

# Minutes: IAMG of combined Outgoing/Incoming Council Meeting via GoToMeeting - 2020-Sept-01 900h-1200h (UTC-4)

Present

## **Outgoing Council**

Present: Jennifer McKinley (President)  
Qiuming Cheng (Past President)  
Raimon Tolosana-Delgado (Vice-President)  
David Collins (Treasurer)  
Eric Grunsky (Secretary General, EIC Applied Computing & Geosciences)  
K. Gerald van den Boogaart (Councilor)  
Guillaume Caumon (Councilor)  
Jaime Gómez Hernández (Councilor)  
Roussos Dimitrakopoulos (EIC - Mathematical Geosciences)

## **Incoming Council**

Peter Dowd (President)  
Juliana Leung (Secretary General)  
Madalyn Blondes (Treasurer)  
Jie Zhao (Councilor)  
Karel Hron (Councilor)  
Natalie Caciagli (Councilor)  
Pauline Collon (Councilor, EIC Computers & Geosciences)  
Renguang Zuo (Councilor)

A quorum was attained for both Councils

## **Agenda**

1. Welcome to the new incoming Council
2. President's report (Jennifer McKinley).
3. Secretary General's report (Eric Grunsky)
4. Treasurer's report (David Collins) (**require motion**)
5. Publications Committee reports (journals, newsletter, website)
6. Record of Changes to IAMG Statutes/Bylaws
7. Record of Executive, Council and General Assembly Meetings
8. Awards Committee report
9. Lectures Committee report
10. Student Affairs Committee report
11. Meetings Committee report
12. Outreach Committee report (MOUs and sponsorship)
13. Update on IAMG Encyclopedia project
14. Archivist Report
15. Other business

Motion to approve the agenda by David Collins, seconded by Eric Grunsky. Carried.

Meeting commenced 0900h Eastern Daylight Time (Canada)

## Outstanding Action Items

### Welcome to the new incoming Council (Jennifer McKinley)

The IAMG President, Jennifer McKinley, congratulated the incoming Council for their successful election to the Council. The President reflected on the past IAMG meetings of 2017, 2018 and 2019 and how each meeting was a great gathering of IAMG members to share their knowledge within a close-knit community. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has been significant for the IAMG community and resulted in the postponement of the IAMG 2020/36<sup>th</sup> IGC. IAMG award winners were significantly affected by the pandemic and the IAMG is investigating ways to profile them through virtual meetings and presentations.

The success of the IAMG 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Handbook was noted. The open access publication has been downloaded more than 600,000 times.

The President noted that the IAMG has a greater presence of women in geoscience along with a corresponding increase in responsibilities.

The IAMG has recently made a “values statement” against racism in all forms and there is a need to engage in much broader diversity within the organization.

The IAMG meetings that were originally scheduled for 2021 and 2022 have been re-scheduled for 2022 and 2023 respectively. The future of annual meetings as “virtual” meetings is something that should be considered.

The updating of the IAMG website is becoming an issue. With the rapid changes in social media and website design/integration has created problems in the management of the IAMG website.

The President, advised that she is still participating in the Deep Time Digital Earth (DDE) program using funding that has been obtained through outside initiatives.

The President advised that she has been nominated to run for election on the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) council.,

### Secretary General’s report (Eric Grunsky)

The Secretary General stated that the collated reports of the Council and Committees contained the minutes of past Executive and Council meetings. The inclusion of these minutes were provided to assist the incoming Council in the identification of priority issues to address and to provide some historical context of the past Council.

### Treasurer’s report (David Collins) (**require motion**)

The Treasurer reported that the IAMG currently has assets valued at 1,237,000 USD (2020), which is down from previous (December 31, 2019) assets of 1,349,000. This is entirely due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent fluctuation of the market value of IAMG holdings.

The accounting of the IAMG financial records indicated a discrepancy of \$1,400 USD, which has not been explained.

