



2006 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Melbourne, Australia - August 26, 2006

Present:

Board of Directors: Susan Brantley (President), Marty Goldhaber (Vice-President), Youxue Zhang (Treasurer), Malcolm McCulloch (International Secretary), James Drever (Past President), Scott Wood (SP Editor), Laurie Reisberg (Director), Vincent Salters (Director), Andreas Lutttge (Director), Yaoling Niu (Director)

Guests:

Geochemical Society Business Office: Seth Davis (Business Manager)

Goldschmidt Conference Organizers: Sara Foda (Melbourne), Simon Turner (Melbourne), Carsten Muenker (Cologne), Dominique Weis (Vancouver)

EAG: Bruce Yardley (President), Alex Halliday (Vice-President), Andrew Putnis (Councilor), Jérôme Gaillardet (Councilor), Christian France-Lanord (Councilor)

Other: Kerstin Lehnert (Geochemical Data), Rick Carlson (Geochemical Data), Enriquetta Berrara (NSF)

Apologies:

Jeremy Fein (Secretary), Mark McCaffrey (OGD Chairman), Josef Werne (OGD Secretary), Frank Podosek (GCA Executive Editor), Johnson Haas (GN co-Editor), Carla Koretsky (GN co-Editor), Patricia Dove (Director), Peggy Delaney (Director)

Meeting began at @ 8:48am

PRESIDENT (Brantley)

Sue Brantley welcomed everyone to Melbourne and gave a brief overview of the agenda. She spoke about the growth and activity not only of the Geochemical Society but of the geochemical community at large.

VICE-PRESIDENT (Goldhaber)

Marty Goldhaber explained the 2006 committee appointments. In his appointment selections he attempted to balance non-North American appointments with ones from North America as well as academic with non-academic appointments. His goal was to build diversity and broaden the international base of the Society. It was noted that the 2007 Fellows Committee is short two appointments as well as one appointment for the Goldschmidt Award Committee, but that those would be resolved in short order. Goldhaber also noted that there was an irregularity in the Programming Committee rotation that can be solved by asking one of three committee members (Andreas Lutttge, Eric Oelkers, or Marilyn Fogel) to shorten their term from June 2008 to June 2007. Goldhaber mentioned that we have three half days of programs at the annual GSA meeting. To expand the visibility of geochemistry, GS should build relations with ACS as well as establish a presence at ACS meetings. Davis agreed to coordinate an ACS initiative with the GS Program Committee Chair, Tracy Rushmer. Goldhaber said that he would be willing to help GS pursue GS/ACS relations.

SECRETARY (presented in absentia)

Jeremy Fein's report was presented in absentia.

Sue Brantley will be attending the December meeting of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents (CSSP). CSSP is a collection of scientific societies with the goal of promoting science and networking with national politicians. CSSP meets twice a year, in May and December. To keep continuity, Sue asked Marty Goldhaber to attend the December meeting with her.

TREASURER (Zhang)

Youxue Zhang reported on the financial state of the Society. 2005 showed a 10% net of revenue over expenses and expect 2006 to show a \$28K gain. Zhang presented his 2007 treasurer's budget for Board approval.

The board asked that Zhang include a budget item for an audit. Zhang and Davis are to also check with past treasurers and in past minutes regarding origin, purpose and legal implications of the various special fund accounts. Zhang will then resubmit a revised 2007 budget to the Board.

GS BUSINESS OFFICE (Davis)

Seth Davis presented his report on membership demographics, subscriptions, website and publication information for 2003, 2004, 2005.

The Board discussed the business office report and the membership numbers of the society. They asked Davis to bring membership numbers for the society plotted and tabulated over a longer time frame to the next GS meeting. The Board discussed the observed decrease in purchase of GCA subscriptions and in GS publications.

GCA EXECUTIVE EDITOR (presented in absentia)

Sue Brantley presented Frank Podosek's report. It is the general opinion of the Board that Podosek has done an outstanding job as editor of GCA. Discussion turned to the future of GCA. Goldhaber commented that Elsevier created a PowerPoint presentation regarding Elsevier's plans for the future direction of the journal.

Goldhaber recommended that Podosek distribute this presentation to the Board.

