

**Minutes of the First 2017 Council Meeting**  
Mineralogical Society of America  
Saturday, 24 September 2016  
Hyatt Regency Denver at CCC  
650 15th Street, Denver, Colorado 80202, USA

Attending:

George Harlow, President  
Michael Brown, Vice-President  
Rebecca Lange, Past-President  
Thomas Duffy, Treasurer  
Bryan Chakoumakos, Secretary  
Peter Nabelek, Councilor  
Matt Kohn, Councilor  
Sarah K. Carmichael, Councilor  
Sarah C. Penniston-Dorland, Councilor

Not Present:

Rajdeep Dasgupta, Councilor  
Abby Kavner, Councilor

Visitors:

J. Alex Speer, MSA Executive Director  
Rachel Russell, Managing Editor, *American Mineralogist*  
Howard Day  
Steve Shirey  
Edward Grew

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

ITEMS

**Agenda:**

3:15 Meeting begins

Budget

[1] Approve 2017 Proposed Budget included in the Treasurer's Report, with any modifications as result of more recent Council-approved actions (Section 4 Appendix B, in the Treasurer's Report for the Third 2016 Council Meeting).

Authorization for the Treasurer and Executive Director to Conduct Financial Affairs of the Society

[2] The MSA Treasurer is authorized to conduct the financial affairs of the Society. J. Alexander Speer, Executive Director of the Society, is authorized to write checks and make other forms of payment and transfers on the Society's accounts as directed by the Treasurer and Council actions.

## Acceptance of Committee Appointments for 2017 Council Year

[3] Approve Committee member and chair assignments and other appointed posts (Section 7, Report of the Committee on Committees to the Third 2016 Council).

## Appointment of Editors for 2017

[4] Ian Swainson and Keith D. Putirka are appointed Editors of the American Mineralogist. Ian Swainson is appointed Editor of the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry and Monograph series. Andrea Koziol is appointed the MSA Event Editor for Elements. Kenneth W. Bladh is appointed Editor of the Handbook of Mineralogy

## Authorization of Mail and Telephone Ballots

[5] Mail, telephone, e-mail, and Internet ballots may be used whenever necessary and allowed to conduct the affairs of the Society.

Items 1-5 bundled, Matt Kohn moved that they be accepted. Thomas Duffy seconded. Question of the financial status of the AM was raised. Actual costs have gone up dramatically, largely due to more pages being published and the number of subscribers decreasing. The income stream for AM is much more diverse than it used to be. Now we see increasing open access charges, for instance. AM is publishing more review papers, and generally longer papers (10% for regular papers). Agreement with De Gruyter is for 5 years (2019 renewal), and it is still early to assess their success. The editorial board should be encouraged to shorten papers. Another idea is to increase the page charges beyond a certain page limit.

## Conflict of Interest Policy

[6] One requirement of the new IRS Form 990 is that MSA have a procedure to review MSA's Conflict of Interest Policy with Council, have every Council members sign a Conflict of Interest Information Form annually (copies will be brought to the meeting), and that there is a record that this has been done.

Motion passes unanimously.

## Future of MSA

New item raised. Could the Thompson fund and the Min/Pet fund be combined and renamed to the Thompson fund? Michael Brown moved so, Sarah Penniston-Dorland seconded. No vote on the motion made. Comments from Alex Speer, no restrictions that would prohibit doing so. Both Thompson and Min/Pet funds are council initiated funds.

*SoC that we should table this discussion until the Spring meeting, but do some homework in the meantime on whether there might be any hidden implications.*

For the Centennial Celebration, in addition to travel funds for students how about a career development fair?

*SoC that the idea of a career development fair be communicated to Peter Heaney, who is chairing*

*the Centennial Celebration Committee.*

Issue of AM publishing new mineral descriptions discussed. SoC this is an important service to the society.

Long-term financial challenges, centennial, growth of the society, and other important topics that need broader discussions and brainstorming to inject new ideas. We should extend the Spring meeting to allow for more free-ranging/focused discussions.

Perhaps after the business meeting on Tuesday might be a time to discuss Centennial Celebration.

*SoC build in more time for brain-storming in a less formal setting at Spring meeting, and possibly at the Seattle Meeting.*

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

Adjournment

Matt Kohn moved to adjourn, Peter Nabelek seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Bryan Chakoumakos, Secretary