

## The Geochemical Society

### Minutes of the 2001 Board of Directors Annual Meeting

The meeting convened at The Homestead, Hot Springs, VA, on May 19, 2001 and came to order at 8:45 AM.

Present: Mike Hochella (President), Judith McKenzie (Vice President), Mike Drake (Past President), Becky Lange (Treasurer), Mike Engel (OGD Chair), Frank Podosek (GCA Editor), Eiichi Takahashi (International Secretary), Scott Wood (Special Publications Editor), Thure Cerling (Director), Roberta Rudnick (Director), Ed Shokovitz (Director), Yukihiro Matsuhisa (President, Geochemical Society of Japan), Friso Veenstra (Elsevier Product Manager), Seth Davis (GS Business Manager), Linda Trower (GCA Editorial Manager), and Bob Bodnar (MSA's representative to Goldschmidt 2001).

State of the Society (President's Report): Mike Hochella reported that *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* (GCA) is the world's leading geochemical journal and is doing very well under the leadership of Frank Podosek, Executive Editor of GCA. Membership in the Society had been declining in the past five years but is back up again due to the GS Business Manager, Seth Davis. Hochella stated that Davis has been aggressive with the GS membership drive and the Society is fortunate to have Davis as the GS Business Manager.

The newly formed Joint Advisory Committee of the AGU/GS electronic journal G-cubed will consist of six members, three appointed by the GS and three appointed by the AGU. The three GS appointed members are Peggy Delaney, Craig Manning and Jim Kubicki.

Hochella was pleased to report that the first GS-produced book in the Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry series with MSA has been completed. The book, on molecular modeling in geochemistry, was edited by Randy Cygan and Kim Kubicki, and the GS production editor was Jodi Rosso. The cost of printing one of these books is substantial, but GS will recoup this investment as a result of book sales.

The financial health of the Society is good and the GS is poised for long term financial growth while remaining not-for-profit and providing services to members (GCA, The Geochemical News, the GS website, Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry, special publications, reduced membership dues and GCA subscription rates for students, student travel grants, membership registration rates to GSA and spring AGU, etc.).

The Geochemical Society, including its role in GCA, includes 3.5 salaried employees and approximately 65 volunteers. The Vice President is responsible for re-staffing most committees and Judith McKenzie is doing an excellent job doing so.

Vice President Report: Judith McKenzie reported on the GS Committee replacements for 2001. The goal is to keep a good balance on committees. McKenzie stated that staffing is a difficult task and the list of GS members provided by Davis was extremely useful. Roberta Rudnick said that MSA asks members if they're willing to serve and suggested this option be added to the GS membership application. **McKenzie motioned that we accept adding the option of adding a checkbox to the GS membership application asking members if they're willing to serve and Drake seconded the motion. The Board passed the motion unanimously.**

Nominations Committee Report: The Board discussed the report of the Nomination Committee whose job it is to set before the Board suggestions for nominees for new officers and non-officer Directors. Based on this and discussion which followed, **Mike Drake motioned to select James “Tim” Drever as the new Vice Presidential nominee of the Geochemical Society. Roberta Rudnick seconded the motion. Those in favor were 10, those opposed 0, 0 absentia. The motion was accepted.**

**Scott Wood made a motion to select Jeremy Fein as the new nominee for Secretary of the Geochemical Society. Becky Lange seconded the motion. Those in favor were 9, those opposed 1, 0 abstentia. The motion was accepted.**

**Becky Lange made a motion to select Eric Oelkers and Erwin Suess as the new Non-Officer Director nominees of the Geochemical Society beginning January 1, 2002. Roberta Rudnick seconded the motion. Those in favor were 10, those opposed 0, and 0 abstentia. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Secretary’s Report: In Dave Wesolowski’s absence, President Hochella reported that there was no action needed and briefly discussed the GS Board’s actions taken since the last annual meeting, which are listed below:

