

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND 2008 COUNCIL MEETING**  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Attending:

Peter Heaney, President  
Nancy Ross, Vice President  
Barb Dutrow, Past President  
John Hughes, Treasurer  
Mickey Gunter, Secretary  
Carol Frost, Councilor  
Klaus Mezger, Councilor  
Jean Morrison, Councilor  
Roberta Rudnick, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *The American Mineralogist*  
Gordon Nord, MSA Webmaster

Absent:

Peter Burns, Councilor  
Simon Redfern, Councilor

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

The Second meeting of the 2008 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was held at MSA headquarters, Chantilly, Virginia Wednesday, May 21, 2008

[1] Roll Call and Introduction by the President.

President Heaney called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. President Heaney thanked all those in attendance, especially those who traveled a great distance to attend the meeting. He also commented that he enjoyed spending the previous day with the MSA staff and noted how great the staff is and how much they all enjoyed working for MSA.

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

There were three items added to the agenda:

- a. MSA job board on the website. There is a recommendation to remove the MSA job board from the MSA website and instead direct people to the job postings pages on the *Elements* magazine website. MSA derives no income from the MSA job

board, but does expend time in posting job ads. *Elements* does charge for job postings, which will help support the magazine. Because the decision seemed clear, Council decided at this time to remove it from the website.

b. MSA is asked to approve the 2009 subscription rate and budget of the *Elements* Magazine. This was to be taken up at the time of the financial update presented by the Treasurer and Executive Director.

c. N. Ross's *ad hoc* committee report on sun-setting the paper version of the *American Mineralogist*. This topic was added to the Agenda under Operations

[3] Approve the minutes of the Third 2007 Council Meeting and First 2008 Council Meeting (Section 2).

*N. Ross moved to approve the minutes. S = K. Mezger. Motion passed unanimously.*

[4] Accept Reports to Council containing no questions or action items as a group. Reports are acknowledged by the Secretary.

Benefactor Committee, Distinguished Public Service Award Committee, Dana Medal Committee, Financial Advisory Committee, Kraus Crystallography Grant Committee, Lecture Program Committee, Lecture Program Coordinator, Mineralogy/Petrology Grant Committee, MSA Award Committee, MSA Representative to the *Elements* Executive Committee, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Advisory Council, MSA Representative to the *GeoScienceWorld* Board of Directors, MSA Series Editor of the *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry* & Monograph Series, MSA Society News Editor for *Elements*, MSA Editor *Handbook of Mineralogy*, MSA WebMaster, Outreach Committee (Databases), Representative to ACA, AGI, CMS, EMU, GSA, Special Interest Groups Special Interest Group on Mineral Surfaces and Interfaces, Pegmatites and Planetary Materials,

**Not heard from:** Mineral Structures, Nominating Committee for Fellows, Nominating Committee for Officers, Outreach Committee (K-12), Representative to FM, GIA, GS, IMA, Representative to the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD), Roebling Medal Committee, Special Interest Groups Environmental Mineralogy, Industrial Mineralogy, Mineral Structures, Teaching Mineralogy,

*B. Dutrow moved to accept the committee reports. S = J. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.*

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[5] Review of Executive Committee actions and President's Report. The action items and discussions are detailed below when they or related items were scheduled.

[6] Determine the member and institutional *American Mineralogist* subscription rates for 2009 and member dues. The Treasurer recommends:

- (a) a \$10 increase for regular member dues for 2009. For context, regular member dues were last raised for calendar year 2004, an increase of \$5 to \$55, but that increase was offset by a \$5 discount for renewal by 10/31. Because of the significant time lapse since the last dues increase, he recommends a \$10 increase to \$65 for regular members, with the caveat that the \$5 discount for early renewal online stays in effect. He also recommends that dues remain at \$10 for student members, as they were raised to that level only last year. Sustaining Membership will remain at \$150 + regular dues.

There was some discussion about the impact of raising the dues on membership (it might decrease), however it was also pointed out that MSA has one of the lowest dues for any professional society and that we should point out the bang for the buck and what they receive for their membership (subscription to *Elements* and reduced cost for RiMG volumes).

*J. Hughes moved to approve regular member dues to \$65 and keep a \$10 dues for student members. S = B. Dutrow.* Motion passed unanimously.

