

MINUTES OF THE FIRST 2011 COUNCIL MEETING
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Attending:

David Bish, President
Mike Hochella, Vice President
John Brady, Past President
Darrell Henry, Treasurer
Mickey Gunter, Secretary
Penny King, Councilor
Wendy Bohrson, Councilor
Sumit Chakraborty, Councilor
Pamela Burnley, Councilor
Guy Hovis, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director
Jodi Rosso, Editor RiMG
Kevin Rosso, MSA member
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*
Jenny Thomson, Editor, *American Mineralogist*

Absent:

Marc Hirshmann, Councilor

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

The First meeting of the 2011 Council of the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA) was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Denver, Colorado, October 30, 2010

ITEMS

1. Call to order

President Bish called the meeting to order at 3:40 pm, welcomed the new members of council, and those returning.

2. Approval of 2011 yearly business matters

J. Brady moved to accept the budget, authorize the treasurer and executive director to conduct financial affairs, accept committee appointments, appoint editors, and allow use of mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots whenever necessary to conduct the affairs of the Society. S = G. Hovis. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Conflict of Interest of policy

Council was reminded of MSA's Conflict of Interest Policy, that Council members need to complete and sign the Conflict of Interest Information forms brought to the meeting, and to give their completed form to the Executive Director each year.

4. Any Items Tabled from the Third 2010 Council Meeting

The membership committee had four action items tabled.

- a) Members of MSA on faculties nationwide could initiate and support "MSA Scholarships" (\$10 and a blank membership form) to their top students headed into graduate school in fields allied to the mineral sciences.

There was discussion of how many students remain members of MSA and how many drop after one year. Council wondered how many of the students remain members. A. Speer will determine these numbers.

It was SoC that the President could include some information about the American Mineralogist undergraduate award (AMU) in one of his Elements columns.

- b) consider creating and promoting special student programs through more modern communications than the printed word, our annual GSA cocktail party, and the talk-list - a special column in *Elements*. This might be text messages, tweeting and the use of other media for special events, potential for global job-hunting.

It was pointed out that we already have a Facebook page and there was some discussion of how useful it was. D. Bish noted that students ask questions about grad school, and that was followed by A. Speer noting that questions about grad school and careers in mineralogy were two of the most asked student questions at the MSA booth at NE/SE GSA meeting in Baltimore.

SoC: W. Bohrson and P. King will compile information on grad schools useful for undergrads.

- c) that a student member join the membership committee. That could help energize the committee, and bring our focus to considering what else MSA can do for student members. The Committee Chair would also greatly appreciate the nomination of two additional members to the Membership Committee, to help think through and implement whatever Council agrees might be good avenues for attracting and keeping members.

It was SoC to modify this slightly by adding one grad student member and one undergrad student member

- d) with so many students in our organization, may the time not be ripe for a student member of MSA Council?

In general this was deemed a good idea, but the details of how to do it seemed a bit complex (i.e., covering expenses for a student to attend a meeting, finding a student with knowledge of MSA's issues, etc.). Regardless, after some discussion and several ideas, a suggestion was made to have local student(s) attend council meetings as visitors.

SoC: Communicate with S. Sorensen to invite student member(s) to the spring council meeting and to contact local (i.e., DC area) faculty to suggest student names

5. Future of MSA

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

A major part of this discussion focused on the fact that MSA is a leader in several areas (i.e., RiMG volumes, short courses, etc.), but we should be aware that other societies are starting to "encroach" into these areas. The conversation then moved into the area of what we can offer our members, and especially new members, of whom many are students. (In fact, at the end of the Third 2010 council meeting we also discussed this subject – see #4 above.) Next, there was some discussion of the *American Mineralogist* and how to make it more relevant. Last, it was pointed out that many of the "old" employment opportunities for students (i.e., mining and oil) are starting to return, and our professional members should be aware of these opportunities for students. While no firm suggestions were made in any of these areas, the secretary thinks these discussions are a nice introduction to the new members on what we can do to improve our society; however, he thinks our society is doing very well, even though there is always room for improvement.

6. Adjournment

*J. Brady moved that the First 2011 Council meeting be adjourned. S = W. Bohrson.
Motion passed unanimously at 5:04 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,
Mickey Gunter, MSA Secretary