

**50th Annual North-Central Section Meeting
Minutes of the Management Board Meeting
Champaign, Illinois
18 April 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, 18 April 2016 in the Quad Room, I Hotel & Conference Center in Champaign, Illinois

1. Sixteen people were present in the room and introduced themselves: Steve Brown (Chair of this 50th Annual Meeting in Champaign, Illinois and Section Chair); Yu-Feng Forrest Lin (Vice-Chair of this 50th Annual Meeting in Champaign, Illinois in 2016 and Section Vice-Chair); Tim Fisher (Co-Chair of the 51st Annual Meeting joint with the Northeastern Section in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2017 and incoming Section Chair); Jean Bahr (Chair of the 49th Annual Meeting and past Section Chair); Bill Simpkins (GSA Councilor and Chair of the 52nd Annual Meeting in Ames, Iowa in 2018); Mike Phillips (Management Board member-at-large, 2013-2016 and past North-Central Representative, Committee on Geology and Public Policy 2011-2013); Ben Dattilo (Management Board member-at-large, 2014-2017); C. Renee Sparks (Management Board member-at-large, 2015-2018); Tina Niemi (Candidate for Management Board member-at-large, 2016-2019 and Co-Chair of the proposed 53rd Annual Meeting - Triple Joint with the Rocky Mountain and South-Central Sections in Manhattan, Kansas in 2019); Harry Jol (taking a role in the proposed 54th Annual Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota in 2020); Claudia Mora (GSA Vice-President and incoming President); Jack Hess (GSA Foundation President); Drew Phillips (Student Poster Judging Coordinator for this 50th Annual Meeting); Paul Doss (North-Central Representative, Committee on Geology and Public Policy and GPPC Committee Chair); Joe Hannibal (past North-Central Section executive secretary, 2005-2013 and Undergraduate Research Grants coordinator); and Nancy Williams (North-Central Section executive secretary).
2. **Meeting Agenda -**
It was moved and seconded that the meeting agenda be accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Minutes from 2015 -**
It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Management Board Meeting for the 49th Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section on 19 May 2015 in Madison, Wisconsin. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **Current Meeting Update -**
Chair Steve Brown reported on preliminary statistics (with 593 registrants as of this morning) and fiscal outlook (good) for the Champaign meeting. 385 papers and posters are being presented in 39 sessions (23 oral and 16 poster sessions). [Note: Final registration was 620 registrants excluding exhibitors (661 with exhibitors), and gross revenue was a little over \$85K. Two hotels were used, the I Hotel and Hawthorn Suites, with 210 and 317 room nights booked respectively.]
5. **Meeting/Event reminders -**
Attendees were reminded of the All Member Business meeting this evening from 5:30 to 5:45 in the Chancellor Ballroom, and of the North-Central GSA Meeting Planning and Technical Program Advisory Board Meeting and Campus Representatives recognition breakfast to be held on Tuesday here in the Quad Room at 7:00 am. All present were invited.
6. **Section Reports -**
 - a. Financials - Nancy Williams distributed financial reports that showed that the Section had a total of \$165,750.43 in its operating account at the end of March 2016 (including \$71,802 in deferred meeting revenue for the Champaign 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 2016 were \$281,410, up from \$265,365 at the beginning of the fiscal year in July 2015.

