



EAG Council Meeting

Minutes of the EAG Council

Sunday 14th August 2011
Prague, Czech Republic

Attendees:

Bernard Bourdon, President
Chris Ballentine, Vice-President
Eric Oelkers, Past-President
Christa Göpel, Treasurer
Bernard Marty, Goldschmidt Officer
Martin Novak, Councillor
Paul Beattie, Cambridge Publications

Liane Benning, Councillor / Communication Committee Chair
Tim Elliott, Councillor / Publications Committee Chair
Dan Frost, Councillor/ Nominations Committee Chair
Cristina Facchini, Councillor
Anders Meibom, Councillor
Marie-Aude Hulshoff, Business Office Manager

Apologies:

Steve Banwart, Secretary
Andrea Koschinsky, Councillor

Bernie Wood, Goldschmidt Officer
Andreas Kappler, Councillor / Program Committee Chair

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- The council approved the minutes of EAG Council Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, October 2010.

PART I: INITIATIVES & ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED

1.1 EAG finances (Christa Göpel)

- The EAG Council approved the Treasurer's Report.

The financial situation of the EAG remains healthy but highly dependent on benefits made at Goldschmidt conferences in order to pay for expenses, in particular future congress centres; indeed about 60% being allocated to the payment of the congress centres.

It was noted that for the future, we should whenever possible, choose conference centres where the catering company is not designated but we can have several ones compete, in order to obtain a better price.

1.2 Geochemical Perspectives (Eric Oelkers)

Geochemical Perspectives is scheduled to be launched in January 2012 and there will be 4 issues per year. The journal will be advertised at the Goldschmidt 2011 (poster at the booth, slide at the plenary on the first day, info in the EAG flyers and in the August newsletter).

The authors confirmed are Robert Raiswell & Don Canfield, Wally Broecker, Bruce Yardley, Gordon Brown & George Calas, Charlie Langmuir, Bjørn Jamveit and Fred MacKenzie.

The first goal is to establish the journal and reach a high impact factor asap, hence it will be mailed to EAG members and to attendees of the Goldschmidt conferences held in Europe.

The website www.geochemicalperspectives.org is now live.

Actions: Marie-Aude to request for the journal to be printed on recycled paper and look into the possibility of making it available on Amazon.

1.3 Short Course Series / Program Committee

Marie-Aude reported for Andreas Kappler, the Program Committee Chair on the activities of the short course series. The short course pre-Goldschmidt was attended by 20 people (which was the maximum number of participants) however the short course post-Goldschmidt (in Dresden) was cancelled due to insufficient participation. Andreas Kappler suggested more emphasis on advertising for future short courses (including using personal contacts) and a proactive approach to identifying short courses.

A new chair for the committee needs to be appointed for 2012.

Action: Eric Oelkers to investigate a short course in Florence and Tim Elliott to contact colleagues regarding the possible organisation of a short course.

1.4 EAG Council & Committees

1.4.1 List of candidates for Council 2012 (Dan Frost)

As Tim Elliott, Andreas Kappler and Martin Novak's terms are ending in December, there will be an election mid-October to elect 3 non-officer councillors. This election will be competitive and the council agreed on proposing 6 or 7 names for the 3 positions.

Action: Dan Frost to contact Stefano Poli to ask whether he would be interested (note: other candidates have already been contacted and agreed to a competitive election). The final list should be established by early September.

Regarding the positions of officer-councillors, the Treasurer and the Secretary are ending their term in December. The Nominations Committee recommended Christa Göpel for the position of Treasurer (as she volunteered to renew her mandate) and Liane Benning for the position of Secretary.

- The EAG Council approved the recommendations of the Nominations Committee.

Action: As the Treasurer should be based in France and speak French, Dan Frost is to start investigating a future candidate.

1.4.2 Election process

Marie-Aude established an election process based on the regulation on French non-profit organizations, emphasizing that the EAG members elect the councillors and the councillors elect the officer-councillors (by secret ballot).

1.4.3 By-laws amendments

- The EAG Council approved the by-laws amendments proposed which allow the EAG to be aligned with the French legal requirements of non-profit organisations. The Council also decided to co-opt Massimo Coltorti and Janne Blichert-Toft in connection with the organisation of the Goldschmidt 2013 conference, for a term of 2 years (01/2012 to 12/2013).

Action: Bernard Bourdon to inform Massimo Coltorti and Janne Blichert-Toft.

1.4.4 Science Innovation Award Committee 2012

The following people were suggested to form the Science Innovation Award Committee:

- Judith McKenzie (Chair)
- Karim Benzerara
- Don Canfield
- John Chorover
- Victoria Orphan

Action: Anders Meibom to ask Karim Benzerara, Liane Benning to ask Judith McKenzie and Bernard Bourdon to ask the others.