The Board conveyed a series of questions to Podosek: 1) Would it be possible to offer on-line subscriptions that include issues published prior to 1995? 2) Are the 5% GCA royalties vulnerable as subscribers switch to the on-line only publication format? AND 3) Does Podosek have plans for how long he intends to continue as Executive Editor of GCA?

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS EDITOR (Wood)

Scott Wood presented information regarding special publications. Vol. 8, the Gigenbach volume, is doing very well and SEG made another print run. Brian Hull is our SEG contact. Elsevier has reported poor sales of Vol. 9, the Kaplan volume. Wood recommended more collaboration with SEG. Wood also stated that Zhang should be receiving royalty checks from both SEG and Elsevier this year and that Zhang should expect this annually. It was recommended that Zhang contact SEG so that he is aware of the process and that GS gets its share of the volume 8 sales.

Various models for future Special Publications were discussed, such as print-on-demand, more Reviews in Mineralogy & Geochemistry (RiM&G) volumes, more SEG collaborations, or creating a set of publications like the Treatise on Geochemistry. Wood commented that he would consider a larger project but made it clear that he would need the assistance of a paid copy editor.

The Board also discussed the RiM&G volumes in general. MSA capitalizes every RiM&G, but they have agreed not to make a profit on volume sales. In the past, MSA would occasionally borrow funds from GS to capitalize RiM&G's at a rate set by the GS/MSA MOU on RiM&G's. However, currently MSA finds it cheaper to borrow funds from a bank. Therefore, GS has no financial outlay for RiM&G volumes but GS does get good exposure from these volumes. If a related short course were to show a loss, there is a possibility that GS would be financially liable. Brantly encouraged Wood to think about what changes are needed, if any, regarding GS special publications and RiM&G volumes.

Wood also mentioned the "Gentleman's Agreement" between MSA and GS in regard to the RiM&G Volumes. The agreement allowed GS to connect its name with the RiM&G volumes in exchange, MSA has the option to be a sponsor at the annual Goldschmidt conference (free exhibit, advertising, member registration discount, present awards, hold council meetings, etc,...). Wood pointed out that these agreements need to be spelled out explicitly in the soon to be created Goldschmidt Organizers Guidelines.

GEOCHEMICAL NEWS EDITOR (Haas/Coretsky presented in absentia)

Carla Koretsky and Johnson Haas' report was presented in absentia.

Davis mentioned the low readership of Geochemical News on-line and asked the Board to consider how best to utilize Geochemical News now that Elements magazine is successful and functioning.

GEOCHEMICAL DATA

Kerstin Lehnert and Rick Carlson gave a presentation on the need to make geochemical data more accessible, and the need to have societies such as GS endorse standards on how data should be reported in the literature.

Discussion ensued on the tools and implications of geochemical reporting standards.

Wood motioned that the GS President appoint an *ad hoc* committee to look into geochemical data reporting guidelines and related issues then produce a Geochemical Society general policy statement. Youxue second. Vote 9-0 in favor (unanimous)

Board recommended that Podosek be on said committee.

BUDGET ISSUES

INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

Sue Brantley presented her information on investment strategies and the option to co-invest with GSA.

Wood motioned to accept Sue Brantley's recommendation to pursue co-investment with GSA. Luttge seconded. Vote: 9-0 in favor (unanimous)

AUDITING

Sue Brantley presented her information on having an audit performed by Mario Lopez.

Wood motioned to accept Sue Brantley's recommendation to have an audit performed by Mario Lopez. Luttge seconded. Vote: 9-0 in favor (unanimous)

INVITED REPORTS

2005 GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE REPORT (WOOD)

Scott Wood presented his summary of 2005 Goldschmidt conference in Moscow.

2006 GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE REPORT (TURNER)

Sara Foda and Simon Turner presented information on the 2006 Goldschmidt in Melbourne. Foda reported that there were 11 themes and 88 sessions (16 general sessions). Everyone who either asked for an oral presentation or did not specify a poster session received an oral presentation. There are 12 parallel oral sessions per day. Posters were set up for the entire week to give presenters plenty of time to discuss and network. Turner recommended that a hefty abstract registration fee is maintained to encourage those who submit an abstract to attend the conference. Also Turner commented that they were able to accept presentation data files before the conference which allowed them to get a head-start in preparing oral presentations.

Discussion about the need to limit delegate costs ensued. Also mentioned was the desire to offer discounted rates to retired people to attend the conference since they no longer have institutional funding, yet remain a great source of information.

