

2008 Geochemical Society Board of Directors Meeting

July 13, 2008

Room M121, Earth and Ocean Sciences Bldg.

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Present:

Marty Goldhaber (MG), President

Sam Mukasa, Vice President

Neil Sturchio, Secretary

Louise Criscenti, Treasurer

Seth Davis, Business Manager

Simon Turner, Director

Vickie Bennett, Director

Scott Wood, Special Publications Editor

Dave Wesolowski, Director

Frank Podosek, GCA Editor

(Meeting Convened at 8:10 a.m.)

1. – Introductions of attendees

2. – Reports by BOD members

President Marty Goldhaber (MG)

- The Geochemical Society (GS) is strong. In 2002 there were 1523 members, >50% from USA; in 2007 the membership was up to 2442, 41% from USA; >21% of members are from Europe

- Innovest was retained to manage GS funds to increase return on investments, after looking into several options. Innovest is also used by GSA and other societies.

- GS joined the Council of Scientific Society Presidents with Tim Drever. MG attended a recent meeting of this council and described some of the attendees and discussions. There was an interesting discussion of IRS draft Good Governance Practices for 501©(3) organizations.

- Involvement of GS in GSA has decreased significantly with advent of the Goldschmidt conference. Much GS science is presented at AGU and ACS now, which would have been presented at GSA before.

- MG visited GS office at Washington University. The issue of access from Chinese IP addresses came up because WebSanity refused their access. Therefore, GS server is now in Seth Davis' office and is not served by WebSanity.

- Goldschmidt meeting planning was discussed. EAG wants to derive profit from running European Goldschmidt conferences. Discussion of pros and cons.

Secretary Neil Sturchio (NCS)

A number of votes were conducted. Results are shown in the Blue Book distributed by Seth Davis at this meeting.

GCA Executive Editor Frank Podosek (FAP)

- GCA Associate Editor selection was discussed. FAP recruits and then passes on names to the Joint Publications Committee (JPC). However, the JPC has veto power. FAP proposes to have the JPC vet names before contacting recruits in the future.

- Special Issue for Gary Sposito recently published in GCA. Special Issue for Ed Roedder has folded – 2 of 5 papers submitted were rejected. Special issue on early solar system chronology is well under way, 15 papers accepted already, but no revised version received yet for any paper.

- Author complaints are normally handled by GCA Executive Editor, but sometimes referred to JPC.

- Number of manuscripts submitted to GCA increasing gradually. Individual subscriptions are going down, probably because of availability of electronic access. This should not affect society funds, however. Delay in publication of GCA manuscripts has been reduced by cutting backlog in manuscript processing.

Vice President Sam Mukasa

- Vacancies were filled on five committees.

- Blue book typo shows Patricia Maurice as Chair of both Goldschmidt and Clarke award committees.

- Note that only one woman has ever received the Goldschmidt award. Why and what can be done about it?

- Discussion of diversity in earth science education. Recruitment of ANY students into earth science is a problem. Need more educational outreach at K-12 level.

Treasurer Louise Criscenti

- Financial summary for 2007 shown and discussed. Net gain was \$27,268.

Special Publications Editor Scott Wood

- Last two Special Publications were the Giggenbach volume (in conjunction with Society for Economic Geology) and the Kaplan volume (in conjunction with Elsevier).

*** A motion was made and seconded to attempt to use the inventory of the Spec Publ volumes in some way to advance the society, e.g. give out as prizes to students who win Goldschmidt travel awards, etc., to be determined. The motion was voted on and it passed unanimously. 9 YES, 0 NO.***

---- [*Action Item*: Marty and Scott to enumerate options on how to implement].

Business Office Report by Seth Davis

- Membership and subscription trends were reviewed.

- New GS web site (Phase I) came on line September 20, 2007. Phase II of new web site to be launched Sept. 1, 2008, and it will have the capability of members-only content, including e.g., blogs, pdfs of special publications, etc.

----[*Action Item*: **Seth – enumerate potential members-only content options for GS web site**].

- The OGD's Treibs medal has been referred to for a long time as the "Alfred E. Treibs" medal but his middle name was Georg(!). Henceforth it should be referred to as "Alfred G. Treibs" medal.

---BREAK---

Old Business

None.

New Business

- ***Vote on increase in Elements subscription from \$13/yr to \$14/yr. Motion made and seconded to accept \$1/member increase in Elements subscription price per GS member. Passed unanimously (9 YES, 0 NO).***

- Geochemical News – Should it be kept as portion of GS web site? Should it be completely blended with Elements? Other options?