- 1) Approved a motion to enter into a memorandum of understanding with IGNS and the Society of Economic Geologists whereby we pledge a maximum of \$12,500 US dollars toward the publication of Special Volume #8 in honor of Werner Giggenbach. SEG will publish the volume and will cover any costs in excess of the \$12,500 commitment from GS, IGNS and SEG.
- 2) Approved a joint GS/MSA short course entitled “Applications of Synchrotron Radiation in Low Temperature Geochemistry and Environmental Science” to be hosted by Paul Fenter, Mark Rivers, Neil Sturchio and Steve Sutton. The short course will be held in conjunction with the 2002 GSA annual meeting, and an RIM&G volume will be published jointly by GS and MSA.
- 3) Approved OGD’s nomination of Dr. John Smith for the 2001 Treibs Medal.
- 4) Approved nominations of Dr. Ikuo Kushiro for the 2001 Goldschmidt Medal, Francois Morel for the 2001 Patterson Medal, and Craig Lundstrom for the 2001 Clarke Medal.
- 5) Approved the following persons to be named Geochemistry Fellows at the 2001 Goldschmidt Conference: Alex Halliday, Chris Hawkesworth, Bill Jenkins, Bo Joergensen, Igor Tolstikhin, and Rolland Wollast.

**President Hochella made the following motion: “I move that we add to the minutes a commendation to Dave Wesolowski for his truly outstanding service to the Society for six years. His superb administrative skills have helped keep the Society on track over the time of three presidents, which has been invaluable.” This motion was seconded by Mike Drake and the Board unanimously agreed to add this motion to the minutes.**

International Secretary’s Report: Eiichii Takahashi, International Secretary of the Geochemical Society, has been corresponding with Ross Taylor (former international secretary of the GS) and Y. Matsuhisa, President of the Geochemical Society of Japan, with regard to exposure of the Geochemical Society in Japan. Takahashi reports the 2003 Goldschmidt Conference will be held in Kurashiki, Japan, September 7 – 12, 2003. The emphasis will be on some areas where Japanese Earth scientists have strength (e.g., high pressure experiments, igneous petrogenesis, arc magmatism, volcanic gasses, mineral physics, etc.). Takahashi also indicated that Matsuhisa contacted many others so that the meeting scope would be adequately expanded.

In order to increase the visibility of the activity of the Geochemical Society in Japan and also to increase the number of young scientists related to geochemistry, Takahashi has been planning a Short Course on isotope geochemistry in October sponsored by the GS. The timing and speakers were determined to correspond with the annual meeting of the Geochemical Society of Japan (October 18-20, Gakushuin University, Prof. H. Nagasawa is the local organizing Committee Chair.) At the Gakushuin meeting, Prof. Nagasawa already invited Profs. R. K. O’Nions and R. N. Clayton as the guest speakers. Takahashi sent an invitation to hold a short course before the Gakushuin meeting and they very kindly agreed to do so. If successful, Takahashi offered to organize another short course next year. Takahashi stated that expected attendance for the 2003 Goldschmidt Conference in Japan is approximately 800; 400 Japanese and 400 USA/Europeans. Davis reported that there are currently approximately 80 Japanese GS members.

Treasurer’s Report: Becky Lange was happy to report that the GS investments represent a balanced portfolio that is being overseen by Tom Anderson, a Vice President at Salomon Smith Barney. A full financial report is expected from Lange in early July and Hochella recommends the BoD look at this report closely regarding cash flow.

We have two insurance policies (previously set up by former treasurer Don Elton and both with Travelers). The first policy deals with Publications and Review Volumes. The cost of this policy is approximately \$1900 a year. The second policy is a Professional Business Policy and costs approximately \$4,000 a year. Lange found a policy with Hartford Insurance Company that is comparable in coverage to this except that the cost is only \$739 a year. Mike Engel questioned whether coverage is included if overseas. Lange will check and report back. The overall conclusion was that the policy is nearly the same as the current policy and will be less expensive to the GS. A decision to change policies is pending and the Board will wait on Lange to report back.

GS Business Report: Seth Davis reported that the relatively low membership numbers may be due to the fact that there are so many societies. Engel said there have been many challenges trying to get membership up in all other societies and the goal should be to try and encourage cross-over memberships. Trower suggested to Davis to e-mail the corresponding author of all GCA accepted papers and try and recruit them to become a member of the Society. Davis offered to wait until the article actually came out in print, but the Board thought that it would be more timely to inquire once the paper has been actually accepted. Davis reported that of the 900 attendees at the Goldschmidt meeting this year, only 249 were registered members of the GS. McKenzie suggested automatic membership when registering for the next Goldschmidt Conference. However, Drake said we cannot have mandates and that one size does not fit all. Bob Bodnar suggested we communicate with the MSA first, and all agreed.

