



NORTH-CENTRAL SECTION THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Report to Council, Presented October 2021
Fiscal Year July 2010– June 2021

Summary, the State of the Section:

Membership in the North-Central Section stood at 2,825 voting members of the Section as of December 2020. The Section is the fourth largest of the six GSA Sections.

2021-2022 Management Board:

Craig Dietsch, Chair, University of Cincinnati
Daniel M. Sturmer, Vice-Chair, University of Cincinnati
Tandis Bidgoli, Executive Secretary, University of Missouri
Douglas R. Gouzie, Past-Chair, Missouri State University
Kevin L. Mickus, Past-Vice-Chair, Missouri State University
Lucas K. Zoet, Outgoing Member at Large 2018-2021, University of Wisconsin – Madison
Michael B. Wolf, Member at Large 2019-2022, Augustana College
Melinda C. Higley, Member at Large 2020-2023, Calvin University
William S. Elliott, Incoming Member at Large 2021-2024, University of Southern Indiana
Donald (Zac) Wormington, Student Representative, 2021-2023 Missouri State University
Nancy Williams, Past Secretary 2021-2022
Robert T. Goldman, Representative to GPPC, 2019-2023, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Financial Summary

Section Operating Account

The financial security of the Section remains strong despite the global Covid-19 pandemic that dominated the last year and a half. The spring meeting generally generates the largest chunk of income for the section, but there was no income from the 2020 spring meeting ‘in Duluth’ - the first that went virtual. See the table in **Scientific Meetings Program** section below for detail on net income returned to the Section.

The operating account balance at the beginning of FY2021 was **\$74,983**. Total section **revenue was \$39,178** including section dues, meeting revenue, and investment/dividend income. There were no transfers from GSAF/GSA. **Expenses were \$34,617**, including meeting expenses, and grants and awards. There were no transfers to the Section endowment held by the GSA Foundation. **Last year’s revenue was \$14,637 with no meeting revenue, and expenses were \$21,888 with minimal meeting expense of \$520**. At the end of FY2021 the **operating account balance was \$79,544 for a net gain of \$4,561 (see chart below)**. The intention is always to have assets to cover the cost of one typical-sized Section meeting plus operating costs, and of providing stability and ensuring continuity of Section activities. Support for student programs and generally, spring meeting costs comprise most of the expenditures of the Section.

The Section has allocated up to \$15,500 for FY2022 in Section funds to be used for:

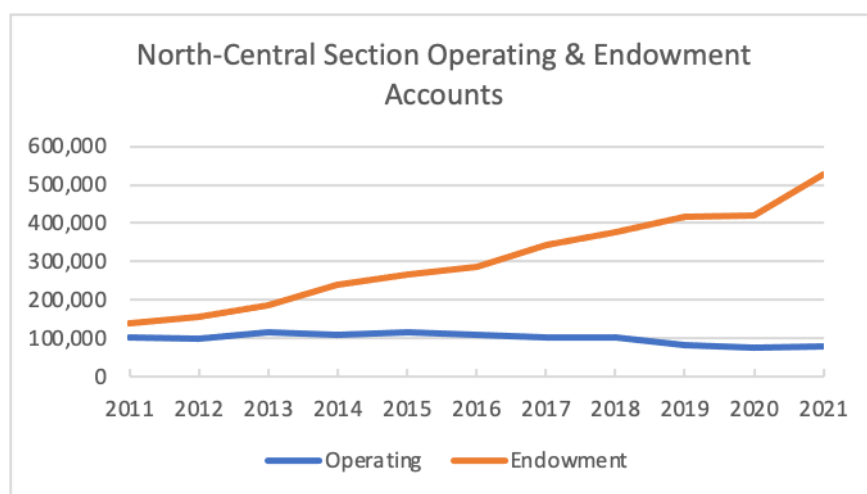
- Student travel grants – up to \$8,000, which is then increased by partial match from GSAF.
- Student paper awards for Section meeting – up to \$2,000.
- Undergraduate research grants – up to \$4,000 total with maximum of \$750 per grant, plus an ‘enhanced’ travel grant of up to \$250 for presenting the research results. This is an increase from a total of \$2,100 with maximum of \$500 per grant.
- Support for *On to the Future*, up to \$1,500.

During the past few years, the section has supported a student with up to \$1,000 to attend Geosciences Congressional Visits Day, (Geo-CVD), but that event will not take place in 2021, so no funding will be needed.