****Motion was made and seconded to continue GN on GS web site** for one year including current issue (July 2008), stipend = \$6K (\$1500/issue) to be paid to Nick Wiggington, plus extras for Aes. Nick will also provide input to potential future uses of Facebook in the GN for attracting greater readership. Unanimously passed (9 YES, 0 NO).***

---- [*Action Item*: invite Nick to BOD meeting at Davos to give presentation.]

- Future Goldschmidt meetings – difficult to find volunteers to run these increasingly large and complex meetings. Lack of continuity between North American (NA) meetings. Is it time to

think of a new model? Two proposals on the table: one from Paul Beattie (based in Cambridge, UK), another from GSA.

- Dominique Weis had significant praise for Paul Beattie & co. performance in organizing Goldschmidt 2008.

--LUNCH--

- Discussion ensued of pros and cons of Goldschmidt conference organization details. Consensus seems to be that Cambridge Publications should be contracted to handle the abstracts and other online details (registration fees, etc), whereas GSA should be contracted to organize meeting facilities and logistics, including locating appropriate venues, working with university facilities, etc.

Motion made and seconded to incorporate 5-year contract with Cambridge Publications for abstracts at next two NA Goldschmidt meetings, whereas GSA will be contracted to do site selection, contract negotiation, pre- and post-meeting management based on parameters supplied by GS, and meeting logistical management operations including website design and on-site management (\$26K). Motion passed unanimously, 9 YES, 0 NO.

--- [**Action Item:** MG will contact BOD shortly by email addressing AGI membership and GSA presence issues].

1:30 GS BOD Joined by EAG BOD

A. Halliday, C. Ballentine, E. Oelkers, B. Bourdon, S. Stipp, A. Putnis, Christa Gopel, Andreas Kappler, B. Yardley, B. Wehrli.

- Dominique Weis gave a summary of 2008 Goldschmidt information: 2207 abstracts (25-30 cancellations), 20 themes in 120 sessions, first time in Canada in ~20 years. As of July 7, there were 1885 registrants. Meeting details presented. Organizers happy with Paul Beattie.

- Introductions all around.

- Albrecht Hofmann gave a wrap-up of the 2007 Goldschmidt conference that took place in Cologne, Germany. It was held at University of Cologne, in two buildings near each other, 15 meeting rooms, 16 themes, 99 symposia, 1250 oral presentations, 1100 posters; 2225 participants including 30% students from 47 countries. 105 keynote speakers from 17 countries, each received partial travel support from 300-650 euros, DFG provided 48,000 euros for this. Registration fee was 310 euros early and 360 euros late for members. 122 students (of 140 applications received) from 50-1000 euros each for travel support.

- Chris Ballentine gave a progress report on the 2009 Goldschmidt to be held in Davos, called *Challenges to our Volatile Planet*. Break-even registration is ~1800 delegates, registration fee will be ~ 420 euros Cambridge Publications is taking the financial risk for this conference. 19

themes and 97 sessions approved so far. Each theme team has 4-8 sections. 20-20,000 hotel beds in Davos, >100 restaurants and bars.

- Ted Labotka gave a progress report on the 2010 Goldschmidt to be held in Knoxville, TN. Will be held in Knoxville Convention Center, built about 5 years ago. About 1100 hotel rooms already reserved near ~\$100/night. Organizers: Dave Cole (science), Hap McSween (logistics), Ted Labotka (both). Cambridge Publications will handle abstracts and programs. UT conferences office will handle local logistics and is charging a per person fee. Registration \$300-400/person, break-even at 1200-1500 people. Convention center rental is ~\$25,000, which will be waived if enough food service is purchased (i.e. \$180,000 total). Student housing available for ~\$28/night on campus.

- Discussion of recruiting for sponsors, and for ways to outreach to public.

- Chris Ballentine (CB) said that Goldschmidt 2011 will be held in Prague at a new convention center just outside the city, during mid-June 2011.

— BREAK —

- Alex Halliday (AH): as the Goldschmidt conference gets larger and more important to GS and the EAG, it should be more professionally managed and planned at least five years in advance.

-What about creating a long-term agreement with Cambridge Publications to ensure continuity?

- How can/should large-scale societal concerns be better addressed by the two societies?

- Joint awarding of new awards (GS/EAG)?

- International outreach to Africa done jointly by GS/EAG? Possible sponsorship by mining/energy/resources industries, NGO, other?

- Membership recruitment and sustenance.

- Coordination of awards ceremonies and fellows committees between the two societies.

- Discussion of potential activities for an international coordinator for outreach to low-economy nations.

Motion made and seconded to prepare a position description for such person. Passed unanimously 9/0 and 9/0 by representatives of both societies.

---- [*Action Item* -- this position description to be drafted by MG and AH].

Discussion of mechanism for award ceremonies.

---- [*Action Item* – CB will send out information for discussion]

- Discussion of membership increase and sustenance. Further discussion deferred.

(Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.)

- NCS