of income and expense. MSA also manages funds for the Meteoritical Society, which is reflected in these totals. MSA (two accounts), *Elements* and The Meteoritical Society each have their own checking accounts. The amount reported is the total of all four. About a third of the MSA balances relates to *Elements*.

[17] The MSA President requested Council feedback (what should be added, removed, changed?) about the proposed letter to lapsed members and a MSA member questionnaire.

(a) Lapsed member letter (Appendix A, Section 1). The email will be sent as an individualized email from Becky Lange as past MSA President. Letters of this nature will be sent annually from the MSA Past-President and as the new chair of MSA membership committee, with proposed follow-up phone calls to lapsed MSA Fellows (and other lapsed members as appropriate). This email message can also be sent to all individuals who are potential



“targets” to become members, based on their research interests.

*Council discussed improvements to the draft letter prepared by the President to target lapsed members, in particular to add how MSA helps support a spectrum of meetings like GSA, AGU, IMA, and Goldschmidt.*

- (b) Questionnaire (Appendix B, Section 1). These are short number of questions with the goal of (1) obtaining feedback on our core activities, and (2) hopefully triggering an awareness of all the “great” activities in which MSA is involved. The questionnaire ends with the question of whether the reader is a member or not, followed by a link to our membership page.

*Council discussed how to improve the online survey about the MSA and its activities. Survey results would provide valuable feedback, and we could identify areas to improve, and to engage and grow the membership. The expectation is that surveys would become a regular means to engage the membership and mineralogical community.*

[18] Barb Dutrow, the MSA Representative to *Elements* Magazine, had several action items, but none requiring a vote of Council (Section 16):

- (a) Forward nominations for the “petrology” Principal Editor to MSA’s *Elements*’ representative (Barb Dutrow) by 25 November.
- (b) Please send Jodi Rosso any information for “People in the News”.
- (c) Please consider proposing an issue of *Elements*; new ideas are reviewed at Goldschmidt annually.
- (d) Review *Elements*’ in the past year, and send comments, concerns, and thoughts about the publication to your representative.

[19] The Benefactors Committee (Section 9a) had two items:

- (a) MSA Council members are asked to relay any prospective donor corporations and contacts therein to John M. Hughes, Chair of this committee.
- (b) This fall, a concerted effort will be made to approach numerous mineral dealers for Benefactor Contributions. An extensive list of dealers is available, and those who might be approached for larger gifts, identified by Vice President George Harlow, will not be approached for Benefactor status. A proposed letter to be sent to dealers, beginning in late August, was drafted for comments from Council, see Section 9(a) Appendix A. George commented on the challenges to successfully target high-end mineral dealers as benefactors. We need to pursue all channels for sustained supporters.

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

- (a) Please review for approval the latest version of the short course + Reviews volume proposal that the committee recommended for acceptance: "*Gas-Solid and Gas-Melt Reactions in Earth and Planetary Processes*" submitted by committee member Penny King and her co-editor Dick Henley (Appendix A, part 3, Section 19). This was submitted shortly after their report to the MSA Council for their spring meeting.
- (b) The committee suggested that Council authorize the appropriate people to take action to place advertisements in *Elements* (probably at some \$ cost) to encourage more

proposals for short courses and volumes. The Executive Director noted that if someone sends the Office copy for a notice or ad in *Elements* to call for short course proposals, it can be included in MSA's two pages of society news at no cost.

*Wendy Panero moved that this shortcourse and review volume should be accepted, Steven Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [21] The Planetary Materials MSA Special Interest Group (PMIG) proposes a new *Reviews* volume on behalf of the Steering Committee for a science initiative titled *New Views of the Moon (NVM) 2* (Section 30b). The book would be the same title: *New Views of the Moon 2*. Because there is no short course associated with these books, PMIG has been submitting proposals directly to Council. The *New Views of the Moon (NVM) 2* initiative was in the PMIG Report to the Second 2016 MSA Council Meeting. Council encouraged them to proceed with a proposal for a *Reviews* volume.

