

## **IAMG 2023 Council Meeting**

### **Meeting Time/Location**

Date/Time: Aug 7, 2023 (Monday) @ **16:00-18:00** (GMT+2) Trondheim, Norway  
Location: R3 Science building 'Realfagbygget', Høgskoleringen 5, 7034 Trondheim  
<https://link.mazemap.com/4Gqm43ta>

Virtual meeting link:

<https://NTNU.zoom.us/j/98946831059?pwd=bFZRTGlpMXZmNzdnYVICdzJlMGMVXdz09>

Meeting ID: 989 4683 1059

Passcode: 824570

### **Agenda**

0:00 – 0:05 Approval of agenda

0:05 – 0:15 President's report (Peter Dowd)

0:15 – 0:25 Past President's report (Jenny McKinley)

0:25 – 0:40 Treasurer's update (Sean McKenna + Regina van den Boogaart)

0:40 – 0:50 Student affairs committee (Ute Mueller)

0:50 – 1:00 Meetings committee (Regina van den Boogaart)

1:00 – 1:05 Awards committee (Xiaogang Marshall Ma)

1:05 – 1:15 Outreach committee (Eric Grunsky)

- Discussion of several recommendations made by the committee chair last year

1:15 – 1:35 Publications committee (Jaime Gomez-Hernandez + Journal Editors)

1:35 – 1:50 New business + Other items in the report

- Terms of committee members & chairs
- Future directions of IAMG

Note: The President will lead the discussions if the committee chairs are absent.

### **Other items in the report**

Secretary General's report (Juliana Leung)

Lectures committee report (Christien Thiant)

Newsletter and website report (Katie Silversides)

Curriculum quality committee updates (Julian Ortiz)

## **Minutes**

### **Attendees**

In-Person (voting members): Peter Dowd, Juliana Leung, Jennifer McKinley, Renguang Zuo, Karel Hron,

In-Person (committee chairs, journal editors, and guests): Regina van den Boogaart, Gerald van den Boogaart, Xiaogang (Marshall) Ma, Roussos Dimitrakopoulos, Katie Silversides

Virtual (voting member): Sean McKenna

Virtual (committee chairs and guests): Eric Grunsky, Ute Mueller, Boyan Brodaric

### **Approval of Agenda**

Peter welcomed everyone, and the agenda was approved unanimously. A quorum was attained (6 of the 12 voting members were present – the Statutes & Bylaws stated: “A quorum shall be at least half the voting members of the Council and include at least two (2) of the officers.”

### **President’s Report**

Peter summarized his activities (all details are provided in the report). He provided an update on the issues with the Treasurer position. He welcomed Sean McKenna as the Interim Treasurer (who will provide more detail about the Association’s financial situation when presenting his report). On behalf of the IAMG Council, Peter thanked Sean for taking on the interim Treasurer position and assisting IAMG in resolving a significant backlog of finance-related issues.

Peter and Eric Grunsky (outreach committee chair) facilitated a discussion about IAMG’s outreach efforts and its collaboration with other organizations. Several issues are involved, and they are also related to the organization’s long-term vision. Firstly, there should be a focus on increasing the membership and involvement of members. Secondly, it is related to promoting IAMG’s visibility through various means, such as social media and interactions with other organizations. Another issue is the current committee structure, which is deemed ineffective. Suggestions include merging with the publications committee or having the executive lead the outreach efforts. A new outreach champion needs to be identified. Lastly, it is about determining the outreach committee’s priorities and functions.

The Council had a lengthy discussion about various suggestions:

There is a strong push to improve the online presence of the IAMG through various means, including social media, the organization’s website, and even a potential YouTube channel. One suggestion was to invite interesting speakers, including non-members, to present and post videos of these presentations. Another idea was to hire a professional to develop a social media strategy to promote the IAMG. Currently, Katie manages all of the organization’s social media, but it has been recognized that this is too much for her to handle alone.