The Treasurer reported that the IAMG is in good financial shape. Anticipated expenses have been less than initially budgeted due to limitations on the organization of conferences, attendance at conferences and associated travel.

The Treasurer reported that the royalty payments for the IAMG journal Computers & Geosciences, Elsevier, were missed for the first half of 2020. Subsequent correspondence with Paul Cumine, the Earth Sciences Publisher for Elsevier resulted in the payment of these royalties.

The Treasurer reminded the Council that each year, the IAMG must provide \$10,000 USD for research scholarships and grants from funds provided by the Computers & Geosciences royalties.

The Treasurer inquired on the status of royalty payments within the current contract between Elsevier and the IAMG for Computer & Geosciences.

A subsequent follow-up from the Secretary General, discovered that in April 2016, Paul Cumine, the Publisher for Computers & Geosciences, provided the following statement:

Contract between IAMG and Elsevier:

*"The current 3 year contract (attached) ends this December, but it automatically rolls on for successive 1 year periods. As of 2017 the \$70,000 fixed royalty increases by 2.5% per year, making 2017 total \$71,750 (in 4 equal instalments)."*

As required for each annual Council meeting, a motion is required to approve the budget, presented by the Treasurer.

**Motion** (Eric Grunsky): Approve the IAMG budget for 2021 as provided by the IAMG Treasurer.

**Motion seconded** by Gerald van den Boogaart

## **Discussion**

It was noted that ~\$11,000 USD were allocated to cover expenses due to cancellations of accommodation and travel to the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC.

Qiuming Cheng pointed out that the IGC has been postponed until 2021 and that the IUGS is in the process of providing reimbursements for expenses incurred. The IUGS is developing a new plan for the 36<sup>th</sup> IGC conference, which will be held in August 2021.

Qiuming Cheng, also noted that the IAMG has been generous in providing a budget of \$20,000 USD to the IUGS president. Qiuming advised the Council that he was able to obtain financial support through other mechanisms and that the allocated funds had not been used. Qiuming also expressed gratitude to the IAMG for the support.

The Treasurer advised the incoming Council that the IAMG will be incorporating in order to limit personal liability to the officers and other members of the Association. The current Treasurer will execute the incorporation under the laws of the state of Kansas, USA. A vote from the general membership is not required. Incorporation of the IAMG does not require a change in the IAMG statutes or bylaws.

Incorporation of the IAMG indemnifies the officers and other members of the Association except in cases of willful negligence or misconduct.

The Treasurer recommended that the mailing address of the IAMG be changed according to the location of the current Treasurer. The incoming Treasurer, Madalyn Blondes will arrange for the transfer of the IAMG mailing address. The IAMG President brought up the previous discussion, by Council, about

establishing and Advisory Board for the finances. The outgoing and incoming Treasurers will cooperate in the establishment of this board.

The incoming Treasurer, Madalyn Blondes, advised that the current banking and investment accounts will remain as currently established.

The incoming President, Peter Dowd, supports the need for an Advisory Board to work with the Treasurer. The Advisory Board should have the past-Treasurer as a member.

Qiuming Cheng stated that it is useful to have the Advisory Board to explore opportunities for new income and the preparation of the annual budget.

**Motion - to approve the 2021 Budget- - carried.**

The Treasurer noted (after the motion was passed) that it would be prudent for the IAMG to provide the US Internal Revenue Service with the updated Statutes and Bylaws and its incorporation.

### Publications Committee reports (journals, newsletter, website)

Jaime Gómez Hernández summarized the report from the Publications Committee. IAMG publications are doing well, but there is always room for improvement. Jaime highlighted the discussion on Open Access journals and publications. This issue was extensively debated in the Publications Committee along with the idea that IAMG publications should be independent from commercial publishers. There is uncertainty about the future discussions and contracts with Elsevier.

Guillaume Caumon discussed the results of a survey to the IAMG memberships on a publication strategy for the IAMG. The survey included questions on the use of commercial publishers and open access policies. The results of the survey will be released at a future date.

Karel Hron asked whether there was already some discussion on how to update the IAMG website.