The book will provide a concise summary of scientific developments made since publication of RiMG 60, now that results are in from eight additional missions of exploration to the Moon (SELENE, Japan; Chandrayaan, India; GRAIL, US; LADEE, US; Chang'E-1,2,3, China; and LRO, US). In addition to new missions, a decade of sample analyses has provided some new paradigms in lunar mineralogy and geochemistry, for example, the direct analysis of H and D in lunar glasses and minerals. Many such new developments make the publication of the review volume appropriate and timely. As with NVM-1, the authorship is intended to be broad so that the contents are truly a comprehensive summary. Unlike NVM-1, NVM-2 will consist of a larger number of much shorter chapters, listed in their report. A tentative time frame would have the authors submitting final chapters to the Review Series Editor by the end of 2018 for a possible 2019 publication date

The Executive Director's recommended that the NVM2 Steering Committee be given approval for the volume, that the Short Course Committee be informed about the volume, and that the Reviews Series Editor be asked to work with the volume's editors.

*Wendy Panero moved that the volume should proceed as stated by the Executive Director, Steven Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

- [22] The Editor of the *Handbook of Mineralogy* (Section 15) had no Council action items but he has completed a combination of 139 new and revised/replaced mineral pages since the spring. Now, 4,258 minerals are included (<http://www.handbookofmineralogy.org>). In the next quarter he intends to check the *Handbook* list of species for completeness compared to the IMA approved list. Part of this project is to devise an efficient way to update the amphibole supergroup. The *Handbook of Mineralogy* is used widely as an official reference for new mineral data and names.

- [23] In August we received a message from MSA Councilor Rajdeep Dasgupta that both the MSA lecturers and the various institutions requesting MSA lecturers had heard nothing. David Peate, the Lecture Program Coordinator had arranged for the three speakers and sent a call for requests to the MSA-Talk list serve by April. It was determined that David had encountered personal problems, but has successfully gotten the Lecture Program back on track. Lecture tours have been set for all three distinguished lecturers, all over the world.

Each will include a slide or two about what MSA does and the benefits of membership during their presentations.

[24] There are no Council action items regarding the MSA Centennial Celebrations, but Peter Heaney arranged a meeting of the committee at GSA in Denver to discuss the organization of the symposium in Washington, DC in 2019 (Section 10c).

[25] Becky Lange reported significant progress on a “MSA data journal” and lead the Council in continued discussion of this idea (Section 1, Section 11).

(a) Proposal to form a close collaboration/cooperation between our new MSA data journal and the new *Planetary Materials Database* to be housed at the NASA Ames supercomputer facility (Bob Downs and Dave Blake are PIs).

Bob Downs expressed great support and enthusiasm for MSA’s plan to launch an electronic data journal that would publish a 1-2 page descriptions of various datasets, of various size, that are going to be housed in various databases. He expressed the need for a complementary data journal that would allow the datasets housed in repositories (including the *Planetary Materials Database*) to be briefly described and published, so that they have DOIs and are citable and searchable.

Some possible areas of cooperation and collaboration between MSA and NASA include:

(1) The establishment of criteria to ensure that only high-quality data are published in the MSA journal and housed in the NASA *Planetary Materials Database*.

(2) MSA can recommend the NASA *Planetary Materials Database* for the housing of their data (a default repository?). And in turn, the NASA *Planetary Materials Database* can steer potential “data authors” to our new data journal to publish the description of the data.

Aligning our data journal to the NASA *Planetary Materials Database* has the potential to raise the profile, visibility and stature of our new journal. It is a compelling opportunity for MSA to directly engage in a meaningful way in an exciting new realm of our science, which is the compilation and organization of large datasets relevant to planetary materials, whether geochemical, crystallographic, mineralogical or petrological. MSA is particularly well positioned to contribute in exactly the way/area that MSA excels at, namely publishing.