The dues income for the Section (\$2,955 in FY2021) covers the general operating costs of the Section but is not sufficient to support these programs; each section meeting is budgeted to return a minimum of \$14,000 net income to the section to accomplish this support. This did not happen with the 2020 or 2021 meetings, but no travel grants were expended in FY2021 or the previous spring.

Section Endowment

The Section has increased its endowment over the years. Every year since 2011, a maximum contribution of \$20,000 has been approved for each fiscal year. The growth of the endowment can be seen below. In FY2019, \$20,000 was transferred into the endowment, and the funds had grown to \$417,649 by end of fiscal year. In FY2020, only \$5,000 was transferred into the endowment due to lack of meeting revenue, and in FY2021 no transfer was made. Covid-19 dropped the funds during the spring (\$378,685 at the end of March), but the endowment had rebounded to \$418,868 by end of FY2020, and has done well during FY2021, ending at \$526,628:



Scientific Meetings Program:

2021: The 55th Annual Meeting was held April 18-20 jointly with the South-Central Section's 55th Annual Meeting, virtually 'from Springfield, Missouri'. The following report was supplied by Doug Gouzie, Chair.

Overview- In general, it was a successful meeting especially given the constraints of a COVID-19 pandemic. Like the Duluth 2020 meeting, Springfield 2021 was initially planned with all hopes and intentions being to hold an in-person meeting. Unfortunately, rising Covid case numbers across the US caused a pivot in December 2020 for all spring GSA Section meetings and so plans were made to shift Springfield (MO) 2021 to a fully Virtual meeting. Initial steps included agreeing to hold another Joint Section meeting in Springfield in 2024 (next available North-Central scheduling date) so that local hotel would waive the cancellation fee (approximately \$38,000) and roll-over the hotel/conference center contract to 2024. We also were able to benefit from the Virtual meeting experience of Duluth 2020 in making our pivot (plus having a longer lead time than Duluth did in 2020). As a result of this advantage from previous experience, a great Joint Meeting team, and the excellent support from GSA Meetings Staff, we were able to make a pivot and hold a successful meeting (as evidenced by roughly a \$14,000 budget surplus).

Details: The Virtual meeting was held the same dates originally planned/ announced for the in-person meeting – Sunday April 18 – Tuesday April 20 (with Field Trips and Short Courses on Saturday, April 17).

The Session and Events schedule was:

Saturday (April 17)

2 half-day Field Trips (half-day due to Virtual, no travel time needed!)

4 Short Courses/ Workshops (1 for students only)

Sunday (April 18)

1 GSA student Geo-Career workshop

1 Mentor 'Lunch'

2 Discipline Sessions (Oral)

2 Theme sessions (Oral)

Monday (April 19)

1 Mentor 'Lunch'

1.5 Discipline sessions (1 half-day session, 1 'quarter' day session)

6.5 Theme sessions (6 half-day sessions, 1 'quarter' day session)

1 poster session

Tuesday (April 20)

1 Poster session

3 Theme sessions (half-day of meeting)

This was a total of: **99 Oral** presentations + **68 Poster** presentations = **167 total presentations**

Meeting Registration was: **294 total**, broken down into these categories:

117 Students

106 Professionals

28 Early Career professionals

27 VIPs/Guests

14 GSA Staff

2 K-12 teachers

Meeting attendance was approximately 59% North-Central and 39% South Central with another 1-2% being from various other regions or not identified.

Overall, the meeting drew perhaps only about half of what recent in-person Section meetings might have drawn (294 total rather than maybe 600-700 attendees), however the reduced costs of the Virtual platform (good pricing negotiated with Confex by GSA-HQ staff) and the enthusiastic support of those Session Chairs, Trip Leaders, and Short Course leaders who did embrace the pivot to Virtual meetings meant that the meeting did result in a funding surplus (receipts – expenses) of almost \$14,000. Of this surplus, the North Central Management Board decided to split the surplus evenly (50-50% - rather than the attendee 59%-41% of the joint section contract) in an effort to support the South-Central region after their spring 2020 meeting had not generated a surplus.

As a result, the Springfield 2021 meeting ended up with nearly 300 satisfied attendees and generated a surplus of \$7344.50 for the North Central Section budget.

Success of recent meetings is shown below.