- (b) continue to differentiate between domestic and international member subscription rates to reflect actual costs of producing and mailing *American Mineralogist*, and also to continue to shift a portion of first-copy costs (7.5%) from Institutional Subscribers to Individual Subscribers, begun in 2007. He proposed that a U.S. member subscription price (paper and electronic) be set at \$70 (currently \$60, increased from \$50 for 2008), and international member subscription price be set at \$80 (currently \$70, increased from \$60 for 2008). He also proposed that a member electronic-only subscription be maintained at \$30.

R. Rudnick questioned how we actually determine the cost to produce and ship the journal. A. Speer explained the costs and the cost break down are given in Appendix C of the Treasurers Report (Section 4). At this point there was also a discussion that we should probably move to an electronic publication faster because we heavily subsidize the printed copy. The concluding comments by N. Ross were that it would be useful to explain the membership costs of paper vs. electronic publication of the *American Mineralogist* to the members.

*J. Hughes moved to approve a U.S. member subscription price set at \$70 and an international member subscription price set at \$80, and member electronic subscription be maintained at \$30. S = J. Morrison. Motion passed unanimously.*

(c) continue to differentiate between domestic and international institutional subscription rates to reflect actual costs of producing and mailing *American Mineralogist*, and also to continue to shift of a portion of first-copy costs (7.5%) from Institutional Subscribers to Individual Subscribers. He proposed that a U.S. institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) be raised to \$825 (raised from \$775 for 2008), and international institutional subscription be raised to \$850 (raised from \$800 for 2008).

As well as typical inflationary reasons for the \$50 increase as proposed above, council also discussed the negative impact of the declining U.S. dollar in regards to other world currencies as another reason to increase the international subscription rates.

*J. Hughes moved to approve the U.S. institutional subscription price (paper and electronic) be set at \$825, and international institutional subscription be set at \$850. S = N. Ross. Motion passed unanimously.*

[7] The Treasurer and MSA Executive Director provided brief updates on MSA membership numbers, subscriptions, and MSA finances.

Executive Director Speer said that the current MSA membership as of today was 2099. We also currently have 606 institutional subscribers to the *American Mineralogist* and about 250 subscribers through GSW. Last, he pointed out MSA's total cash assets as of today were 2.4 million dollars.

President Heaney led the discussion on the 2009 budget and subscription rate for *Elements*. *Elements* recommends an increase in the subscription rate charged the participating societies from \$13.02 to \$14.00. It was pointed out that MSA, while being one of the largest participating societies of *Elements*, has only one vote. We are asking Rod Ewing to determine other ways to balance *Elements* budget. It was SoC that John Hughes, MSA's representative on the *Elements* Executive Committee, should communicate this concern to the *Elements* editorial group.

*P. Heaney moved to approve above. S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.*

Following the above discussion it was recommended that we approve the *Elements* budget.

*P. Heaney moved to approve above. S = K. Mezger. Motion passed unanimously.*

[8] From the Committee on Committees, confirm the proposed list of committee members and chairs. Authorize the MSA Secretary to contact individuals in the order listed (except when restricted by guidelines for the position).

N. Ross gave a brief overview of how the committee selection was accomplished thanking the members of the Committee on Committees. She, as well as others in the room, discussed the importance of maintaining the balance of international representation, including new members, gender, as well as the balance between the different disciplines (i.e., mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry). Discussion ensued and Council refined the committee's work and completed the suggestions for committee membership.

*J. Hughes moved to approve the committee's recommendation as modified. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

[9] Approve the appointment of Dana Griffin as Editor for *American Mineralogist* for a two-year term from 2008 to 2010.

There was a brief discussion on appointing Dana Griffin noting that Dana would only be appointed for a two year term, and we have already located another individual willing to replace Dana in two years. The Council also wished to thank George Lager for doing an excellent job in his two year term as editor of the *American Mineralogist*.

