

2009 Geochemical Society Board of Directors Meeting
Davos, Switzerland
June 21, 2009

Present:

Marty Goldhaber (GS President)
Sue Brantley (GS Vice President)
Sam Mukasa (GS Vice President)
Louise Criscenti (GS Treasurer)
Neil Sturchio (GS Secretary)
Yaoling Niu (GS Director)
Dave Wesolowski (GS Director)
Seth Davis (GS Business Manager)

[MEETING CONVENED AT 8:20 A.M.]

ANNUAL REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND BUSINESS MANAGER:

President's report (Marty Goldhaber):

- No quorum present
- GS membership presently >3000
- Finances approaching \$1M
- Challenges
 - maintaining and increasing the importance of the Goldschmidt conference. It is increasingly difficult for a local organizing committee to bear the financial risk for such large meetings. Professional meeting arrangers are needed, with financial support from the GS. GSA is now contracted to do meeting logistics for all North American Goldschmidt meetings, which has been working well in Montreal so far. The cost of travel is expected to go up, which will inhibit travel to international meetings, therefore webcasting and other electronic information delivery media needed to be taken more seriously.
 - Future of GS meetings: Possible reinvigorated ties with Geological Society of America through their planned MineralogyPetrologyVolcanologyGeochemistry Division. SEE PRESIDENTS SECTION OF BLUEBOOK FOR DETAILS ON THE MPVG DIVISION
 - Membership/outreach issues: GS is too much of an "old boy's club". AGU is a major competitor for geochemists. We should revisit our mission and vision statements; perhaps replace "geological" with "earth systems" in mission statement.
<http://www.geochemsoc.org/society/missionstatement.htm>

- Membership retention following attendance at Goldschmidt meetings is disappointing. Based on a vote of the BoD, a new Award and Fellows Nomination Committee was formed to address diversity issues by increasing nomination pools.
- Chinese meeting: Paul Robinson made contacts in China regarding potential GS-GSA-MSA meeting in Beijing.
- Closer ties with Organic Geochemistry Division – explore enhanced role of OGD at Knoxville Goldschmidt.
- Discussion topics: do we really need to grow? What impact will GSA’s MPVG Division have on GS? How do we keep up-to-date with high-impact science sessions, e.g. earth system science? AGU has been resistant to closer ties with GS at their fall meeting.
- **Action item #1:** Make certain that the Award Nomination Committee (ANC) is given a clear mandate; populate the ANC.
- **Action item #2:** Talk to AGU about the possibility of a GS-sponsored lecture at Fall AGU meeting.

Vice President’s Report (Sam Mukasa):

- Outreach needed to internationalize and diversify GS committees
- Examine demographic trends of the past several decades in geosciences BS, MS, and awards PhD by numbers, gender; gender equality more or less reached for BS and MS currently, but PhD is still male-dominated (~2:1) for unclear reasons. GS and other society awards remain highly male-dominated. Some awards have never been given to women. Boils down to women not receiving nominations.

Treasurer’s Report (Louise Criscenti):

- Total liquid assets \$934K.
- Investment accounts were transferred at a timely point – mostly held in cash during market crash.
- Financial oversight committee and financial vision statement needed.
- Total liquid and nonliquid assets >\$1M.
- Annual net gain ~\$30K during past couple of years.
- **Action Item #3:** Obtain access for Louise to Innovest account so she can transfer it.
- **Action Item #4:** Ask Innovest how much on-hand cash the GS should have.
- Marty asked for a standing ovation for Louise. She has been incredibly attentive, working very hard and putting in lots of hours on this – what the government would call “and other such duties.”

Secretary’s Report (Neil Sturchio):

- Summary of vote results.

[COFFEE BREAK]

Business Manager's Report (Seth Davis):

- Membership issues - should we consider 2-year membership cycle in parallel with Goldschmidt?
- Offer pdf files of GS Special Publications to members?
- **Vote 1:** BOD members present agreed unanimously to an increase in the GS Business Office budget of \$4K to support mailing expenses of Special Publications.
- How to best distribute student travel award funds?

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 Budget Proposal (Louise):

- **Vote #2:** BOD members present unanimously approved proposed 2010 GS budget.