- b. Travel grants – Williams reported the following distribution of funding.
For the 2015 Annual Meeting in Baltimore:
- 100 grants were awarded (10 denied) at \$25-\$100 each (most for \$100) for a total of \$9,200.
 - \$8,200 was actually distributed after the meeting, so \$1000 was re-awarded for the Champaign meeting.
- For this section meeting:
- 40 grants were awarded (three denied), from \$50 to \$200 (most for \$150), for a total of \$5,425.
 - [Post meeting note - \$4,925 was actually distributed, so \$475 of funding was left on the table between the two meetings.]
- c. Undergraduate Research grants – Joe Hannibal reported four grant applications were received in March 2016, but one was late and without reference letters. The other three were awarded a total of \$1,350 out of a potential \$2100:
- Katy Reminga, Grand Valley State University, \$475
 - Jennifer McLeod, University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, \$475
 - John Malone, Augustana College, \$400)
- [Post meeting note – Lisa Haas, University of Wisconsin – Madison, followed up on her application in May 2016. It had not been received due to an incorrect email address on the application form, so her application was reviewed and she was awarded \$395, bringing the total to \$1,745.]
- d. Student Advisory Council (SAC) – Elisabeth Schlaudt, the North-Central Section representative, was not able to be at the Champaign meeting, so Jean Bahr reported on her behalf. The GSA Council voted at the 2015 Annual Meeting to include the Chair of the SAC as a full voting member of Council; the Chair also provides a report at Council meetings on SAC activities. Schlaudt is starting the second year of a two-year term and will rotate off at the 2017 Section meeting.
- e. Section Secretaries Meeting – The secretaries meet as a group at the GSA Annual Meeting and in conjunction with the Spring Council Meeting at GSA headquarters. In Baltimore, topics for discussion included identifying funding gaps that arise due to differences between sections in travel grant and research grant guidelines, the number of travel grants that are not signed for, comparison of funding for On To the Future and Congressional Visits Day, and the challenges in judging student presentations.
- f. The 2015 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 are posted on the North-Central Section website which is a part of the Geological Society of America site.
7. **2017 Pittsburgh Joint Northeastern and North-Central Section meeting update -**
Incoming Section chair Tim Fisher reported that organization of the meeting is proceeding well. To a large degree 2017 will be a repeat of the 2011 joint meeting at the same location, including Northeastern Section Meeting Chair Patrick Burkhart. The co-chairs have visited the Omni William Penn to address issues that were experienced during the meeting or reported by attendees in the post meeting survey. They will use Image AV's services as many section organizers are now. Attendance was 1575 in 2011, so they are aiming for more in 2017.
8. **Meetings 2018 and beyond –**
GSA Councilor Bill Simpkins formally proposed to hold the 2018 section meeting at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in mid-April. The idea was approved by the Management Board in October 2015.
9. **Proposals for future meetings –**
- Manhattan, KS (2019) – Matthew Kirk, Kansas State University, South-Central Section, has proposed a meeting to be held jointly with the North-Central Section and Rocky Mountain Section. This would be the first ever Triple-Joint meeting for GSA sections, and would logically be held at the new Manhattan Conference Center. Tina Niemi has agreed to take on the role of Co-Chair for North-Central section.
 - Duluth, MN (2020) – Harry Jol, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, presented on behalf of himself, Amy Myrbo of the University of Minnesota, and others, for a meeting in Duluth. The Duluth Entertainment Convention Center could be the location, and May would be logical for field trip planning.
- There was discussion of adding value to the meetings by creating field trips or stops at points of interest for travelers as they approach the meeting sites, especially with van loads of students. There is at least one app for this purpose, called Flyover Country.
- It was moved and seconded to approve both meeting proposals, and the motion passed unanimously.**

10. **GSA Matters –**

Claudia Mora, GSA Vice President and incoming President, brought information on GSA's financial status, upcoming policy changes, and deadlines. She touched on several items of note:

- GSA's progress toward Open Access journals is continuing with Geology due to become a member benefit with 2017 memberships, followed by Geosphere and Lithosphere in 2018, and GSA Bulletin in 2019.
- Financial adjustments in reaction to anticipated reduced revenue will come in the form of dues increases, sunseting programs, and evaluating whether to fill vacated positions.
- Another financial concern for the Society has been reduced income from GeoCorps™ due largely to the response of GSA and its partners to current labor law and new federal rules, which has increased program costs and thus reduced the revenue margin.
- GSA is continuing to work on language for a Code of Conduct that will include behavior and the reporting of observed incidents at meetings and on field trips. A large part of the need is to stem experienced and observed harassment that often has alcohol as a trigger.
- Dr. Mora reminded those in attendance to utilize Connected Community for communications, and to nominate or volunteer for GSA leadership positions.
- She thanked the section for its support of On To the Future and hoped the support would continue.