*P. Heaney moved to approve the appointment of Dana Griffin as Editor for American Mineralogist for a two-year term from 2008 to 2010. S = N. Ross. Motion passed unanimously.*

[10] Approve Anthony (Tony) Kampf as the United States Voting Member of the Commission On New Minerals, Nomenclature, and Classification with the International Mineralogical Association (IMA-CNMNC) (Section 1). With Tony as the US Voting Member, he will have to resign his position as MSA Representative to the IMA Commission on Museums. MSA will have to find a replacement for that role (BlueBook Section 1 and 7).

Council wanted to thank Pete Dunn for his excellent work on the IMA committee and we were grateful to find an excellent replacement.

*P. Heaney moved to approve Anthony (Tony) Kampf as the United States Voting Member of the Commission On New Minerals, Nomenclature, and Classification*

*with the International Mineralogical Association. S = B. Dutrow. Motion passed unanimously.*

[11] Bob Dymek, Editor of the *American Mineralogist* since 1997, has indicated his intention to step down from that position as soon as practicable. Council will need to initiate a search for his successor. Bob will stay on board until a new editor is named, and work with that person to ensure a smooth transition. He would very much appreciate it if the change in Editorship were completed by the end of 2008.

Council was dismayed to learn of Bob Dymek wishes to step down after a long successful term as editor of the *American Mineralogist*. It was SoC that a list of names of potential editors should be assembled, ranked by the executive committee, and contacted individually by President Heaney.

[12] The Executive Director has four operational items:

(a) Council needs to confirm that the Third 2008 and First 2009 MSA Council Meetings will be held in Houston, Texas on Saturday 4 October 2008. The MSA Management Committee meeting will be held Friday afternoon or evening 3 October 2008.

*P. Heaney moved to approve. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

(b) Council needs to give some indication of its intention about the Spring 2009 Council meeting. It could be in conjunction with 2009 Goldschmidt Conference, Davos, Switzerland, some other meeting, or at MSA office in Chantilly, Virginia. Whatever is decided, it is best to have sufficient time to work with the organizers to plan and include MSA events and booth if needed.

*It was SoC to have our Spring 2009 meeting in conjunction with the AGU meeting to be held in Toronto from May 24 to 27. We will select exact dates at a later time.*

(c) Council needs to decide when and where the 2009 Dana Medal will be presented to Ronald E. Cohen.

It was SoC that Ron Cohen would be presented the Dana Medal at the Davos Goldschmidt meeting, and that President Heaney should contact Ron and arrange the details.

(d) Because Goldschmidt 2010 is meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee June 14-18, 2010, MSA might give thought to having a serious presence there, including the Council meeting, and how that meeting would affect MSA's presence at the 2010 IMA General Meeting in Budapest, Hungary August 29 to September 3, 2010. (See also item 13 below).

*It was SoC that MSA should have a strong presence at the 2010 Goldschmidt meeting. However, we should also have a strong presence at the IMA meeting in Budapest. Thus council will need to refine our commitments to these meetings in the near future.*

(e) As discussed previously under additions to the Agenda in section 2 it was SoC that MSA should stop supporting its own job board on the MSA website. Instead we should direct people to the job board of *Elements*.

[13] Karen Hudson-Edwards sent a request to the President that MSA co-sponsor a meeting proposed by the Environmental Geoscience subsection of the Mineralogical Society. The proposed meeting will be held from June 22-25, 2010 in Aberystwyth, Wales. She suggested that co-sponsorship can assume any of many different forms, such as "organizing sessions, supplying plenary lecturers, holding MSA awards ceremonies, etc, as at Frontiers 2007, or simply by advertising and promoting the meeting."

Council wishes to continue its support for the Frontiers meetings. The Frontiers meeting recently held in Cambridge was considered to be a successful undertaking. And while we were excited about the proposed meeting in 2010, we were equally concerned about its timing because it is being held the week after the 2010 Goldschmidt meeting.

*It was SoC that President Heaney should contact the organizers of the Aberystwyth Frontiers meeting, offer our support, but also our concern of the time conflict between this meeting and the Goldschmidt meeting.*

[14] The Short Course Committee has two action items:

- a) The Committee considered the preliminary proposal for "Diffusion in Minerals and Melts" by Youxue Zhang (Univ. Michigan) and Daniele Cherniak (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute). The proposal came late last summer, too late to be included in the Committee's Fall 2007 Council report. The committee felt the proposers make a convincing case for the merits of the short course. The course is projected to coincide with the Fall 2009 AGU meeting. The Committee recommends approval of this proposal by Council.