Some concerns were raised about the difficulty in finding information on the website. Our collaborations with other organizations are not fully showcased. Peter acknowledged a need to improve the website further. Due to budget constraints, we have limited pages, and some information is not easily

accessible. Katie explained that it is possible to add more pages, and we have been contacted by the developers offering strategies to increase visits to our sites. Katie will follow up and ask for a quote.

**Action Items:**

- Peter/Katie, assisted by the Council, Outreach and Publications Committees, will explore ways of promoting IAMG via social media and other online presence.
- Peter/Katie will explore options to improve the website, including but not limited to re-organizing information, keeping information up to date, and highlighting our involvement and collaboration with other affiliations.

One of the suggestions was to reassess the organization's engagement with other associations. Peter reported that the Association of Applied Geochemists had invited IAMG to participate in their 30<sup>th</sup> International Applied Geochemistry Symposium to be held in Adelaide (Australia) in October 2024 which was seen as a new collaboration opportunity. To improve IAMG's visibility, the Council agreed that outreach efforts should include developing guidelines for allocating support to other associations. Eric pointed out that MOUs and agreements had been signed with various organizations, but collaboration efforts had stalled. The Council has agreed to examine these organizations closely and explore how relationships with them could improve IAMG's visibility. Eric and Karel also suggested the need for a formal structure and reporting system to ensure transparency for members.

**Action Item:**

- The new outreach committee will develop guidelines for supporting other organizations.

The Council discussed different options for the new structure. Eric proposed merging the committees of outreach and publications, considering the complicated function of outreach, which requires long-term vision and multiple levels of reporting and oversight. It was suggested that someone from the Association's executives oversee the outreach portfolio. Merging the committees would also enable better coordination between the two committees, as the website and publications are essential outreach tools. Jenny suggested the Council consider offering some financial support to committee members to attend annual meetings on a case-by-case basis – an incentive to recruit volunteers who would like to make substantial contributions to the Association. Peter mentioned that some committee volunteers have served too long, but it is hard to replace them. It was recommended that Eric continue in his current role for another year until the new Council takes office at IGC2024, and Eric has agreed.

**Action Items:**

- Peter to facilitate further discussions about merging the Publications and Outreach Committees.
- Peter will continue discussions with Eric to formulate some ideas that can be implemented in the next 12 months or be passed to the new Council.

**Peter initiated a motion: To dissolve the curriculum committee (motioned by Peter, seconded by Juliana) – all in favour (Statutes: III, 4b).**

Peter provided an update on the Nominating Commission: President (Peter Dowd), Guillaume Caumon, Antonella Bucciatti, Qiuming Cheng, Gregoire Mariethoz, Michael Pycrz.

**Past President's Report**

Jenny highlighted some important points from her report. She mentioned that her term with the IUGS Executive Council will end in 2024. She also noted the long-standing collaboration between IAMG and many major organizations, such as the IUGS and IUGG. She expressed the hope that IAMG will continue to maintain these relationships. Additionally, she encouraged IAMG to nominate some members for the various mid-career and early-career awards offered by IUGS. She suggested advertising IAMG's collaboration with DDE and IUGS on the website to increase outreach. Although several IAMG colleagues have contributed to DDE, these efforts have not been fully showcased. Furthermore, DDE will participate in the upcoming AGU 2023, and Jenny offered to represent IAMG if needed. She recommended that the next IAMG past president assists with outreach, as it requires high-level coordination and should be represented at the Council, a sentiment that Eric supported.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Sean provided an update regarding the current situation. The mailing address has been changed, and they are now working on wire transfers. They have received most of the necessary documents but still need access to various accounts. The IAMG previously hired two financial experts, one for financial planning (Ameriprise) and one tax accountant who has since retired and has not been replaced. The main issue revolves around the fact that tax returns have not yet been filed, incurring a fine of \$20/day. Our QuickBooks file must be updated before sending it to the accountant.

A preliminary report is provided in the annual reports. However, Sean aims to provide a full Treasurer's report in September after the tax is filed and he has access to all financial accounts/statements.