Jaime stated that no details were available on how the website should be updated.

The Treasurer advised that there was not item in the budget for website modifications. However, the incoming Council can re-allocate funds as required.

Eric Grunsky, EIC for Applied Computing & Geosciences, provided some background on the development of the journal. Elsevier decided to start a new open access journal that would take the "overflow" of articles rejected by Computers & Geosciences. Elsevier followed up on rejected manuscripts and found that they were published elsewhere in reputable journals. Thus, Elsevier believed that an open access journal, a "sister" journal to C&G would keep quantitative geoscience manuscript within the same domain. The opportunity to have the IAMG as the sponsoring association was considered too important to miss.

Karel Hron asked how Elsevier responded to requests (royalties etc.) of the IAMG."

### Record of Changes to IAMG Statutes/Bylaws

The Secretary General noted that the most recent changes to the IAMG Statutes and Bylaws as passed by the General Membership were included, as a matter of record, with the collated reports that were presented to Council for this meeting.

### Record of Executive, Council and General Assembly Meetings

Included in the collated reports to Council

## Awards Committee report

No presentation made - included in the collated reports to Council

## Lectures Committee report

No presentation made - included in the collated reports to Council

## Student Affairs Committee report

No presentation made - included in the collated reports to Council

## Meetings Committee report

Gerald van den Boogaart noted that the Meetings Committee needed to formally change the dates for the postponed IAMG meetings. Gerald also stated that new meeting proposals should be considered by both the Meetings Committee and the Financial Advisory Board.

**Motion by Gerald van den Boogaart - Move the IAMG meetings conferences scheduled for 2021 and 2022 to 2022 and 2023 respectively**

**Motion seconded by Jennifer McKinley.**

### Discussion

Guillaume Caumon stated that the pricing for the rescheduled 2021 meeting, to 2022, will likely change. The exact costs are not known at this time.

Gerald van den Boogaart stated that, globally, many conferences have been postponed. This will likely lead to competition amount the conferences organizers to attract attendance.

Karel Hron suggested that the IAMG considers hybrid conferences, composed of both online and onsite contributions.

Qiuming Cheng advised that the 37<sup>th</sup> IGC will be held in Korea and the date is not expected to change.

**Motion - passed**

## Outreach Committee report (MOUs and sponsorship)

The Secretary General and Chair of the Outreach Committee, Eric Grunsky described the development of memoranda of understandings with several agencies and the increase in the number of associations that the IAMG has. These are described in the report to Council.

There was a discussion about the funding model for Earth Science Matters Foundation. David Collins suggested that the funding support be reduced from \$5,000 USD to \$2800 USD and that it be used to support an IAMG representative at ESM events. It was agreed that there was an opportunity for the new Council to reflect on all existing collaborations including the existing financial arrangement with ESMF.

Jennifer McKinley suggested that IAMG representation at Young Earth Scientist (YES) conferences was very important and this could be linked to a representative from IAMG Student chapters.

Qiuming Cheng stated that the IAMG should examine the funding relationships it has with many external organizations.

## Update on IAMG Encyclopedia project

Qiuming Cheng stated that the Encyclopedia project has been challenging and that the review process is lengthy.

Jennifer McKinley stated that unlike the IAMG 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary handbook, the Encyclopedia is not financially sponsored by the IAMG and that Springer has developed a well managed process of submission, editing and publication. Jennifer stated that the Daya Saga is to be congratulated for his work on the project. It is hoped that IAMG will be contributors to the Encyclopedia but it is recognised that there are not enough IAMG members to contribute to all sections of the Encyclopedia.

Eric Grunsky suggested that contributors, who not IAMG members, be offered a free one year membership as recognition for their contribution and encouragement of expanding the IAMG membership.

Qiuming Cheng stated that many experts are contributing to the Encyclopedia and supports the idea of incentives that will encourage the contributors to join the IAMG.

Jennifer McKinley stated that any incentives should be considered by the Council.