*P. Heaney moved to approve the preliminary proposal for the "Diffusion in Minerals and Melts" by Youxue Zhang (Univ. Michigan) and Daniele Cherniak (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute). S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.*

- b) The small number of proposals continues to be a source of concern for the Short Course Committee. They again asked Council to consider whether some selective advertising is needed or desired.

Council generated some ideas relating to targeting persons/areas to look into, and members of the Committee have been actively canvassing potential future short course proposers, but we believe that a clear advertisement (e.g., in *Elements*) is required. Are there funding resources available to cover such an advertisement? Also, can a "call for proposals" be sent out to the MSA and GS members using the existing listservs?

*It was SoC that the Committee and Council should be more proactive in soliciting proposals for new short courses.*

[15] The MSA Lecture Program Committee had one action item - solicit suggestions for Distinguished Lecturers from MSA membership via email, as is done by other MSA committees (such as the Distinguished Public Service Medal and Dana Medal).

The Executive Director related that he wrote the Committee Chair when the report arrived to tell him that he and his committee can send announcements (themselves) to the MSA-Talk list serve or any other list serves at anytime. Also, they can write up a piece about proposing a short course for *Elements*, or an "ad". It ought to be short as MSA has only two pages in each issue. If they want to say more, they can post a longer piece online and refer to the URL in the "ad".

*It was SoC that there should be selective recruiting of lecturers*

[16] GSA has set for itself the goal of being aggressively in the forefront of organized Earth sciences. The framework of the discussions at the GSA Leadership Weekend (May 2-4, 2008; which Executive Director Speer attended) was evaluating GSA's strategic plan and looking for ideas on how to achieve this. Two items pertinent to MSA arose:

- something needs to be done to bring more of the core disciplines back to GSA and the GSA meetings – among them mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry.
- MSA functions partially as a division within GSA, but perhaps this leads to a disciplinary and communication gap within GSA because MSA does not perform all of the functions. It was suggested that perhaps GSA needs a mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry division, or a differing arrangement with MSA. A.



Speer spoke with Nancy McMillan (an MSA member who is on GSA Council) about this. She is willing to help.

Speer believes that it is clear something will happen with or without MSA input. MSA will have to decide what ultimate role MSA will have within GSA and how (and who) can help achieve this.

*It was SoC that we should proceed with caution in our interactions with GSA. While we welcome being more actively involved in the content of GSA meetings, we also were concerned that our discipline may become diluted in the large meeting. We all agree that there are too many meetings and we need to focus MSA's involvement in fewer meetings.*

[16 a] We reviewed N. Ross' publications report specifically discussing a time line to sunset the paper version of the *American Mineralogist*. Other journals such as *Mineralogical Magazine* and the *Canadian Mineralogist* are also interested in sunsetting their printed versions and are looking to MSA to take the lead. There are several issues that we must address: 1) at what time does the electronic form become the official version of the journal, 2) how do we store and preserve the electronic form, 3) issues with VAT, 4) the dissemination of scientific information, 5) and when is the tipping point reached where the paper copy becomes prohibitively expensive?

This warranted a brief discussion on the recommendation to monitor the library subscriptions and at some point in the future make a decision to stop producing the paper version.

*R. Rudnick moved to approve the ad hoc committees recommendations. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

N. Ross also reported on a proposed monograph by Tony Morse on the Kiglapait pluton. Council discussed two issues: 1) the possibility of print on demand for this monograph, 2) and we thought it necessary to acquire outside reviews to the significance of this work and pointed out the need for synthesis of the information.

*P. Heaney moved to approve. S = C. Frost. Motion passed unanimously.*

[17] Member fund-raising efforts. The MSA President recommends approval for a late-spring fund-raising campaign targeted at 0 to 15 year members. Individuals who have been with the Society for less than 15 years tend to have less money for charitable giving, but there are the following reasons for selecting this target:

- a) It is important to instill in members a sense of the importance of giving to their Society at an earlier rather than a later stage;

- b) We will ask specifically for a \$15 donation to keep the amount within the means of the target group

After a brief discussion on the above points it was decided that President Heaney should draft a letter, distribute it to the executive committee, and then send the letter to the 0 to 15 year members who are nonstudents. Also, it was to be pointed out to the members that their contribution would be used to help subsidize the student memberships.