2007 GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE REPORT (MUENKER)

Carsten Muenker presented information on 2007 Goldschmidt in Cologne. The organizers are working with Paul Beatty at Cambridge Publications to handle conference logistics. The abstract deadline is 4.5 months before the conference.

It is expected that the 2007 plenary session will budget time for both the 2006 and 2007 Patterson Awards.

It is expected that the member/non-member fee model will be used.

It is expected that the Cologne organizers will work with Elsevier and Frank Podosek to produce a printed abstract volume for distribution at the conference.

The Board discussed the need for more diversity (women and minorities) on the Cologne Goldschmidt Scientific Programming Committee. Also mentioned was the desire to have abstracts and session times available for viewing on-line before the conference so that delegates can plan their conference time.

2008 GOLDSCHMDIT CONFERENCE REPORT (WEIS)

Dominique Weis presented her information on 2008 Goldschmidt in Vancouver, BC Canada. They have booked 900 rooms and need GS/EAG seed money to fund down payments. The organizers are working with Paul Beatty at Cambridge Publications to handle conference logistics. The abstract deadline is 4-4.5 months prior to the conference. The Vancouver budget currently calls for a break even of 1600 delegates. The venue can accommodate 2500 delegates. Weis asked for suggestions on how to build the low-temperature programming.

2009 GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCE REPORT (HALLIDAY)

Alex Halliday presented the 2009 Davos Goldschmidt Conference report. This organizational model is substantially different from previous Goldschmidt Conferences in

that EAG will be taking a very active roll in the logistics. This is intended to keep administration costs down, but will rely heavily on volunteer efforts. Halliday plans to build a 100 member programming committee and run 14 parallel sessions.

Conference reports concluded with the need for the Geochemical Society and the EAG to actively seek proposals for 2010 and 2011

Zhang further recommended that a non-North America, non-Europe site be chosen for the 2011 Goldschmidt Conference.

EAG/GS RELATIONSHIPS (YARDLEY/BRANTLEY)

Alex Halliday and Bruce Yardley spoke about the status and direction of EAG. EAG's primary function has been the Goldschmidt Conference in Europe. Although Chemical Geology is the society's journal, the EAG does not play a large role overseeing the editorship of the journal. Further EAG does not currently have enough of a budget to employ anyone. Because of this EAG plans to take a much more active role in European Goldschmidts and plans to use the conference as its major source of revenue. The goal is to build a nest egg of funds so that they can expand programming and develop their mission.

Discussion then led to the 'seed funds' of future Goldschmidt conferences.

Brantley motioned that beginning with the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference (Vancouver, BC), GS will provide \$20,000 in seed money for GS organized meetings. For Goldschmidt Conferences organized by EAG, GS will not provide seed money with the understanding that EAG will provide 20,000 Euros for seed money to those conferences. Goldhaber seconded. Vote: 9-0 in favor (unanimous)

The Board recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding between GS and EAG regarding the Goldschmidt Conference be created.

It was also recommended that GS and EAG look into trademarking the Goldschmidt Conference name.

GEOCHEMICAL SOCIETY BUSINESS OFFICE ISSUES

Seth Davis outlined his proposal to expand the function and budget of the business office. A new part-time position would be created to assist the business manager with simple day to day functions. The business manager would then be taking a proactive role in assisting committees fulfill their functions and in working with the Goldschmidt Conference Organizers in meeting the needs of the Society.

Salters motioned to approve the proposed 2007 Business Office Budget of \$86,000 which includes the addition of a part-time staff position. Drever seconded. Vote: 9-0 in favor (unanimous)

McCulloch motioned to include an administration fee recommended by the Business Office and approved by the GS Executive Committee that is to be included as a budgeted expense in future GS organized Goldschmidt Conferences, beginning with the 2008 Goldschmidt Conference. Funds collected will be given to the Business Office for its work in assisting the Conference. Salters seconded. 9-0 favor (unanimous)

WEBSITE DESIGN COMMITTEE REPORT (Dove)

Patricia Dove's report was presented in absentia

The Board recommended that Johnson Haas be asked to be chair of the Website Committee. The Board also recommended that GN be imbedded into the revised website.

2007 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for 2007 to remain the same.

Meeting adjourned at 5:22pm

Respectfully submitted,
Seth Davis, Geochemical Society Business Manager