Eric noted the dedicated work of previous treasurers in managing IAMG finances. Jenny made a suggestion, that the Council supported, to formally acknowledge Sean and all previous treasurers for their outstanding contributions in undertaking the significant but challenging responsibility of this position.

Peter requested the Council's approval to transfer QuickBooks to the IAMG office. To support this request, a budget should be allocated for QuickBooks' subscription, hiring or training someone to use QuickBooks, and the time it takes to update it.

#### **Action Item:**

- Peter will work with Regina and Sean to develop a plan for moving some financial operations to the IAMG office in Europe.

### **Awards Committee**

Marshall noted that the 2022 award process was a success, with almost all awardees attending the conference. There have been some changes in the committee membership, with new members taking over from those who have completed their terms. An amendment to the bylaws was approved through an online voting process regarding the Founders Scholarships. The new amendment states that only students are eligible for the awards, not postdocs, which clarifies the confusing wording. Some awards offer cash prizes or travel expense coverage, so coordination with the Treasurer is necessary. Additionally, a handbook is being created to cover all of the committee's functions, processes, and coordination. This resource should be useful for future award committees.

## **Student Affairs Committee**

Ute highlighted several recommendations from the report and requested feedback from the Council.

Ute noted that students are not aware of student travel grant deadlines. The clause “The Student Affairs Committee shall ensure that the awardee attends the Conference and delivers the presentation.” cannot be enforced by the SAC.

### **Action Item:**

- SAC committee to propose changes to the current guidelines and send the proposed to Council for discussion and approval.

The Association currently offers nine student research awards, with three awards available for each journal, except for Applied Computing & Geosciences. The applications reflected a poor understanding of the budget requirements, and open-access publishing and conference travel costs are not allowed. The SAC suggested updating the grant conditions to explicitly exclude open-access funding. Instead, successful grant publications can be awarded free Open Access status by the publisher if accepted by our Association’s journals. Roussos agreed with the suggestion and recommended increasing the awards by an appropriate amount.

### **Action Items:**

- Journal Editors will explore granting open access status for grant awardees.
- The SAC committee will propose changes to the grant conditions regarding budgeting and send the changes to the Council for discussion and approval.

The number of active student chapters has decreased from five to three, with the two chapters in China doing well. The status of the University of Alberta student chapter is unknown and has been excluded from the budget request. Some Council members have expressed concerns that student chapters may not be feasible or necessary due to lower enrollments in most programs. However, Ute mentioned they receive a small amount of money to organize activities.

## **Publications Committee + Journal Reports**

Katie can make quick fixes to the website and has requested that the Council, committee chairs, and journal editors provide website update requests along with their information for the newsletters. She mentioned that although there is a LinkedIn group, the Association has no LinkedIn page. A LinkedIn page is more practical for sharing news and updates about the Association. Additionally, they have Twitter and Facebook accounts.

### **Action Items:**

- Katie will send a note summarizing various suggestions regarding improvements to the website and social media accounts (e.g., creating a LinkedIn page and obtaining a quote from the website developer regarding search optimization).

The Council briefly discussed the topic of whether or not paper versions of the newsletter were necessary for sustainability and economic considerations. It was noted that members can already choose between a paper or digital version on their membership profile. However, printing and mailing the paper version costs approximately \$1400 per issue. The Council decided to leave this matter for now but may revisit the topic.

Roussos expressed some concerns regarding Mathematical Geosciences, stating that while the impact factors are good, there is still a shortage of high-quality submissions. To tackle this, he suggested enlisting other journal editors to encourage authors to cite all relevant IAMG papers, including those from Mathematical Geosciences. In addition, he has ideas for using social media platforms such as ResearchGate to enhance visibility (no additional budget is requested). Katie proposed sending details about the journals, such as announcements and news, to her for inclusion on the Association's social media.

Action Item:

- Peter will message the Publications Committee chair and journal editors regarding Roussos's suggestion.

### **Meetings Committee**

Regina has observed a potential deficit of \$6,000 for IAMG2023 due to fluctuations in the exchange rate between USD and NOK.