51st Annual North-Central Section Meeting
Minutes of the Management Board Meeting
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
19 March 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday 19 March 2017 in the Franklin Room, Omni William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

1. Eighteen people were present and introduced themselves: Tim Fisher (Co-Chair of this 51st Annual Meeting with the Northeastern Section in Pittsburgh and Section Chair); Patrick Burkhart (Northeastern Section Co-Chair of this 51st Annual Meeting); Steve Brown (Chair of the 50th Annual Meeting in Champaign, Illinois and Section Past-Chair); Bill Simpkins (GSA Councilor and Chair of the 52nd Annual Meeting in Ames, Iowa in 2018); Alan Wanamaker (Vice-Chair of the 52nd Annual Meeting in Ames, Iowa in 2018); Ben Dattilo (Management Board member at large, 2014-2017); C. Renee Sparks (Management Board member at large, 2015-2018); Elisabeth Schlaudt (Section Representative on the GSA Student Advisory Council); DeAnn Frisk (52nd Annual Meeting in Ames, Iowa in 2018); Amy Myrbo (Chair of the 54th Annual Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota in 2020); Harry Jol (54th Annual Meeting in Duluth, Minnesota in 2020); Vicki McConnell (GSA Executive Director); Jon Price (GSA Past President); Steve Pollock (GSA Councilor, Section Liaison); Jack Hess (GSA Foundation President); Bill Tortorici (GSA Foundation, Assistant Director of Development); 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 2016 -
   It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Management Board Meeting for the 50th Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section on 18 April 2016 in Champaign Illinois. The motion passed unanimously to approve with correction of the financial and registration outcome of the Champaign meeting.

4. Current Meeting Update -
   Co-Chair Patrick Burkhart reported on preliminary statistics (with 1268 registrants as of this morning) and fiscal outlook (good) for the Pittsburgh meeting. 661 papers and posters are being presented in 75 sessions (39 oral and 36 poster sessions). Six field trips were offered and they all ran. The Exhibit Hall sold out, and the banquet has 120 registrants. [Note: Final registration was 1321, 130 banquet tickets.]

5. Meeting/Event reminders -
   Attendees were reminded of the All Member Business meeting Monday evening from 8:00-8:15 during the meeting banquet in the Urban Room, 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 Franklin 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 $82,314 in its operating account at the end of December 2016 (compared to $90,283 at the end of December 2015). 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 December 2016 were $321,230: up from $287,466 at the beginning of the fiscal year in July 2016, and up from $276,948 at the end of December 2015.
b. Travel grants – Williams reported the following distribution of funding.

2016 Denver Annual Meeting -
- $1,250 in available for Annual meeting donations in addition to what is available from the North-Central operating budget.
- 137 applications – 100 funded, 17 ineligible, 20 rejected.
- $7,650 awarded: 3@$50, 1@$210, 96@$75
- $6,685 signed for
- $6,685 minus the $1,250 = $5,435 available for GSAF match of $2,717.50

2017 Pittsburgh Section Meeting -
- $7,065 remaining to award
- 36 applications – 34 funded, 2 ineligible
- $6,400 awarded – 27@$200, 6@$150, 1@$100
- [All grants were signed for and will be mailed out]
- $1,782.50 still available in GSAF match

c. Undergraduate Research grants – Joe Hannibal reported six grant applications were received by the March 6th deadline. He will send them to the evaluating committee after this section meeting.

d. Student Advisory Council (SAC) – Elisabeth Schlaudt, the North-Central Section representative, reported on SAC activities. Those activities have focused on implementing the GSA Code of Conduct; improving communications between SAC members; clarifying and strengthening the SAC’s role in the GSA framework; and increasing the effectiveness of the Campus Representative network.

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. Steve Pollock, GSA Councilor and Council liaison to the Sections, reported on progress being made to update the 2005 Ad Hoc Committee on Sections Report to the President. The 2005 report was ‘commissioned’ in an effort to counteract dropping attendance at the section meetings. As in the 2005 report, the update looks at ways to continue beefing up the technical program and improve the Section meeting experience, but also reports on greatly increased and effective support from GSA headquarters staff.

f. The 2016 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. 2018 Ames North-Central Section meeting update -
Incoming Section chair Bill Simpkins reported that organization of the meeting at the Iowa State Scheman Center is proceeding well. A set of three courtesy blocks at hotels has been arranged and a shuttle will run at the beginning and end of the day. Field trips are coming together, and there will be a Keynote speaker.

