



**55th North-Central Section Meeting
Minutes of the Management Board Meeting
'in Springfield, Missouri' via Zoom
15 April 2021, 6:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. CDT on Thursday 15 April 2021 via Zoom three days before the virtual Joint Section meeting kicked off 'in Springfield, Missouri'.

Twenty two people were present and introduced themselves: **Douglas Gouzie** (Co-Chair of this 55th Annual Meeting held jointly and virtually with the South-Central Section 'in Springfield, Missouri', and Section Chair); **Karen Gran** (Chair of the 54th Annual Meeting held virtually 'in Duluth, Minnesota' and outgoing Past-Section Chair); **Craig Dietsch** (Co-Chair of the 56th Annual Meeting joint with Southeastern Section in Cincinnati, Ohio, 2022, and incoming Section Chair); **Dan Sturmer** (Co-Vice-Chair of the 56th Annual Meeting joint with Southeastern in Cincinnati, Ohio, 2022, and incoming Section Vice-Chair); **Tara Kneeshaw** (Chair of the 57th Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2023); **Virginia (Ginny) Peterson** (Vice-Chair of the 57th Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2023); **Luke Zoet** (Management Board member at large, 2018-2021); **Michael Wolf** (Management Board member at large, 2019-2022); **Melinda Higley** (Management Board member at large, 2020-2023); **Colin Roland** (outgoing Student Representative, 2019-2021); **Robby Goldman** (Representative to GSA Geology and Public Policy Committee, through 2023); **Ashley Burkett** (Section Undergraduate Research Grants administrator); **Vicki McConnell** (GSA Executive Director); **Debbie Marcinkowski** (GSA Foundation Development Director); **Nancy Williams** (outgoing North-Central Section Executive Secretary); **Tandis Bidgoli** (proposed North-Central Section Executive Secretary, 2021-2025); **Donald 'Zac' Wormington** (proposed Student Representative, 2021-2023); and GSA Meetings and Administrative staff: **Rebecca Fazzari**, **Nancy Wright**, **Lindsey Henslee**, **Audrey Huen**, and **Dominique Olvera**.

1. Meeting Agenda -

It was moved and seconded that the meeting agenda be accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Minutes from 2020 -

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Management Board Meeting for the 54th Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section held on 19 May 2020 virtually 'in Duluth, Minnesota. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

3. Current Meeting Update -

Doug Gouzie reminded the group that the switch to a virtual meeting was done before the end of 2020 in time to save the section about \$22K in cancellation fees and as long as an in-person meeting is then held in 2024 (the next open date for a North-Central meeting) the remaining \$38K venue cancellation fee will be avoided. Registration for this meeting that starts on the 18th is approximately 254 at this point, and four short courses and two half-day field trips, all virtual, will run. There will be 99 oral presentations and 68 poster presentations for a total of 167.

4. Reminder that the All-Member Business Meeting will be Monday, April 19 from 6:30 pm in the Spatial Chat Networking Event. Members will vote on recommendations presented by the Management Board, section members who have passed away will be remembered, recommendations

from this meeting will be voted on, and Doug Gouzie and Craig Dietsch (Cincinnati 2022) will provide meeting updates.

5. **GSA Matters** – Vicki McConnell reported that the decline in membership seems to have stabilized and that the number of manuscript submissions has increased, both good signs.
6. **GSA Foundation Matters** – Debbie Marcinkowski thanked the section for their \$3,500 donation to GSA Cares pandemic assistance to students and thanked the volunteers who evaluated the hundreds of GSA Cares applications – almost everyone who applied was helped. She also noted that the Foundation has been fortunate to see an uptick in repeat donors.
7. **Section Reports** - The section had 2,825 members as of 12/31/2020, down from 3,001 the year before.
 - a. **Financials** - Nancy Williams distributed financial reports showing that at the end of December 2020, the Section operating account had a balance of \$75,168 and the North-Central Section Endowment with the GSAF had a balance of \$481,002.
Previous calendar year end for comparison: the Section operating account had a balance of \$78,945 at the end of December 2019. The North-Central Section Endowment in the GSA Foundation had a balance at the end of December 2019 of \$438,949. Pandemic note: The endowment had dropped to \$379K at the end of March 2020 but rebounded to \$419K at the end of June 2020.
 - b. **Travel grants** – Because both the 2020 GSA Annual Meeting and this 2021 Section meeting are virtual, no travel grants have been awarded.
 - c. **Undergraduate Research grants** – Dr. Ashley Burkett, who is in her fourth year as Undergraduate Research Grants administrator, reported that eleven grant applications were received by the March 15th deadline, but that five were passed to the Northeastern Section. This issue of section choice by the submitter will be reviewed before the 2022 deadline. Awards are in the process of being finalized this week.
 - d. **Student Advisory Council (SAC)** – Collin Roland, the out-going North-Central Section representative for 2019-2021, reported on SAC activities and on the GSA COVID-19 response. SAC is still working to boost communication with students, especially in helping them identify grant opportunities through GSA.
 - e. **Geosciences Congressional Visits Day** – There was none held in 2020 and will not be one in 2021.
 - f. **Geology and Public Policy Committee Report** – Robert ‘Robby’ Goldman provided a report of the virtual meeting that he attended in February, including an update on policy statements that are in process or under revision.
 - g. **The 2020 Annual Report of the Section** - it was noted that both the Annual Reports to Council and the Minutes of the Management Board meetings are posted on the North-Central Section portion of the Geological Society of America Web site.