Elements Budget:

- Price increase to \$14 has already been approved, but an additional increase to \$15 is needed, with possible cuts in content or #issues/year, to make 2010 Elements budget work. Discussion of pros and cons of having GS members opt out of receiving hard copy of Elements, in order to save printing and mailing costs. (GS would still contribute \$15 per member to production of Elements, even if a substantial number of members opted out).
- **Vote #3:** BOD members present vote unanimously in favor of opting out of receiving hard copy mailed to them, as well as an increase in subscription rate to \$15 per member.
- GSA MPVG Division issues: discussion tabled pending completion and review of bylaws for that Division.

Business Manager Position Description:

- **Vote #4:** BOD members present unanimously agreed that the proposed position description (SEE BLUE BOOK PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR DETAILS) needs to be reviewed by Treasurer and Secretary and a recommendation be made to the BOD. Seth is doing a good job and FAP should be informed of this. Annual performance review with Seth, GCA Exec Editor, and GS President recommended.
- **Action Item #5:** Treasurer and Secretary to review proposed position description of Business Manager and make a recommendation to the BOD.

Geochemical News:

- **Vote #5:** BOD members present agreed to continue GN; \$2K honorarium per issue; content to be vetted before publication; vetting to happen by VP with two BOD members –

submitting contentious issues to the President; approve Steve Komor as GN editor for the coming year (through 2010).

- **Action Item #6:** Write a position description for Geochemical News Editor.
- **Action Item #7:** Write a Wikipedia entry for the Geochemical Society.

Facebook page:

- **Vote #6:** BOD members present approve continued presence of GS Facebook page but it needs a statement to the effect that the content is not necessarily approved by the GS. Someone like Nick Wigginton (a young, Facebook-savvy geochemist) should replace him for maintenance and oversight of the Facebook page.

AGI Membership:

- should GS join AGI? (SEE BLUE BOOK PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR DETAILS)
- **Vote #7:** BOD members present approve joining AGI and will seek other comparable organizations to consider joining.

[LUNCH BREAK]

JOINT SESSION WITH EAG:

- Introductions (EAG members present: Eric Oelkers, President; Bernard Bourdon, Vice President; Liane Benning, Martin Novak, & Bernie Wood, Councillors).

Goldschmidt 2009 Report (Chris Ballentine):

- 3108 abstracts submitted, most ever for a Goldschmidt conference.
- Core science team Chris Ballentine, Philippe van Cappellen, Janet Hering.
- Press officer will be giving press releases via alpha Galileo.

Goldschmidt 2010 (Ted Labotka):

- Theme is "Earth, Energy and the Environment".
- Description of venue in Knoxville, TN.
- Dates set June 13-18, 2010

Goldschmidt 2011 (Martin Novak):

- Prague, August 14-19, 2011

Goldschmidt 2012 (Claude Hillaire-Marcel):

- Montreal - The Earth in Evolution – June 24-29, 2012.

Goldschmidt 2013 (Chiara Monetti and Massimo Coltorti):

- Proposal for Florence in 2013
- Estimated registration price maybe 500 euros

- Would be held at Fortezza da Basso

GSA meetings department:

- GSA meetings department surveyed available conference centers for future Goldschmidt meetings in North America, based on GS criteria.
- Discussed bids for 2012: Providence, San Diego, Montreal (3,2,1).
- For 2014: Providence, San Diego, Sacramento, and Phoenix.

China 2015:

- Chinese representatives described China National Convention Center venue.
- Field trips (many opportunities).
- Expect around 1,000 Chinese delegates.

[COFFEE BREAK]

Future Goldschmidt venues:

- Motion approved to hold a more-focused, partially-travel-supported, jointly-organized meeting in Beijing in the 2012-2014 time range. Will request proposal from Chinese group. Presidents of GS and EAG will pursue this.
- Montreal 2012 approved in principle (pending formal approval from Goldschmidt Forum).
- Florence premature, financial concerns are large from EAG board.

GS-EAG memorandum of understanding:

- MG states that GS looks favorably to greater ties with EAG, yet has many questions about proposed MOU from EAG. GS will pose comments/questions to EAG and EAG will respond with detailed responses.

[MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:40 P.M.]