Davis reported that Special Publication sales are high. Also, the Geochemical Newsletter is now available on the GS website. Rudnick suggested larger fonts on the website and Davis agreed to try changing them. Hochella inquired about the lifetime of the GS server and Podosek stated that it is becoming outdated and that more disk space could be used. Hochella reported that the GS website function and appearance are very good and that it has proven to be affordable.

Action items discussed were:

- 1) Secure On-Line Applications -  
The general consensus was that they are logistically difficult to maintain. Drake said to ask Becky Simmons to ask Kin Leung (LPI) how it’s done at LPI. All agreed that a second opinion was needed.
- 2) Targeted Advertising –

Engel is opposed to targeted advertising. Lange said to keep it simple, user-friendly with e-mail or the Geochemical News.

The Board then discussed veteran membership and whether a reduced rate should be offered. 12% of current members have been members more than 30 years. **The Board unanimously agreed to offer a reduced rate (which will be the student rate) to any retired present member who is 65 years or older. Hochella granted permission to Davis to begin that policy immediately.** Lifetime membership was discussed but is still pending and was tabled. **Membership Grants will be issued in isolated cases with approval of the Board and the fee will be \$5.00 (student rate).** The possibility of joint memberships was discussed and the Board decided to wait and see how it worked at the 2002 GS Conference in Switzerland next year. Hochella asked McKenzie for her inputs after next year's Goldschmidt Conference. McKenzie suggested Sponsor Options for the Geochemical Society. President Hochella recommended an announcement for a Sponsoring Individual in Geochemical News. Lange said that we could reach more people by wording it "department" or "lab" rather than individual. A final decision on the wording was not determined.

The Board then discussed the cash value of the honoraria associated with the various GS medals. Some feel the Goldschmidt Honorarium should be a greater value than the Patterson, Clarke and Treibs. Hochella's preference is to make the Goldschmidt \$1,000 and all others \$500. The alternative would be to consider the Clarke as entry level around \$500, others at main level around \$1000, and the Goldschmidt at \$1500. Lange countered that the Treibs should be the same level as the Goldschmidt. Hochella stated the GS monetary awards would remain the same as they were voted on last year.

Goldschmidt 2001 Report (Bob Bodnar): The 2001 Goldschmidt Conference held here in Hot Springs, VA, was approved in Toulouse, France. This conference will include 720 talks and 164 posters. This is the largest North American meeting by 50%. As MSA representative to Goldschmidt, he was happy to report that MSA donated \$10K to help students come to the meeting. Bodnar welcomed all to Virginia and offered any assistance to any of us during our stay.

Future Goldschmidt Conferences: Alex Halliday was unable to attend but submitted a report and his report was presented by Judith McKenzie. McKenzie stated the 2002 Goldschmidt Conference will be held August 18-23 in Davos, Switzerland. The plan of the 2002 GS Conference is to further engage communities with sessions that will provide an interesting forum of ideas within a broad geochemistry context. Many of the special sessions will aim to focus attention on new synergies between traditionally distinct disciplines. The conference will include a wide range of special sessions with the help of a new International Program Committee (IPC). The IPC is divided into Task Groups, each of which is chaired by two people. The *convenors* are Alex Halliday (ETH), Jan Kramers (Bern) and Rainer Wieler (ETH). The *Goldschmidt Conference Organizing Committee* is all Swiss-based and is comprised of Chris Ballentine, Stefano Bernasconi, Mike Cosca, Christian de Capitani, Mike Dungan, Jost Eikenberg, Albert Eschenmoser, Martin Engi, Karl Föllmi, Martin Frank, Detlef Günther, Christoph Heinrich, Jean Hernandez, Rolf Kipfer, Urs Krähenbühl, Bernhard Lehmann, Othmar Müntener, Thomas Nægler, Peter Nievergelt, Thomas Peter, Don Porcelli, Mark Rehkämper, Urs Schaltegger, André Scheidegger, Christian Schlüchter, Diane Seward, Jorge Spangenberg, Claudine Stirling, Thomas Stocker, Alan Thompson, Peter Ulmer, Crisogono Vasconcelos, Igor Villa, Friedhelm von Blanckenburg, Bernard Wehrli and Helmi Weissert. This committee has been divided into three groups:

- 1) The *Program Committee*, which is the largest (20) chaired by Halliday
- 2) The *Fund-raising and Communications Committee* chaired by Wieler

3) The Field Trips and Excursions Committee chaired by Kramers.