*P. Heaney moved to approve a late-spring fund-raising campaign targeted at 0 - 15 year members. S = R. Rudnick. Motion passed unanimously.*

[18] The Executive Director reported on *FoundationSearch* software, a search tool and database of private U.S. foundations (80,000) containing 10 years of data on what support they have provided. The cost of accessing FoundationSearch for 5 years with two userids and passwords is \$5999. Can MSA come up with a plan to make such an expenditure worthwhile of how to systematically search the database and follow-up with inquiry letters to support such programs as Mineralogy4Kids, Lecture Program, Handbook, digitization of the Reviews series, certain short courses, perhaps some Bloss Fund activities?

Although Council thought purchasing of the above database had some merits, we were mainly concerned that once purchased we would need people to actually use it and at this point we did not know who those people would be. We also thought that before we could make adequate use of such a database we would need a list of things that we wanted to fund.

*It was SoC so have B. Dutrow try to find someone interested in pursuing use of this database.*

[19] Mickey Gunter, *ad hoc* chair of the Bloss Optical Crystallography Fund committee proposes to grow this fund by \$15,000 in the next year. The goal is to be able to make the first award in 2010, the year that marks Don's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He requests that Council allow him to use MSA's resources (i.e., listserv, website, mailing lists, etc.) for a fund drive. Also, he will be donating his royalties (\$5/book) from the Dyar & Gunter textbook to this fund.

M. Gunter expanded slightly on his reasons to pursue specific fundraising for the Bloss fund. Although there was support for his endeavor there was reluctance for him to use the listserv or any other MSA sanctioned advertising because it was SoC that general fundraising should contribute to the unrestricted gifts fund. However, council did approve his using his own resources.

*P. Heaney moved to approve. S = N. Ross. Motion passed unanimously with one abstention.*

[20] The Executive Committee voted that MSA would not sponsor a survey to our membership about some type of accreditation for academic programs in the geosciences. The survey was originated by the GSA *ad hoc* Committee on Accreditation. Although no decisions with respect to GSA's drive to develop a program are pending by MSA, this issue will undoubtedly resurface in the near future. It is important that MSA develop a SoC for that moment, in light of the short timelines that GSA typically offers with respect to societal decision-making.

There was a somewhat lengthy discussion in regards to the GSA accreditation survey. Some thoughts were that the process might move from GSA to AGI. Council's view was that if accreditation happens we really need to be involved at some level, however, as a group we were somewhat split on the accreditation issue. Our conclusion was that either P. Heaney or J. Morrison should work with the accreditation group.

*B. Dutrow moved to approve. S = J. Hughes. Motion passed unanimously.*

[21] Lobbying efforts by MSA has come up in reports by the MSA President and from MSA's Representative to AGI. MSA Council discussed the appropriate role for MSA with respect to lobbying campaigns. Questions include:

- a) Are there any situations in which it is proper for MSA to lobby the government?
- b) If so, how do we decide which issues are proper?
- c) Should we bridge with other societies (such as AGU) on policy matters?
- d) Do we risk irrelevancy if we elect not to involve ourselves?

After pondering the above questions we came to no firm conclusions. However some of our thoughts were that MSA should have a role in public policy issues that involve mineralogy (e.g., develop a short course on "asbestos" to be given to public policy makers). Another idea was to target certain groups on the MSA listserv.

[22] MSA Council might discuss whether we should set up a web site on Facebook, MySpace, or both, and how we would do this.

B. Dutrow led a discussion that in many ways was attempting to bring the more senior members of MSA council in line with trends among our younger members. To that end, we discussed the need or possibility of having a page on Facebook or MySpace. The thought here being that this would be a way for younger members of MSA to interact with one another. Another idea that grew from this discussion

was possibly to create a student advisory committee to inform the more senior members on the current needs of the younger ones.

*P. Heaney moved that the Second 2008 Council meeting be adjourned. S = B.*  
*Dutrow.* Motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Gunter, MSA Secretary