

**49th Annual North-Central Section Meeting
Minutes of the Management Board Meeting
Madison, Wisconsin
19 May 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 19 May 2015 in Meeting Room O at Monona Terrace in Madison, Wisconsin.

1. Sixteen people were present in the room and introduced themselves. They were Jean Bahr (Chair of this 49th Annual Meeting and Section Chair), Steve Brown, (Chair of the 50th Annual Meeting in Champaign, Illinois in 2016 and incoming Section Chair); Yu-Feng Forrest Lin , (Vice-Chair of the 50th Annual Meeting in Champaign, Illinois in 2016 and incoming Section Vice-Chair); Vicki S. McConnell (GSA Executive Director); Hap McSween (GSA President); Chris Tallackson (GSA Foundation Director of Development); Kasey White (GSA Director for Geoscience Policy); Bill Simpkins (GSA Councilor); Joe Hannibal (past North-Central Section executive secretary, 2005-2013, and Undergraduate Research Grants coordinator); Mike Phillips (Management Board member, 2013-2016 and past North-Central Representative, Committee on Geology and Public Policy); Ben Dattilo (Management Board member, 2014-2017); Paul Hanson (Management Board member, 2012-2015, Section Vice-Chair & Past Vice-Chair, Vice-Chair for 2014 Meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska); C. Renee Sparks (Candidate for Management Board position, 2015-2018); Tim Fisher (Co-Chair of the 51st Annual Meeting joint with the Northeastern Section in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2017); Paul Doss (North-Central Representative, Committee on Geology and Public Policy, and incoming Committee Chair); and Nancy Williams (North-Central Section executive secretary).
2. **It was moved and seconded that the meeting agenda be accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.**
3. **It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Management Board Meeting for the 48th Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section on 24 April 2014 in Lincoln, Nebraska. The motion passed unanimously pending one correction of a misspelled name.**
4. Jean Bahr reported on preliminary statistics (with about 668 registrants as of this morning) and fiscal outlook (good) for the Madison meeting. 397 papers and posters are being presented in 45 sessions (25 oral and 20 poster sessions). [Note: Final registration was 706 registrants excluding exhibitors, and net revenue was \$27,277.60. The hotel numbers came in as needed – 370 room nights were blocked at Monona Terrace, and 310 were booked – meeting the minimum.]
5. Reminders were made of the All Member Business meeting this evening from 5:00 to 5:15 in the Grand Terrace, and of the North-Central GSA Meeting Planning and Technical Program Advisory Board Meeting and Campus Representatives recognition breakfast to be held on Wednesday in Meeting Room K. All present were invited.
6. Section Reports.
 - a. Financials - Nancy Williams distributed financial reports that showed that the Section had a total of \$125,460.96 in its operating account at the end of March, 2015 (including \$33,720 in deferred meeting revenue for the Madison meeting). The Financial Activity Summary for the North Central Section Endowment in the GSA Foundation was also distributed. Funds in the endowment at the end of March, 2015 were \$265,526, up from \$237,643 at the beginning of the fiscal year. The financial report was approved unanimously.
 - b. Travel grants – Williams reported that for the 2014 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, 107 grants were awarded (106 @ \$70 and 1 @ \$140) for a total of \$7560. \$6,020 was actually distributed. For this section meeting, 50 grants were awarded (an additional five denied), with 1 @ \$75, 8 @ \$100, and 41 @ \$125 for a total of \$6,000. [Post meeting note - \$5,150 was actually distributed, so almost 18% of

funding was left on the table between the two meetings. What was not distributed after the Annual meeting was re-awarded for the Section meeting.]

- c. **Research grants – Joe Hannibal reported four grants were awarded in April 2015, totaling \$980 out of a potential \$2100.**

The Board discussed changes that might make the program more attractive to students including i. submittal by email rather than mail, and

ii. increasing the maximum individual award amount from \$300 to \$500, while keeping the maximum disbursement at \$2100.

It was moved and seconded to accept the changes above; the motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of the Section at the Business meeting of the Section on the evening of 19 May 2015.]

Reminders of the March 15th deadline will be sent to Campus Reps as in the past.

- d. The 2014 Annual Report of the Section to the GSA Council was distributed and it was noted that both the Annual Reports to Council and the Minutes of the Meeting were posted on the North-Central Section website which is a part of the Geological Society of America site.

7. **2016 Champaign report** – Steve Brown reported that organization of the meeting is proceeding well. Field trip and session proposals are strong, and the meeting theme will be celebration of 50 years of mid-continent geoscience. Some of the challenges of managing a meeting were discussed, such as how to encourage students to go on field trips (subsidies may work), and in light of the challenges organizers are facing with so many students presenting, how to judge student posters and talks in a consistent and meaningful way.

8. **Meetings 2017 and beyond** – Tim Fisher was brought on at the Vancouver meeting last fall as Co-Chair to join Patrick Burkhardt (NE Section). Burkhardt is serving as Technical Program Chair for the 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, so organizing for Pittsburgh will happen as the Baltimore meeting winds down. To a large degree 2017 will be a repeat of the 2011 joint meeting at the same location, so the wheel has already been invented.

2018 – GSA Councilor Bill Simpkins has been considering agreeing to host a meeting at Iowa State University in Ames.