In addition, two international committees have been established to assist with long term planning of all Goldschmidt Conferences.

Two international committees (the *Goldschmidt Conference Advisory Board* (GCAB) and the *International Program Committee* (IPC)) have been established to assist with long term planning of all Goldschmidt Conferences. The GCAB comprises the Vice-President, President and Past President of each sponsoring society plus the convenors of the past two conferences.

The first announcements are out, the organization of the next GS conference is in full swing and the community is very helpful.

Yukihiro Matsuhisa (President of the Geochemical Society of Japan) reported that the organizers of the 13<sup>th</sup> V. M. Goldschmidt Conference which will be held in Kurashiki, Japan, September 7-12, 2003, are trying to provide some continuity and he has made efforts to gather people and form committees. There is consideration of having two convenors for each symposium. Hochella suggested he communicate with Alex Halliday to take advantage of his structure and also recommended using Cambridge Publications and Paul Beatty. Hochella announced there is \$10,000 US available for students to attend the conference. Matsuhisa reminded the Board that transportation from the lodging to where the meeting will be held is a ten minute train ride.

The 2004 Goldschmidt Conference will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark and Susan Stipp is the organizer.

Mike Drake asked if anyone has given any thought to where the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference will be held. The Board discussed different sites and agreed to consider different places at this time. Drake offered to host it at the University of Arizona, if needed. The site for the 2005 Goldschmidt Conference is still pending and it was decided to insert an invitation for proposals for the site in the Geochemical Society newsletter.

#### *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta* Executive Editor's Report:

Friso Veenstra announced that GCA on-line should be available (through Contents Direct) by the end of 2001.

Frank Podosek reported that GCA is in good shape, support is high, and he is impressed with the level of volunteers that help contribute to the success of the journal. The overall rate of submission is growing slightly. When the editorial office started in October of 1999, hardcopy (paper) submissions outnumbered electronic submissions approximately 2 to 1. This proportion has now been reversed and the hope is that this proportion continues in this direction. We have received manuscripts from about 40 countries; the US accounts for about 40%. France, Germany, and the UK account for approximately 7% each. Several other countries (Australia, Canada, China, Japan, Switzerland) are each the source of a few percent. On average, about two-thirds of submitted manuscripts are accepted, many of them after significant revisions. It's not uncommon that rejected manuscripts are later resubmitted, often with much more favorable evaluations. The processing time from submission to the first evaluation report back to the authors (the "AE Report") is about three months. Podosek estimates that submission to publication time will level out at about 15 months, which represents about three months in review, five months in production, and seven months in revision. Lange suggested asking authors to return a revised version more quickly, and Podosek agreed to make the change in his letter to authors when asking for a revised version. The workload in the editorial office has become progressively less manageable so Podosek requested an increase in the budget from Elsevier to cover a staff of 2.5 (staff was 2 previously), and Elsevier agreed to do so. Robert Buchwaldt, a graduate student in the EPSC department at Washington University, has agreed to work as a "GCA Intern" half-time in the GCA editorial office. Karen Pollard resigned in March of 2001 to accept another

position. However, Karen is still employed half-time and has helped train new employee, Cayce French, who started May 1.

Last year the Board considered moving the responsibility of production of the journal to the Society rather than using Elsevier in New York. Podosek stated that he is happy this was not done and he's very pleased with his interactions with the Elsevier agents, namely Friso Veenstra (and his predecessor, Peter Henn), John Eagleson, and especially Production Manager John Fotia. Podosek has received positive feedback from many colleagues that are impressed with the date their journals are now received, i.e. the date on the cover of the journal. This is a welcome development for which the editorial office can take no credit, but Podosek feels that a word of commendation to the production staff is appropriate before everyone takes it for granted. The average production time (the interval between when the editorial office transmits a manuscript to Elsevier and when it appears in print) is about 5 months. Podosek plans on discussing with John Eagleson and Elsevier the possibility of reducing this timeframe to 4 months.

Special Issues are devoted to some particular science theme, or an honoree on the occasion of retirement, significant birthday, etc. GCA is currently handling four Special Issues; Hal Helgeson (a double-issue which is expected to be printed November 2001), Heinrich Holland, Hatton Yoder and Robert Clayton. Podosek stated "For the record, significant policy issues regarding special issues are that (except for introductory editorials) manuscripts submitted to a special issue will be evaluated by normal standards for scientific quality and that they will be handled by the regular Editor and AEs (i.e. no guest editors or AEs).