h. Meetings reports

- 56th Annual Meeting, 7-8 April 2022, joint with the Southeastern Section in Cincinnati, Ohio. Craig Dietsch reported that contracts are in place and plans well underway to start developing the program.
- 57th Annual Meeting, 2023, hosted by Grand Valley State University, represented by Tara Kneeshaw and Ginny Peterson. They reported on the progress being made toward the *Meeting in the Mitten*.
- Doug Gouzie confirmed that the 58th Annual Meeting will be back in Springfield, Missouri held jointly with the South-Central Section.

8. Continuation of Student Funding and Transfer to GSA Foundation -

Funding levels were proposed to remain the same as those approved in 2020:

1. Student Awards, Grants, and Support
 - a. Travel Grants for fiscal year 2021-2022 – allocate up to \$8,000 of Section funds (not counting GSAF match or Annual Meeting matching funds) for Portland Annual Meeting and Cincinnati Section meeting.
 - b. Student Presentation Awards for the 2022 Cincinnati meeting – allocate up to \$2,000
 - c. **Undergraduate Research Grants – allocate up to \$2100, with maximum individual grants of \$500) for grants awarded Spring 2022***
 - d. *On To the Future* (OTF) contribution – allocate up to \$1,500 for fiscal year 2021-2022
 - e. Congressional Visits Day student support – No support needed in 2021
2. Allow the Executive Secretary to:
 - a. expend up to \$8,000 from section operating funds in the 2021-2022 fiscal year for Travel Grants (1a)
 - b. expend up to \$6,600 from the Section Endowment in the 2021-2022 fiscal year for Presentation Awards, Undergraduate Research Grants, and OTF (1b, 1c, 1d, & 1e)
3. Allocate up to \$20,000 as a transfer during fiscal year 2021-2022 to the North-Central Endowment Fund at the GSA Foundation if funds are available (if at least \$5,000 is transferred, there is a \$5,000 GSAF match).

***It was discussed whether to increase the amount of the Undergraduate Research Grants (URGs). The North-Central Section pays out less than the other sections in URGs, and we have seen some increase in applications possibly due to raising the maximum individual grant amount from \$300 to \$500 while keeping the total at \$2,100 a couple of years ago. There was also discussion of providing a ‘larger than usual’ travel grant if the student was presenting their URG research at a GSA meeting.**

It was moved and seconded to raise the URG funding to ‘up to \$4,000’ total per year, with \$750 maximum individual grant, and \$250 in travel grants earmarked for those presenting at a GSA meeting, and the motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of the Section at the Annual All Member meeting on 19 April 2021 during the virtual Section meeting.]

It was moved and seconded to approve the funding proposal as amended, and the motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by voice vote of the membership of

the Section at the Annual All Member meeting on 19 April 2021 during the virtual Section meeting.]

9. Approval of incoming Management Board Member at Large for the term 2021-2024.

William Elliott, University of Southern Indiana, was nominated to serve as member at large to replace Luke Zoet (2018-2021).

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 Annual All Member meeting on 19 April 2021 during the virtual Section meeting.]

10. Approval of incoming Student Member at Large for the term 2021-2023.

Donald 'Zac' Wormington, Missouri State University, was nominated to serve as Student Member at Large to replace Colin Roland (2019-2021).

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 Annual All Member meeting on 19 April 2021 during the virtual Section meeting.]

11. Approval of incoming Section Executive Secretary for the term 2021-2025 with possibility of a second four-year term.

Tandis Bidgoli, University of Missouri was nominated to serve as Executive Secretary to replace Nancy Williams (2013-2021).

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 Annual All Member meeting on 19 April 2021 during the virtual Section meeting.]

12. It was noted that GSA expects the North-Central Section to nominate a Councilor to serve as Section Liaison to Council by 1 June 2021, and to nominate a Representative to the Education Committee by 15 May 2021.

13. Executive Session – None needed

Respectfully submitted by:

Tandis Bidgoli, Executive Secretary, North-Central Section, Geological Society of America, and Nancy Williams Past Executive Secretary, North-Central Section, Geological Society of America