



54th North-Central Section Meeting Minutes of the Management Board Meeting Duluth, Minnesota via GoToMeeting 19 May 2020

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. CDT on Tuesday 19 May 2020 via GoToMeeting during the virtual meeting in Duluth, Minnesota.

Twenty two people were present and introduced themselves: **Karen Gran** (Chair of this 54th Annual Meeting virtual ‘in Duluth, Minnesota’ and Section Chair); **Harry Jol** (Vice-Chair of this 54th Annual Meeting virtual ‘in Duluth, Minnesota’ and Section Vice-Chair); **Doug Gouzie** (Co-Chair of the 55th Annual Meeting joint with South-Central in Springfield, Missouri, 2021 and incoming Section Chair); **Craig Dietsch** (Co-Chair of the 56th Annual Meeting joint with Southeastern in Cincinnati, Ohio, 2022); **Tara Kneeshaw** (Chair of the proposed 57th Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2023); **Tina Niemi** (Co-Chair of the 53rd Annual Meeting, held 3x joint with Rocky Mountain and South-Central sections in Manhattan, Kansas, 2019, and past Section Chair); **B. Brandon Curry** (Management Board member at large, 2017-2020); **Luke Zoet** (Management Board member at large, 2018-2021); **Michael Wolf** (Management Board member at large, 2019-2022); **Colin Roland** (Section Representative on the GSA Student Advisory Council, 2019-2021); **Robby Goldman** (Representative to GSA Geology and Public Policy Committee, through 2020 and proposed to be reappointed through 2023); **Ashley Burkett** (Section Undergraduate Research Grants administrator); **Don Siegel** (GSA President); **Vicki McConnell** (GSA Executive Director); **Jack Hess** (GSA Foundation President); **Melinda Higley** (to be voted incoming Management Board member at large, 2020-2023); and **Nancy Williams** (North-Central Section Executive Secretary). Also attending were 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 2019 -

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Management Board Meeting for the 53rd Annual Meeting of the North-Central Section on 25 March 2019 in Manhattan, Kansas. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

3. Current Meeting Update -

Karen Gran reported on the very short timeline of switching to a virtual meeting. The in-person meeting was cancelled by GSA on March 17th. After polling the presenters and session chairs, the organizing committee decided to go forward with a revised virtual meeting, making North-Central Section the only section to do so. That decision was announced on April 17th.

No costs were incurred for cancelled contracts, including the A/V contract, conference center contract, and hotel contracts. GSA absorbed the costs of running the virtual meeting - Confex, etc. The only costs incurred by the section were the production of the meeting program pdf (~\$500), but none were printed.

Of the 333 abstracts originally submitted, almost 140 provided submissions for the virtual meeting. One short course ran, along with the student career workshops and mentor programs. Don Siegel presented his Presidential Keynote. We are not attempting an 'onsite' All Members business meeting – the normal voting will be handled during post-meeting balloting. [For a full report on the virtual meeting, please see the 2020 Section Report to Council on the North-Central Section website.]

4. **GSA Matters** – Don Siegel and Vicki McConnell spoke of:

- GSA's appreciation of North-Central's quick transition to virtual meetings after the South-Central was the only 2020 section meeting to be held in person. Siegel enjoyed doing his address at this meeting, even remotely, and commented on the interaction that was still possible with virtual presentations.
- The planning for the 2020 Montreal Annual meeting in the fall is being planned as flexible to lock in early whether it will be virtual or live.
- Discussion of how event fees would be structured in the future in the case of virtual-only meetings – McConnell is looking at various business models and stressed that even though GSA covered the platform costs of the spring section meetings, that cost would need to be factored into future meeting budgets – don't give it away for 'free' because it's not.
- The RISE program will be in effect for all GSA events. As part of that, a new GSA policy will be that there are no alcoholic beverages available/allowed in technical sessions, including posters.

5. **GSA Foundation Matters** –

- Jack Hess thanked the section for its ongoing support for *On To the Future* which helps underrepresented students attend the annual meeting.
- He reported that the Annual Campaign is running ahead of projections at \$6.3 million.
- The GSAF change in leadership happens this summer with Dr. Chris Maples coming in July 1st as President and Hess retiring July 12th.
- Hess said that a new initiative – GSA CARES – is quickly ramping up to assist GSA student members affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to raise \$50K from donors to add to \$50K each from GSA and GSAF to distribute to students who apply to the fund. Hess asked that our section donate to the fund, given that we are not disbursing travel grants this spring and, as an example, said another section had pledged \$3,000.

It was moved and seconded to donate \$3,000 - \$4,000, and the motion passed unanimously. [\$3,500 was donated.]

6. **Section Reports** -

- a. **Financials** - Nancy Williams distributed financial reports that showed that at the end of March 2020, the Section operating account had a balance of \$88,373 and the Endowment with the GSAF had a balance of \$378,685.