1.5 EAG / GS matters

1.5.1 Distinguished Lecture Program and Outreach Committee with GS

It was agreed that the DLP would alternate between Africa and Europe; depending on expenses and financial involvement of the Geochemical Society, we could potentially organise two tours (Africa and Europe) in one year.

Suggested topics for 2012 in Africa:

- Water resources and water quality
- Cosmochemistry

Bernard Marty and Bernard Bourdon are suggested to be part of the Outreach Committee proposed by the GS.

1.5.2 Organization of student travel grants

As there were issues with the process of travel grants for Goldschmidt 2011, the process should be reviewed for the next conference.

Action: Marie-Aude to work with Seth Davis on a process review of the travel grants.

1.6 EAG Blog

The council agreed to create a blog on the EAG website.

Action: Marie-Aude to create a blog on the EAG website.

PART II: GOLDSCHMIDT CONFERENCES

2.1 Goldschmidt 2011

3104 delegates were pre-registered for Goldschmidt 2011 and additional delegates will register onsite, so 3250 are expected, 1/3 being students. *Post-meeting information: 3300 delegates attended the conference.*

There are over 50 different nationalities represented (information based on the email address of delegates), the top ones being: USA 599 delegates, Germany 437, .com 395 (mostly Asian), UK 280, France 233, Japan 153, China 144, Switzerland 121, Australia 119, Canada 97, Czech Republic 96.

There will be 18 parallel sessions with over 200 keynotes.

2.2 Goldschmidt 2013

Massimo Coltorti, local convener of Goldschmidt 2013, presented the Firenze Fiera Conference Centre. It was emphasized that the conference centre has the advantage of being modular, and the smallest rooms will seat 150 people. 19 rooms have been booked so far.

The Goldschmidt 2013 Committee will be meeting in Prague to discuss logistics and the development of the science program.

2.3 Goldschmidt 2015

Paul Beattie has considered about 15 different European locations and the ones retained are Nice and Prague. Other venues are either too small, wrongly configured, too large or too expensive. Nice congress centre would have the advantage of being modular and has had experience accommodating science conferences up to 6500 delegates. There can be up to 21 rooms seating more than 100 delegates. There is also a second venue which could be used for the banquet.

The council agreed not to make a decision on the location of Goldschmidt 2015 at this stage.

PART III: REPORTS

3.1 Report from the Business Office (Marie-Aude Hulshoff)

The EAG Business Office has greatly developed its communication activities in order to increase the visibility of the EAG in the community. As such, there are now monthly newsletters, 17 video interviews (additional ones will be made in Prague), more information on the Facebook page, the EAG is now on Twitter, there is more interesting content in Elements and new visuals have been created for the booth.

Marie-Aude has also worked on initiatives such as launching the Distinguished Lecture Program with a first tour in Central Europe in November 2011.

Processes were created for the awards committees and the council elections. An EAG social event was organised at the EGU Meeting in April 2011 and information was gathered on media coverage.

Marie-Aude is now also the Editorial Manager for Geochemical Perspectives and created a new website for the journal (www.geochemicalperspectives.org).

Key metrics on EAG website:

- the EAG website is now getting over 1200 visits / month, that is 40 visits /day
- each newsletter generates about 300 visits within 3 days
- there has been over 1800 views of the 17 video interviews
- 66% of our visitors are from Europe, 19% from Americas, 10% from Asia

3.2 Report from the Communication Committee (Liane Benning)

In the last year since Knoxville the activities of the Communication Committee have been more streamlined and better organised. We now have a longer term (~ 6 months looking in the future) and well planned schedule with critical contents for future EAG Elements pages; it should be pointed out that between August 2010 to June 2011, we published 7,5 pages in the society news.

The Communication Committee has also worked on the 2011 Elements Catalogue, has advertised and successfully launched the EAG Distinguished Lecturer Series, has teamed up with the Business Office to revamp the EAG website and contributed to the contents and layout of the new Geochemical Perspectives website.

Due to the end of term for Steve Banwart on Council, the Communication Committee needs a new member.

- The EAG Council approved the 2012 Elements budget (keeping member dues for Elements at 15\$/member) and decided to make a voluntary contribution of 2000€ towards Elements.

3.3 Report from the Publication Committee (Tim Elliott)

This year has seen significant strides in developing the EAG publication “Geochemical Perspectives”. The journal now has two near complete manuscripts and authors confirmed for the next two years.

A new chair for the committee needs to be appointed for 2012.