8. Meetings 2019 and beyond –
- 2019 - Manhattan, Kansas, joint with South-Central. In the absence of the 53rd Annual Meeting Co-Chair, Tina Niemi, Williams reported on progress being made to develop the local committee and program.
- 2020 – Duluth, Minnesota. Amy Myrbo and Harry Jol reported on the venue - the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) - and organization of the 54th Annual Meeting.
- Other tentative meeting locations are Lexington, Kentucky in 2022, joint with the Southeastern Section; and Kansas City, Missouri, possibly joint with South-Central in 2023. Both would be the 20th anniversary of the last meetings in those locations.
9. A proposal to hold the 2021 meeting jointly with the University of Arkansas in (or near) Branson, Missouri was presented.
   It was moved and seconded to approve the meeting proposal 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 20 March 2017.]

10. **GSA Matters** –
    Jon Price, GSA Past President, brought information on GSA’s financial status, upcoming policy changes, and deadlines. He and Vicki McConnell touched on several items of note:
    - GSA got on board with the March for Science scheduled for April 22 after AAAS ensured that the movement would be crafted as non-partisan.
    - The GSA Code of Conduct has been approved and implemented. Anyone who registers for a meeting or for an event must click that they agree to abide by the code. RISE (Respectful Inclusive Scientific Events) signs that identify ‘safe persons’ for that meeting and provide instructions for making reports will be posted at all events.
    - Vicki McConnell thanked the section for its support of Geoscience Congressional Visits Day and On To the Future and hoped the support would continue.

11. **GSA Foundation matters** –
    Jack Hess, GSAF President, reported:
    - The Foundation also approved the Code of Conduct.
    - Contribution amounts are down per person, but more people are contributing.
    - GSAF is wrapping up Phase 1 of the Campaign for GSA’s Future, and moving on to the cultivation phase.
    - Five of six sections support On To the Future, which costs approximately $1500 per participant.
    - Remember to 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 until July, was not able to attend the meeting, but provided a written report on the GPPC meeting held March 4-6 in Washington, DC. Among other activities, GPPC approved minor revisions on nine position statements to be sent to Council. The statement on Geosciences and Energy Policy was approved and will be in *GSA Today* for member comment, and GPPC approved development of a proposal for a Position Statement: “Barriers to Career Progression for Women in Geosciences.”
    Pete Jenson, a recent graduate of Missouri State University, was the second student to attend Geosciences Congressional Visits Day on behalf of the section and spent well under the budgeted $1,000.

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 2017-2018 – allocate up to $8000 of Section funds (not counting GSAF match or Annual Meeting matching funds) for Seattle Annual Meeting and Ames Section meeting.
       b. Student Presentation Awards for the 2018 Ames meeting – allocate up to $2000.
       c. Undergraduate Research Grants – allocate up to $2100 for grants awarded Spring 2018.
       d. On To the Future (OTF) contribution – allocate up to $1000 for fiscal year 2017-2018
       e. Congressional Visits Day student support – allocate up to $1000 in September 2017
    2. Allow the Executive Secretary to:
       a. expend up to $8000 from section operating funds in the 2017-2018 fiscal year for Travel Grants (1a).
       b. expend up to $6100 from the Section Endowment in the 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 to the North-Central Endowment Fund at the GSA Foundation if funds are available (this will depend on the financial success of the Pittsburgh 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 20 March 2017.]

14. Discussion of Travel Grant application system
GSA staff are working with the Section secretaries to streamline the application submission process and make it easier for students to show up in the correct section’s list.

15. Discussion of balloting process
Should there be a more formal balloting process rather than the 15 minute All Member meeting – mailed ballots? Online balloting? Consensus was to not change anything at this time.

C. Brandon Curry was nominated to serve as member at large to replace Ben Dattilo (2014-2017).
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 20 March 2017.]

17. Approval of incoming North-Central Section Representative to the GSA Student Advisory Council for the term 2017-2019.
Melinda Higley was nominated to serve as Student Representative to replace Elisabeth Schlaudt (2015-2017).
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 20 March 2017.]

18. Approval of North-Central Section Executive Secretary for the term 2017-2021.
Nancy Williams was nominated to continue in the position for a second and final term.
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 20 March 2017.]

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

20. Executive Session – None needed

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

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