End of December two-year comparisons: The Section operating account had a balance of \$78,945 at the end of December 2019 (compared to \$94,296 at the end of December 2018). The Financial Activity Summary for the North-Central Section Endowment in the GSA Foundation showed a balance at the end of December 2019 of \$438,949, up from \$360,540 at the end of December 2018.

- b. **Travel grants** – Williams reported the following distribution of funding.

For the 2019 Annual meeting in Phoenix, 92 students applied for travel grants and requested almost \$73,000.

- Eight applicants were not eligible, 84 were eligible and were awarded \$8,150 - five @ \$50, 74 @ \$100, and \$300 to support our Student Rep.

- Signed for and disbursed after the meeting was \$7,950, which left approximately \$5,800 for the Duluth meeting travel grants. \$3,525 was contributed by GSAF for the 50% match.

For the 2020 Section meeting in Duluth, five students applied for grants before the meeting was virtualized.

- c. **Undergraduate Research grants** – Dr. Ashley Burkett, who is in her third year as Undergraduate Research Grants administrator, reported that five grant applications were received by the March 15th deadline, but that one was passed to the Northeastern Section. Four were each awarded \$500:
 John Pogalz, University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh
 Daniel Shi, University of Missouri
 Jessica Patrick, Miami University
 Adam Schmidt, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
- d. **Student Advisory Council (SAC)** – Collin Roland, the North-Central Section representative for 2019-2021, reported on SAC activities and their work on student programming and on the GSA COVID-19 response. They are looking at the role of students as a whole in the Society, and how best to communicate with them.
- e. **Geosciences Congressional Visits Day** – Eric Schuemann from Grand Valley State, our 2019 student CVD representative, provided a written report detailing his experience. His takeaway: *I am extremely grateful that I had this opportunity and would highly recommend it to anyone from a geoscience background with an interest in science policy. Washington is a mesmerizing place, and the chance to experience “how the sausage is made” firsthand was unique and fulfilling. The work we do as scientists depends so much on the allocation of resources provided by public funds, and this was an opportunity to contribute to that pipeline.*
- f. **Geology and Public Policy Committee Report** – Robert ‘Robby’ Goldman provided a written report of the meeting that he attended in Washington D.C in February. He
- g. The **2019 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 Management Board meetings are posted on the North-Central Section portion of the Geological Society of America Web site.
- h. Meetings reports
 - 55th Annual Meeting, 18-20 April 2021, joint with South-Central, in Springfield, Missouri. Doug Gouzie reported that the pandemic and associated closures/ordinances will be watched closely, and plans modified to be nimble and flexible on format. Contracts will be reviewed for cancellation dates/costs incurred.
 - 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.
 - 57th Annual Meeting, Grand Valley State University, represented by Tara Kneeshaw, submitted a written proposal to hold the meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan (*Meeting in the Mitten*).
It was moved and seconded that the meeting proposal be accepted, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

Funding levels were proposed to remain the same as those approved in 2019:

1. Student Awards, Grants, and Support
 - a. Travel Grants for fiscal year 2020-2021 – allocate up to \$8,000 of Section funds (not counting GSAF match or Annual Meeting matching funds) for Montreal Annual Meeting and Springfield Section meeting.
 - b. Student Presentation Awards for the 2021 Springfield meeting – allocate up to \$2,000
 - c. Undergraduate Research Grants – allocate up to \$2100 for grants awarded Spring 2021
 - d. *On To the Future* (OTF) contribution – allocate up to \$1,500 for fiscal year 2020-2021
 - e. Congressional Visits Day student support – No support needed in 2020
2. Allow the Executive Secretary to:
 - a. expend up to \$8,000 from section operating funds in the 2020-2021 fiscal year for Travel Grants (1a)
 - b. expend up to \$6,600 from the Section Endowment in the 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 to the North-Central Endowment Fund at the GSA Foundation if funds are available.

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 ballot of the membership of the Section in September 2020.]

8. Approval of incoming Management Board Member at Large for the term 2020-2023.

Melinda Higley was nominated to serve as member at large to replace B. Brandon Curry (2017-2020).

It was moved and seconded to approve the nomination; the motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by ballot of the membership of the Section in September 2020.]

9. Approval of continuation of Section Representative on the Geology and Public Policy Committee.

Interim representative Robert ‘Robby’ Goldman was nominated to continue as representative until June 2023.

It was moved and seconded to approve the nomination; the motion passed unanimously.

10. Approval of Bylaws – Revision has continued via email discussion since the 2019 Section Annual Meeting and the final draft was presented for approval.

It was moved and seconded to approve the nomination; the motion passed unanimously. [This item was voted on and approved by ballot of the membership of the Section in September 2020.]

11. Other Business – Williams noted that her second term ends next year and a replacement will be needed.

12. Executive Session – None needed

Respectfully submitted by:

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