



EAG Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday 13th June 2010, Knoxville, TN, USA

Unless otherwise recorded, all decisions were made by consensus.

Abbreviations: EAG - European Association for Geochemistry
GS - Geochemical Society

Attending:

Eric Oelkers, Bernard Bourdon, Christa Göpel, Steve Banwart, Chris Ballentine, Bernard Marty, Cristina Facchini, Dan Frost, Martin Novak, Liane Benning, François Chabaux, Andreas Kappler.

Ex Officio: Marie-Aude Hulshoff, EAG Office
Paul Beattie, Cambridge Publications

Apologies:

Alex Halliday, Tim Elliott, Bernie Wood.

Approval of minutes of the EAG Council Meeting in November 2009: the EAG council approved the minutes of the Oxford council meeting.

Action items from those minutes have been either completed or are on the agenda of this council meeting.

PART I: REPORTS

1.1 Treasurer's report (Christa Göpel)

The EAG Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

The income from the Davos Goldschmidt 2009 Conference has been received. This allows the Prague 2011 Goldschmidt Conference to be underwritten, and has been committed against venue rent for the Prague meeting and down payment for the venue of the Goldschmidt 2013 meeting.

It also allows some funds to start new initiatives.

1.2 EAG Business Office Report (Marie-Aude Hulshoff)

The EAG Council approved the revised by-laws.

MAH showed the statistics available for the website however since the host was changed recently (ie our website address is no longer connected to the LMTG in France), the data is not yet meaningful.

MAH explained a new website is being developed, and showed a preview of the draft version.

ACTION: All councillors are invited to give their feedback, suggestions and provide additional photos for the new website.

1.3 Nominations Committee Report (Francois Chabaux)

The EAG Council received a verbal report of the nominations committee including the nominations list for new Council members. If necessary additional names to expand discipline and gender diversity will be sought by Council.

ACTION: Eric Oelkers and Bernard Bourdon will approach the suggested candidates to confirm they would serve if elected and will report back at the next council meeting.

1.4 Communication Committee Report (Liane Benning)

The EAG council unanimously approved the proposed 2011 Elements budget, maintaining the subscription fee at US\$15 per Member but refuted the redistribution of costs model proposed by the CMS.

In addition, the Communication Committee now includes Dan Frost (Bayreuth, DE) and Steve Banwart (University of Sheffield, UK) and suggestions towards including not just workshop or meeting news or medallists information etc has been discussed. The New Committee will aim to make a 12 month plan (i.e 6 issues) to include possibly various solicited contributions about pertinent geochemical but also societal issues within Europe and the Communications Committee aims to present the first draft of this plan to the Council at the next meeting.

1.5 Program Committee Report (Andreas Kappler)

The Program Committee has started the EAG Short Course Series with the first one being organized in Tübingen, Germany, from 7th to 11th August 2011. Flyers have been created and will be distributed during the Goldschmidt conference to advertise this course as well as our offer to sponsor short course proposals.

Therefore, before looking into the organization of a second short course, the Program Committee will wait until the deadline (31st October 2010) for requests for sponsorship of short courses.

The EAG policy on short course organization and sponsorship is also available on the EAG website.

Additionally, the EAG Council agreed that EAG would organize a social event at the 2011 EGU in Vienna.

1.6 Publications Committee Report (Tim Elliott)

Following a meeting with Elsevier representatives Bethan Keall and Caroline ten Wolde at Davos, discussions continued about establishing the long mooted memorandum of understanding (MoU) between EAG and Elsevier. It was clear that

there would be no direct financial contribution, but Elsevier were keen to sponsor the Innovation Award, potentially with the Treatise in Geochemistry. Likewise, collaboration was welcomed in helping identify new editors for Chemical Geology and suggesting Special issues for the journal. An amended MoU was made, but these discussions have been left on-hold given recent changes at Elsevier, with the departure of Caroline ten Wolde.

Meanwhile, a full publication committee has been recruited. The committee membership hopefully covers a suitably wide range of disciplines and countries. See committee list on EAG website.

PART II: INITIATIVES

2.1 Initiatives Overview

EAG initiatives to support geochemistry in Europe were discussed.

2.2 Distinguished Lecture Program

- Francois Chabaux and Bernard Marty will act as an initial committee.
- First lecturer to be named by Council at the Autumn 2010 meeting.

The EAG Council approves an initial Distinguished Lecture Program committee to name a Lecturer for 2011 with a budget commitment for 1-2 week programme of travel and lectures in Europe, and will discuss further with GS about support for a further lecturer co-sponsored with GS as an international lecturer.

ACTION: Francois Chabaux and Bernard Marty to gain feedback from community and provide a list of potential lecturers and institutions for the next Council Meeting (in October).

Liane Benning to pass on contacts for institutions in Eastern Europe.

2.3 Brussels Intern

This role and potential benefits are not sufficiently well defined to commit to this initiative at this time.

ACTION: All councillors to provide further information and definition of the role at the next Council meeting. Steve Banwart will discuss with geochemistry colleagues at EC-Joint Research Centre, Ispra regarding interaction with EC policy teams.

2.4 Press Office

This initiative was viewed as important and initial estimates of costs as too high to be initiated at this time, based on knowledge of operating procedures from other geosciences organizations.

ACTION: The EAG office will review science media organizations and their operating procedures in order to provide further background information to the next Council meeting.

PART III. GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCES

3.1. Goldschmidt Prague 2011 (Martin Novak)

Martin Novak, local convener for Goldschmidt 2011 in Prague, presented the Congress Centre, the possibilities for field trips, social events and accommodation. It was suggested that we rent additional space at the Congress Centre (particularly for meeting rooms and exhibition space).

Bernard Marty, Chair of the Goldschmidt 2011 Committee, informed that Theme Chairs are finalized and the Science Program is now available on the website.

3.2 Goldschmidt 2013 (Chris Ballentine)

Following a recent visit to Florence, where the Goldschmidt 2013 would take place, Chris Ballentine presented the venue, the range of services which can be provided by the local organizer and informed the council of the accommodation possibilities. Chris also suggested holding the conference last week of August, to ensure student/budget accommodation (700 beds) and gain the optimal conference facility space. The council expressed concerns about a potential conflict in schedule with American Universities (which term may begin last week of August) and also requested that we offer additional student accommodation.

Potential names for Chair of Organising Committee were also discussed.

ACTION: Bernard Bourdon to approach the potential candidates for Chair and report to Council at the next meeting.

3.3 Goldschmidt 2015 (Paul Beattie)

Possible venues were discussed including return to Davos or Prague, but also other European regional capitals are being considered.

ACTION: Paul Beattie to solicit draft proposals from Barcelona, Davos, Strasbourg and Frankfurt. These will be prepared for the next Council meeting.