11. **GSA Foundation matters –**

Jack Hess, GSAF President, reported that the Foundation has a goal of raising 2.5 million this fiscal year to support Open Access and other programs. He also stressed ongoing support from sections for the On To the Future program, which cost approximately \$1500 per participant and has been growing steadily in its impact. He asked that local meeting committees keep GSAF in the loop when wooing meeting sponsors, in case there are relationships already in place.

12. **Geology and Public Policy Committee report -**

Paul Doss, the North-Central Section's representative to the committee, reported on the GPPC meeting held March 5-7 in Washington, DC. Minor revisions were approved on four position statements and a critical issue paper, and a final draft of a new Critical Issue paper on Induced Seismicity was approved. A position statement on Scientific Freedom was proposed and would join one on Energy under preparation. Doss reported on the planning underway for a Pardee session and a panel discussion for the Annual meeting in Denver. He also reported on the new GSA-USGS Congressional Science Fellow, visits to Capitol Hill, and the value of student involvement in congressional visits.

Brent Silvis, a graduate student at the University of North Dakota, was the first student to attend Geosciences Congressional Visits Day on behalf of the section and supplied a written report on his experience.

13. **Continuation of Student Funding and Transfer to GSA Foundation -**

No changes were proposed to the funding for this year.

1. Student Awards, Grants, and Support
 - a. Travel Grants for fiscal year 2016-2017 – allocate up to \$8000 of Section funds (not counting GSAF match or Annual Meeting matching funds) for Denver Annual Meeting and Pittsburgh Section meeting.
 - b. Student Presentation Awards for the 2017 Pittsburgh meeting – allocate up to \$2000.
 - c. Undergraduate Research Grants – allocate up to \$2100 for grants awarded Spring 2017.
 - d. On To the Future (OTF) contribution – allocate up to \$1000 for fiscal year 2016-2017
 - e. Congressional Visits Day student support – allocate up to \$1000 in September 2016
2. Allow the Executive Secretary to:
 - a. expend up to \$8000 from section operating funds in the 2016-2017 fiscal year for Travel Grants (1a).
 - b. expend up to \$6100 from the Section Endowment in the 2016-2017 fiscal year for Presentation Awards, Undergraduate Research Grants, OTF, and Congressional Visits Day (1b, 1c, 1d, & 1e), and
3. Allocate up to \$20,000 as a transfer during fiscal year 2016-2017 to the North-Central Endowment Fund at the GSA Foundation if funds are available (this will depend on the financial success of the Champaign meeting) and if the stock market is healthy.

It was moved and seconded to approve the funding as above, and 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 18 April 2016.]

14. Discussion of Student Presentation Awards process

The challenges of judging student posters and oral presentations has been an ongoing subject among section secretaries and local committees. It was raised vigorously during and after the 2015 Madison meeting because of the volume of student presentations.

While everyone understands the value of the program to the students (or at least the students who are aware that they are being judged), challenges include finding enough judges and ensuring a relatively consistent judging/rating of the presentations to make the awards meaningful.

Discussion produced new and fresh ideas for future committees to consider:

- having students opt in to the judging and awards,
- having a different format as a special event – TED talk style or flash/lightning talks,
- using super judges for the posters once the individual judges have made a first cut

15. Approval of incoming Management Board Member-at-Large for 2016-2018.

Tina M. Niemi, professor at University of Missouri – Kansas City, was nominated to serve as member-at-large to replace Michael Phillips (2013-2016). Dr. Niemi has also agreed to serve as the North-Central Section Co-Chair for the 2019 Triple Joint meeting with South-Central and Rocky Mountain sections, to be held in Manhattan, Kansas.

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 18 April 2016.]

16. Other Business was solicited, but there was none.

17. Executive Session – Submit nominees for GPPC.

Executive session was called to discuss the nominees for the North-Central Section Representative to the Geology and Public Policy Committee starting in July 2017, when Paul Doss is no longer Past-Chair of the committee and the section rep. There are two nominees. It was decided to provide both names to the GSA Nominating Committee, with a request that one be considered for a position as the section rep and the second be considered for an open, non-affiliated position on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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