9. Continuation of Student Funding and Transfer to GSA Foundation

The breakdown of student funding and transfers to the GSA Foundation in place from the 2014 meeting as they apply to FYE 2016 are as follow:

- I. **Student Awards and Grants (maximum to spend is \$11,100, which equals expectation of minimum revenue returned from section meeting).**

- a. **Travel Grants for fiscal year 2015-2016 – allocate up to \$6000 of Section funds (not counting GSACF match or meeting matching funds) for Baltimore Annual Meeting and Champaign Section meeting.**
- b. **Student Presentation awards for the 2016 Champaign meeting – allocate up to \$2000.**
- c. **Undergraduate Research Grants – allocate up to \$2100 for grants awarded Spring 2016.**
- d. **On To the Future (OTF) contribution – allocate up to \$1000 for fiscal year 2015-2016**

- II. **Allow the Executive Secretary to:**

- a. **expend up to \$6000 from section operating funds in the 2015-2016 fiscal year for Travel Grants (Ia).**
- b. **expend up to \$5100 from the Section Endowment in the 2015-2016 fiscal year for Presentation Awards, Undergraduate Research Grants, and OTF (Ib, Ic & Id), and**

- III. **Allocate up to \$20,000 as a transfer during fiscal year 2015-2016 to the North-Central Endowment Fund at the GSA Foundation if funds are available (this will depend on the financial success of the Madison meeting) and if the stock market is healthy.**

Williams proposed increasing the amount of funding disbursed from operating funds for travel grants. Currently, \$6000 is spent from the operating budget with 50% match by the GSA Foundation

plus a variable amount donated through the Annual Meeting early registration process. Concerns raised in general included the fact that each increase also increases the minimum net revenue required to be earned on each meeting, and that requests to fund HQ programs come about every year and may not benefit the section directly.

It was moved and seconded to disburse an additional \$2000 from the operating fund for travel grants; the motion was approved by a majority vote with one vote in opposition. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of the Section at the Business meeting of the Section on the evening of 19 May 2015.]

This approval plus the approval of 12a raises the revenue expected from each meeting to \$14,100, starting with the 2016 Champaign meeting.

10. GSA Matters – Hap McSween, GSA President, introduced Vicki McConnell, the new GSA Executive Director. Ms. McConnell's initial focus is to review headquarters programs. Together they touched on several items of note:

- a. GSA is moving toward Open Access journals and reviewing business practices to replace the revenue that the journal subscriptions bring in. The transition of journals to Open Access will be phased in over three years: 2017 - Geology becomes open access; 2018 - Geosphere and Lithosphere become open access; and 2019 - GSA Bulletin becomes open access. That schedule can be slowed, if necessary, in order to ensure financial stability.
- b. Membership dues will increase incrementally over two years, but will include Open Access.
- c. There is a new division – Karst Geology.
- d. The new Geologic Mapping award that will be awarded at the Annual meeting will be named after Florence Bascom.
- e. The Field Safety Policy is being implemented for GSA field trips in order to protect GSA from risk.

11. GSA Foundation matters – update on On To the Future (OTF) program.

Chris Tallackson relayed appreciation for the Section's support of the OTF program. 125 participants attended the Annual Meeting in Vancouver in the program's second year; 27 were from the North-Central Section. Between the first and second year, there was a 30% increase in applications; 23 mentors have been recruited to work with the participants.

12. Geology and Public Policy Committee report

Paul Doss reported on committee activities, including preparation of position statements, including the possibility (or not) of statements on induced seismicity, on energy, and on equitable teaching loads at universities. He also reported on meetings in Indiana and Minnesota and face to face meetings in Washington.

a. Request for funding to send student to Congressional Visits Day

Paul Doss and Kasey White proposed that the North-Central Section consider supporting a student to attend Congressional Visits Day in September, as other sections are doing. Doss anticipated that the cost would be \$700-800 for travel and lodging. The group discussed how to identify the student to send, and it was proposed to select from the presentation award winners, but not necessarily target specific topics/interests. There could perhaps be input from the student's faculty advisor before selection. Doss, White, and Williams will look at the award winners to identify a participant.

It was moved and seconded to support a student to travel to the Congressional Visits Day on behalf of the North-Central section, expending up to \$1000 from the section endowment. The motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of the Section at the Business meeting of the Section on the evening of 19 May 2015.] [Brent Silvis, a graduate student at the University of North Dakota was later selected.]

13. Student Advisory Council

Sara Fischer from Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne reported before the meeting

that she will not be able to serve the second year of her two year term as the North-Central Section student representative to the Student Advisory Council.

After discussion of how to fill her position and positions in the future, it was moved and seconded to 1) allow the Section Chair the discretion to choose a student, and 2) to make the student a non-voting member of the Management Board. These changes were approved unanimously and Chair Bahr will contact a student who was exemplary in helping organize the meeting to gauge her interest. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of the Section at the Business meeting of the Section on the evening of 19 May 2015.] [On May 20th, Elisabeth Schlaudt agreed to fill the role]

- 14. Proposed language to provide for removal of non-performing Board member. All Sections are considering this addition to bylaws:**

Removal of a Management Board Officer. Any officer who fails to perform the duties prescribed in the bylaws, or brings discredit to GSA or the Section in any way, may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the other officers of the management board. Any management board officer may make a motion for removal of another officer. The Section officer who is subject to a motion for removal must be provided an opportunity to respond and present an argument against removal prior to any vote on the motion.

It was moved and seconded to add this language to the Section bylaws; the motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of the Section at the Business meeting of the Section on the evening of 19 May 2015.]

- 15. Approval of incoming Management Board Member-at-Large for 2015-2018.**

C. Renee Sparks, currently at North Missouri State University but moving to Calvin College fall of 2015, was nominated to serve as member-at-large to replace Paul Hanson (2012-2015). It was moved and seconded to approve the nomination; the motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of the Section at the Business meeting of the Section on the evening of 19 May 2015.]

16. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Nancy S. Williams
Executive Secretary, North-Central Section
Geological Society of America