Pauline agreed that contributors should be members of the IAMG, but also stated that to motivate people to join the IAMG it would be better to think about what could attract them: better explain what being an IAMG member can bring them (and therefore bring something) or, even with “1 year of free access” the current non-members will quit the association.

Jennifer McKinley reviews the details and sequence of the review process.

## Archivist Report

The report from the IAMG Archivist, Graeme Bonham-Carter is included in the report to Council. The question was raised on the value of the archive; is it still required?

Eric Grunsky commented on the long-term value of the archive that exists in paper form.

David Collins stated that the large volume of historical paper and the subsequent scanning is sufficient. The use of OCR technology to create a searchable archive is valuable. The paper copies, with exceptions, should be destroyed after the scanning is complete.

Jennifer McKinley stated that a digital archive for the IAMG is important.

## Other business

### **IAMG Prize Winners & Plaques**

The recent IAMG prize and award winners have yet to receive their certificates and plaques. How/when should these be distributed. It was left for the incoming Council to decide on this issue. Jennifer McKinley suggested that the plaques could be modified to show the data of the award only and that online lectures could be offered for some award winners such as the Distinguished Lecturers. This would increase awareness for the IAMG.

### **Data Protection**

Gerald van den Boogaart provided details on the data protection regulations. A data protection officer is required by law. This officer reports and advises on any data breaches that may occur. Conflict of interest regulations prevent Regina van den Boogaart and Gerald van den Boogaart from working together on data protection services. There was discussion on using a professional agency to monitor the management of IAMG data. This must be done by a person/company within the European Union. Jennifer McKinley noted that data protection is extremely important and essential. No one in the IAMG is qualified to become a data protection officer, therefore it was essential to employ a professional agency to undertake this role for the IAMG.

Data management is located entirely within the iamgmembers.org webserver, located in Germany. There was a brief discussion on the integration of the non-data website, managed by Dragonfly, with the IAMG services at the IAMG office in Germany.

David Collins recommended that the IAMG provide financial assistance to comply with any data protection issues.

Gerald van den Boogaart stated that a person needs to be identified who will take responsibility for data protection, and this should be done quickly by the new council. Jennifer McKinley, supported by Peter Dowd suggested that Regina supported by Gerald van den Boogaart bring a recommendation of identified professional agencies based in Germany with costs to the new Council for approval. It was agreed that this should be approved as soon as possible.

### **IAMG Logo**

Jennifer McKinley stated that Helmut Schaeben had sent a letter recommending that the IAMG logo be updated.

David Collins stated that the name of the Association should be more prominent- easier to read.

Others expressed retaining the “punched card” symbol on the logo.

An opinion was expressed that updating the IAMG website should take priority over the updating of the IAMG logo.

### **DDE**

Qiuming Cheng described the details of the DDE proposal and the collaborative project that has been proposed by Jan Harff. The IAMG Council is being asked to consider the proposal in terms of providing funding support through matched contributions with other agencies.

### **Motion – David Collins**

The outgoing Council of the IAMG hereby considers its term complete and passes control of the IAMG to the incoming Council

Motion seconded by Jennifer McKinley

### **Motion passed by Council**

### **Additional Discussion**

Juliana Leung, Secretary General inquired on the status of the existing committees and commissions. Are they dissolved or continue on the commencement of the incoming Council?

- Raimon Tolosana-Delgado and Qiuming Cheng pointed out that the committee/commission chairs are appointed by Council and continue/terminate at the discretion of the Council.
- Jennifer McKinley noted that some of the Chairs of committees are now members of the new Executive Council and have served as Committee Chairs for the last 4 years.
- David Collins recommended that the Council review the statutes and bylaws for clarification on the appointment and dissolution of committees/commissions.

### **Motion – Julian Leung**

The 2020 Council meeting be adjourned.

Motion seconded by Peter Dowd  
**Motion passed by Council**

Meeting minutes recorded and transcribed by Eric Grunsky

Meeting adjourned 1200h, UTC (-400) (Eastern North America)