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Location and dates	19–20 May, Madison	18–19 April, Champaign	19–21 March, Pittsburgh; joint w/NE	6–17 April, Ames	25-27 March, Manhattan; joint w/SC & RM	18-19 May, Virtually 'from Duluth'	18-20 April, Virtually 'from Springfield, MO'; joint w/ SC
Attendance	705	619	1345	607	642	No paid reg	294
Net Income	\$27,278	\$21,072	\$19,031	\$11,518.19.	\$7,052	-\$520	\$7,345*

*This revenue differs from that provided by GA Finance and is being reviewed.

Future Meetings: A 2022 meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, joint with the Southeastern Section is confirmed, venues contracted, and local committees formed. A 2023 meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan hosted by Grand Valley State University is organizing, and in 2024, the meeting will be back in Springfield, Missouri jointly with South-Central, this time in person:

Date	Location	Local Chair(s)	Joint with
7-8 April 2022	Cincinnati, OH	Craig Dietsch	SE
2023	Grand Rapids, MI	Tara Kneeshaw	-
(T) 21-23 April 2024	Springfield, MO	Doug Gouzie	SC

Professional Development/Awards/Membership and Student Involvement:

The Section's primary Awards and Professional Development Programs are targeted to increase student involvement. Student attendance at Section meetings continues to be substantial and has increased during the last few years of in-person meetings. Student attendance at meetings since 2009 has ranged from 43% (Branson 2010) to 56% (Pittsburgh 2017). Students composed about 53% of the attendees at the last in-person meeting, the Triple Joint meeting in Manhattan, Kansas in 2019.

Travel Grants Program:

No travel grants were disbursed in FY2021, because there were no in-person meetings.

The Section's travel grants support student attendance with the help of a \$4,500 match by the GSA Foundation. The Section voted in 2015 to increase the amount of operating funds to be disbursed for travel grants from \$6000 to \$8000. The funding also provides partial support to a student to represent the Section on the Student Advisory Council (SAC) and travel to the Annual Meeting. From 2014 through FY2017, the North-Central Section also supported the *On To the Future* program through the GSA Foundation with \$1,000 annually. The amount was increased to \$1,500 starting in FY2018.

Student Paper/Poster Awards: Sixteen students were awarded a total of \$2,000 for poster and oral presentations at the 2021 Springfield meeting – one first place (\$200) and three honorable mentions (\$100 each) in each category for undergraduates and graduates.

Geoscience Congressional Visits Day: In 2015, the Section first approved covering some costs, up to \$1,000, for a student to travel to Congressional Visits Day in September. This funding was continued for Geo-CVD 2019 for our fifth student to participate. A student was not selected for the 2020 virtual Geo-CVD, and no Geo-CVD will be held in 2021.

Mentor Programs and Career Planning: The Roy J. Shlemon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience and the John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program are provided through GSA headquarters at the Section Annual meetings, and in 2021, as in 2020, the mentor programs and Geo-career workshops were successfully held virtually.

Research Grants Program:

The Section initiated a competitive Research Grants Program for undergraduate student members in 1993. Grant application forms and procedures were developed and have been refined over time. The maximum amount of an individual grant was limited to \$300. Eleven grants were awarded in FY2011 for a total of \$2,100. In FY2012, four grants were awarded for a total of \$1,150; in FY2013, three grants were awarded totaling \$900. In FY2014, four grants were awarded totaling \$940. Though marketing was increased to build awareness of the grants, in FY2015 four grants totaling \$980 were awarded. At the 2015 Section meeting, the Management Board approved increasing the maximum for each award from \$300 to \$500, while keeping the total available for grants at \$2100. In 2016 three students were awarded a total of \$1,080. 2017 saw \$2,000 awarded to six students. Last year \$2,100 was awarded to five students in varying amounts from \$100 to \$500. In spring of 2019, \$2,000 was awarded to nine students in amounts varying from \$200 to \$350. In spring of 2020, four \$500 grants were awarded.

In spring of 2021, \$2,100 was awarded to six students in amounts varying from \$150 to \$500:

- **Sydney Benson, Winona State**
- **Lauren Breederland, Wheaton College**
- **Cameron Essex, Illinois State University**
- **Thomas Hebert, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire**
- **Stephanie Mounce, Miami University**
- **Anna Richey, Missouri State University**

At the 2021 Annual Section meeting, it was voted to raise the annual funding for undergraduate research grants to a maximum of \$4,000 with up to \$750 for each grant.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy S. Williams, Past Executive Secretary, North-Central Section

Tandis Bidgoli, Executive Secretary, North-Central Section