The Board discussed the possibility of abstracts in GCA and it was decided that Podosek will communicate with Friso Veenstra to obtain more information and report back to the Board.

Special Publications Report: Scott Wood reported that there are two Special Publications approved; the Giggenbach Volume and the Crerar Volume.

- 1) Giggenbach Volume: A MOU between GS, SEG and GNS (New Zealand) has been signed regarding joint publication of the volume. Stuart Simmons (University of Auckland) and Ian Graham (GNS) have been appointed as volume editors. An advisory board consisting of the volume editors, three SEG representatives (Raymond Coveney, Hu Barnes, and Jeff Hedenquist) and three GS representatives (Scott Wood, Dave Cole, and Greg Arhart) has been established. A deadline of October 2001 has been set for the submission of manuscripts. Wood said the \$12,500 GS commitment will be due by the time they start producing the volume and the bill will be due soon.
- 2) Crerar Volume: All manuscripts have been reviewed, revised and accepted. Negotiations with the University of Idaho Press are underway to obtain a quote for converting the electronic files into PageMaker and printing the volume. Publication is expected in the Fall of 2001.

Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry:

- 1) The short course and RiMG volume "Molecular Modeling Theory and Applications in the Geosciences" (Cygan and Kubicki) are proceeding as planned. The short course will be given just prior to the Goldschmidt Conference in Hot Springs, VA and the volume will be available at the Conference.
- 2) The short course and RiMG volume "Applications of Synchrotron Radiation in Low-Temperature Geochemistry and Environmental Science" (Fenter, Rivers, Sturchio and Sutton) were approved by the BoD via e-mail vote in Autumn 2000. The short course is scheduled to be given just prior to the 2002 GSA meeting in Denver.

- 3) The RiMG volume "Noble Gases in Cosmochemistry and Geochemistry" (Porcelli, Ballentine, and Wieler) was approved at the Oxford BoD meeting. There will be no short course associated with this volume, but the editors have agreed to sponsor a related Special Symposium at a Goldschmidt or GSA meeting near the time of publication of the volume, which is expected sometime in 2002.
- 4) Informal proposals for new RiMG volumes. There have been two inquiries about possible new RiMG volumes. The first was by Pat Maurice regarding a volume on humic substances. The second was by Andreas Lutge and Ken Neilson, regarding a proposed volume on Geomicrobiology, which would complement RiM v. 35. Everyone inquiring about new volumes is being told that we will not be accepting any new volumes for publication before 2003, as we will have two volumes coming out in 2002.

Wood hopes to convince MSA to sell our Special Publications and agreed to continue to serve as Special Publications Editor.

Geochemical Newsletter Report: In Neil Sturchio's absence, the GS Newsletter report was given by Mike Hochella. Hochella said as of January 1, 2001 the Geochemical Newsletter was issued to all EAG members as well as GS members. Even with this, the cost of producing the newsletter has actually slightly decreased due to a change of the paper grade and selecting only two colors of ink. The GS Newsletter is currently being delivered to 750 EAG members and the BoD discussed the possibility of the newsletter being delivered to Japan. Hochella mentioned that Sturchio is paid a very small honorarium for putting together the newsletter and he commended Sturchio for his dedication and efforts.

Geochemical Society Topics of Discussion:

The Board discussed the possibility of adding a new Society division in biogeochemistry, or changing the name of the OGD to reflect current and revolutionary advances in the understanding of biogeochemical systems on Earth. This idea was favorably received and it will be discussed among the OGD Division. They will report back to the Board as soon as possible.

The Ad-Hoc Medal Committee consists of Judith McKenzie, Peggy Ostrom, Vala Ragnarsdottir and Dave Wesolowski. The GS consists of 1,500 members and 4 medals are awarded each year. Relative to AGU and GSA, this is a relatively high medal/membership ratio. Nevertheless, the Board discussed adding a Distinguished Service Award and the idea was relatively well received. The proposal was discussed and tabled for now. Hochella asked McKenzie to communicate with the committee and report back with a title and definition for the award.

Mike Drake commended Mike Hochella for a fantastic job as President of the Geochemical Society during his term and all BoD members agreed.

**Becky Lange motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Mike Engel seconded the motion.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Linda Trower, Editorial Manager of *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, and submitted May 29, 2001.