

## Minutes of the First 2016 Council Meeting

Mineralogical Society of America

Saturday, October 31 2015

Peale B Room, Hilton Baltimore, 401 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

### Attending:

Rebecca Lange, President  
George Harlow, Vice-President  
Howard Day, Treasurer  
Bryan Chakoumakos, Secretary  
Edward Grew, Councilor  
Abby Kavner, Councilor  
Matthew J. Kohn, Councilor  
Peter Nabelek, Councilor  
Steve Shirey, Past-President

### Not present, but via Skype:

Rajdeep Dasgupta, Councilor  
Wendy Panero, Councilor

### Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
David Vaughan, Past Past-President  
Andrea M. Koziol, Past-Secretary

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

## ITEMS

Call to order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Rebecca Lange at 3:21PM.

### [1] Budget

H. Day presented the 2015 Treasurer's Report. Endowment increases about 4% per year. We are exactly breaking even currently with no surplus. Future will be challenging to accommodate rising expenses.

The 2016 Proposed Budget, included in the 2015 Treasurer's Report and prepared by A. Speer, was examined by council. Projections show, from a conservative perspective, losses for next year and ensuing years. The *American Mineralogist* is the largest expense, and projects the largest deficit, but not percentage-wise. Overall cost increases of American Mineralogist include Allentrack, composition and printing, employee salaries, office lease, and postage/freight. For example, total pages were up from 2400 to 2700. Extended discussion about impact of papers in *American Mineralogist* ensued. As pointed out by H. Day, we are part way through a 5 year experiment to raise the size and profile of the journal. Biggest decrease in

income is due to the decrease in institutional subscriptions. This is the reason for the new agreement with DeGruyter, with its emphasis on much more aggressive marketing than MSA is capable, not only to Earth science institutions, but also to “adjacent” markets of chemistry, physics, biology, material science. DeGruyter is a publishing house, which is starting to market, sell and host MSA publications (*Am Mineral* and RIMG), with the expected outcome that the market for MSA publications can be significantly expanded. We should do what we can to encourage publication in *American Mineralogist*.

A. Speer was asked about progress on hiring an accounts manager. He suggested the target hire date would be early 2017. These positions are not like academic ones, once advertised you are expected to hire within a few weeks. Early 2017 will still give 1-2 years for the individual to come up to speed.

Booths at meetings are expensive so we need to consider their cost effectiveness. Are there better ways to have an effective “presence” at meeting?

*M. Kohn moved that the budget reports be accepted. P. Nabelek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[2] Authorization for the Treasurer and Executive Director to conduct financial affairs of the society.

*M. Kohn moved that authorization for the Treasurer and Executive Director to conduct financial affairs of the society be granted. P. Nabelek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[3] Acceptance of committee appointments for 2016

*P. Nabelek moved to accept the 2016 committee appointments. M. Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[4] Appointment of editors for 2016

*H. Day moved to appoint Ian Swainson and Keith D. Putirka as Editors of the American Mineralogist, Ian Swainson as Editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry and Monograph series, Andrea Koziol as the MSA Event Editor for Elements, and Kenneth W. Bladh as Editor of the Handbook of Mineralogy. E. Grew seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[5] Authorization of telephone, mail, e-mail and internet ballots

*M. Kohn moved to allow such ballots to conduct society business. P. Nabelek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

[6] Conflict of interest policy

*Conflict of interest forms were signed by all the 2016 councilors and officers present. Those not present will sign at the Spring Meeting.*

Items tabled from Third 2015 Council Meeting.

G. Harlow brought up the concern about MSA representation on IMA commissions, which has not been kept up, nor kept fresh. Two commissions need MSA representatives, Applied Mineralogy and Ore Mineralogy. It was suggested to him that a sulfide mineralogist would be appropriate. Attending the IMA meetings should be encouraged, but not required. Next meeting is 13-17 August 2018 in Melbourne, Australia, <http://www.ima2018.com>.

R. Lange gave her views on the importance of increasing MSA membership and how this could be done. Historically, what has accounted for declines in membership? For instance, a decline in the 1990's likely is associated with declines in enrollments because of a poor job market during that period. R. Lange identifies lots of opportunities to invite colleagues to join that are not members, but should be. How should we make an effective appeal to encourage membership? She suggests promoting membership as supporting the "cause" of mineralogy, rather than trying to attract people with "benefits" of MSA membership, which are often available to non-members as well. We need to canvas our colleagues, collaborators, coauthors, etc. to identify more candidate members. This activity nicely coincides with the upcoming Centennial Celebration.

*Personalized invitation letters from the MSA President will be sent out. President requests lists from each member of the council.*

[7] Topics on the future of MSA

Council agreed to establish a new Committee on Workshops, to assist organizers and suggest ideas. These would not necessarily all be at GSA meetings, e.g., other meeting venues might be Goldschmidt, Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, etc. Sumit Chakraborty (Sumit.Chakraborty@rub.de), Ralf Dohmen <ralf.dohmen@rub.de>, Bob Bodnar (rjb@vt.edu), and Jim Webster (jdw@amnh.org) are possible chairs for such a committee.

*The Secretary will contact prospective committee chairs in the order above. A charge to the committee will be formulated by R. Lange and S. Shirey.*

R. Lange thanked S. Shirey for his service in past year.

*G. Harlow made a motion to adjourn. M. Kohn seconded. Motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Chakoumakos, MSA Secretary