Becky Lange volunteered to work on a draft of a possible Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MSA and the NASA *Planetary Materials Database* in consultation with incoming MSA President George Harlow. The draft will be done in time for discussion at the Spring 2017 Council meeting.

MSA’s Mineral Structures Database is being improved, by being transferred to be part of the NASA Planetary Materials Database, and the user interface will be upgraded.

Council discussed what our relationship should or could be with the NASA Planetary Materials Database. Our format for the MSA Data Journal would be author pays. Goal is to make data available for others to use, and our journal would provide a citable source.

NASA is willing to work with MSA to move forward, where NASA builds the infrastructure and MSA could be one of the reputable data-streams. An MOU between NASA and MSA should be pursued. Alex made some important comments: the data need to be deposited prior to publication (supplementary material to published papers are examples), the data journal would provide an acceptable citable source, 1-2 page limit. How much would it cost to publish your data description? Submission fee (~\$50) + publication fee (~\$250) were suggested. Could data published in the data journal be used in subsequent high profile journals by the submitting author? How is the quality assessed and ensured? Peer review by experts? Panel? Editor? Who does that work? Supplementary material of the papers published in the *American Mineralogist* is distinctly different, and not what we are talking about. Those are generally information that supports the paper, not primary datasets, that otherwise would be published tables, figures, etc. We should invite Bob Downs and a NASA representative from the Planetary Materials Database project to the Spring Council meeting. How can we standup a search committee for the all-important editor? President Lange will be one of the members.

(b) Name of the data journal. President Lange has been asking various MSA members for their suggestions of a name for the new MSA electronic journal. Some current suggestions include:

- (i) *Record of Earth Materials*
- (ii) *Record of Planetary Materials*
- (iii) *Planetary Materials Data Journal*

(c) Editor for the new data journal. If MSA chooses to pursue a close cooperation with the NASA *Planetary Materials Database*, this may be a more compelling platform from which to announce our new electronic journal and also to solicit nominations (including self-nominations) for an editor of this new data journal. All those with whom President Lange discussed the challenge of finding an editor for this data journal agree that a “call for nominations” would be both transparent and most likely to attract an optimal pool of qualified and enthusiastic candidates.

[26] Steve Shirey requested input for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Geochemical Society (GS) currently being negotiated between MSA and GS (Section 29h). Suggestions were solicited as to what issues need to be considered between MSA and GS.

Steve described the draft of the MOU with GS. An early version was brought to the GS council, but a revised version is being prepared. This is a great time to include items that mutually benefit the societies. A parallel one is needed for the European counterpart, EGU.

[27] There is no action by MSA possible in considering Don Bloss’ request to return his gift starting the Bloss Fund until MSA hears back from him after receiving the MSA response to our understanding of the situation (Section 3). If Don decides not to pursue the return of his gift, the matter can be dropped, but it would be worthwhile to keep Don continually updated about the Bloss Fund. If Don decides to pursue return of his gift and agrees to pay for the costs involved, the Executive Director recommends that the first step be to consult legal counsel as to what is possible, allowed, and involved.

The Bloss Crystallography Fund Committee (Section 22) reports that as of August 24, 2016 the fund balance was approximately \$66.8k. The fund has a restricted amount of approximately \$67.5k; thus we cannot currently make any awards from it. Requests for use

of Bloss Funds are adjudicated by the Committee with Council or Executive Committee approval, and the Committee will also proactively seek appropriate expenditures from the fund.

The Bloss Fund is an irrevocable trust, so we cannot legally give the money back without the blessing of the courts. No response has been received from Don regarding Alex's letter in response to his verbal request.

*SoC is that information on how the different funds are doing before you donate would be useful, and likely would encourage or even increase donations. Of particular interest are the Thompson and Bloss funds.*

*Matt Kohn moved that the Council meeting be adjourned, Steven Shirey seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectively submitted,

Bryan Chakoumakos, Secretary