



EAG Council Meeting Minutes

19th October, 2010

Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Unless otherwise recorded, all decisions were made by consensus.

Abbreviations: EAG - European Association for Geochemistry

GS - Geochemical Society

Attending:

Chris Ballentine, Steve Banwart, Liane Benning, Tim Elliott, Dan Frost, Christa Göpel, Bernard Marty, Martin Novak, Eric Oelkers, Bernie Wood.

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

Apologies:

Alex Halliday, Bernard Bourdon, François Chabaux, Cristina Facchini, Andreas Kappler.

AGENDA ITEMS WITH ACTIONS AND DECISIONS

Approval of minutes of the EAG Council Meeting in Knoxville, USA, June 2010:

- ▶ the EAG council approved the minutes of the Knoxville council meeting.

PART I: REPORTS

1.1 Treasurer's report (June 2010 – October 2010)

- ▶ The EAG Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

The membership dues represented the major income source for the EAG in 2010. The GS organized the Goldschmidt conference in June 2010 in Knoxville and based on an agreement between both societies all financial implications stayed with the GS.

Due to the benefit that EAG made on the Goldschmidt conference in Davos in 2009, the overall financial situation of EAG looks quite healthy, but the EAG has to be very careful when preparing the 2013 Goldschmidt meeting. Indeed renting the future conference center and the associated payment schedule represents a major challenge for the EAG: all costs for the Prague conference center are due prior the Goldschmidt conference (August 2011) and the first payments, starting at the end of 2010, for the conference center 2013 will eat up the capital by EAG accumulated so far.

Major expenses of the EAG between June and October 2010 were:

- Second payment for the conference center in Prague for Goldschmidt meeting 2011
- Salary of EAG business manager

- Costs linked to Knoxville Goldschmidt meeting: creation of new innovation award (Stumm medal), travel support for medalists, promotional material distributed (mugs, flyers)
- Costs of accountant (books of 2008 and 2009)

ACTION: Cambridge Publications will investigate conference insurance for Goldschmidt 2011 in Prague.

1.2 EAG Business Office Report

The EAG Office reported on its activities on communications, which include Website, Facebook page and newsletters.

The new website went live on 13/09 and received 550 visits within the first five days. The number of visitors has increased by 110% when comparing the old to the new website and the bounce rate has decreased by 30%.

An EAG Facebook page was created end of June and has already received 700 visitors.

Video interviews have also been added to the website via YouTube.

The EAG Business Office Manager suggested more frequent newsletters.

ACTION: EAG office will add the following content to the EAG web site

- Additional targeted video content
- New section for Goldschmidt Conference Exhibitors and Sponsors

1.3 Nominations Committee Report

Council:

The nominations committee proposes Chris Ballentine as candidate for the position of Vice-President, Andrea Koschinky and Anders Meibom for the positions of councillors.

► The council approved the list prepared by the nominations committee. These candidates will be put forward to all EAG members for election by means of electronic vote, early November 2010.

Committee Chairs:

► The council approved Bernard Wood as Chair of the Goldschmidt 2013 committee.

► The council approved Dan Frost as Chair of the Nominations Committee, to replace François Chabaux stepping down on 31/12/2010.

► The council approved Hans Keppler as Chair of the Science Innovation Award Committee and Eric Oelkers as Chair of the Houtermans Award Committee.

ACTION: From 2011 onward the Nominations Committee will seek nomination of candidates for officer and councillor posts with a minimum of 2 candidates put forward for open elections.

1.4 Communications Committee Report

At the Knoxville Meeting the newly assembled Communications Committee (Liane Benning, Dan Frost and Steve Banwart, committee assisted by Marie-Aude Hulshoff) have taken first steps towards a longer term and concerted planning of the EAG Elements pages and of other issues related to the Communications Committee. Since Knoxville the August issue (news about

SoilTrec, the EAG-Short Course Series and EAG opportunities) and the October issue (President's corner and Karim Benzerara's medallist piece, new website) have been dealt with. For the December page Paul Beattie and Martin Novak have interfaced with Pierrette Tremblay to provide a full page EAG Goldschmidt 2011 Prague add.

In addition, Marie-Aude Hulshoff and Liane Benning have sorted the EAG entry to the 2010 Elements Catalogue (new layout, up to date EAG info etc) and Dan Frost provided the first draft of a contribution for the February issue. At the Prague meeting the Communications Committee will also discuss/decide the content for the issues to come.

1.5 Program Committee Report

Four student's applications have been received for the short course in August 2011. Several more are expected.

Two research institutes are interested in organizing a sponsored short course. One of them has submitted a proposal and made a request for sponsorship.

Martin Elsner, Andreas Kappler and Marie-Aude Hulshoff have initiated discussions about the organisation of the EAG social event at the EGU in Vienna (3-8 April) and an action plan has been set up and reviewed.

▶ The EAG Council agreed that preference will be given to support EAG short courses that run in conjunction with European Goldschmidt Conferences. The short course content will be encouraged for publication by EAG.

▶ The EAG Council agreed that EAG will co-sponsor a social event at AGU 2010 Fall meeting in San Francisco.

1.6 Publications Committee Report

The publication committee presented the affiliation agreement proposed by Elsevier.

PART II: INITIATIVES

2.1 Distinguished Lecture Programme

▶ The Council approved Karim Benzerara as the first lecturer. The tour is planned for two weeks in the Autumn 2011.

▶ EAG Council agrees that the Distinguished Lecturer will give one public lecture to promote their science to the general public. The EAG aims to videorecord the public lecture.

2.2 Press Office

▶ EAG Council agrees that creation of a press office will not be pursued at this time.

2.3 Brussels Intern

There is insufficient information to reach a decision whether or not to pursue appointment of an intern in Brussels. Additional information is being sought from councillors' contacts related to science policy.

2.4 MoU with GS

The project of EAG-GS joint membership was initiated during the summer; the EAG has returned key points to the GS Office for feedback. The EAG President has contacted GS President for informal discussion of MoU points and they are organising a time for discussion.

ACTION: EAG President will re-draft the EAG mission statement in the preamble to the MoU. This is to clarify the unique European needs and political drivers of the EAG; e.g. EU funding and community-building amongst geochemists of the EU member states, that are unable to be served by an international society such as GS.

PART III. GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCES

3.1. Goldschmidt Prague 2011

The Goldschmidt 2011 Committee meeting which took place on 18/10 resolved outstanding questions on the science program and the social events. The committee visited the congress centre to decide on which part would be most suitable for exhibitors and posters. Additional space (18 rooms) has now been booked.

► The EAG Council decided that conference participants paying non-member rates for Goldschmidt 2011 in Prague, in line with GS practice for the North American Goldschmidt meetings will receive membership of EAG for 2 years up to the start of Goldschmidt 2013.

3.2 Goldschmidt 2013

Florence venue is booked for 25th-30th August. Bernard Wood has agreed to be Chair of Organising Committee and Janne Blichert-Toff has agreed to join the committee.

ACTION: Chris Ballentine working with Cambridge Publications will obtain additional costing detail from Florence and also obtain quotes from Prague and Davos.

3.3 Goldschmidt 2015

Cambridge Publications reported on preliminary assessment of Barcelona, Davos, Strasbourg and Frankfurt as potential venues. Additional venues were discussed. No decision will be taken until after registration deadline for Prague 2011.

PART IV. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Other income sources

ACTION: The EAG President and the Business Office will investigate other income sources.