

AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 20, 21, and 22 July 2020
Videoconference Meeting of the Council

Participants--- President Mary Glackin, President-Elect Mike Farrar, Past-Presidents Jenni Evans and Roger Wakimoto, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen, and Executive Director Keith Seitter. **Councilors:** Melissa Burt, Kristie Ebi, Erica Grow, Jen Henderson, Bob Henson, Wayne Higgins, Kim Klockow-McClain, Gary Lackmann, Ruby Leung, Shali Mohleji, Vernon Morris, Shirley Murillo, Julie Pullen, and Jim Steenburgh. [Councilor Arndt was absent.] **Commissioners:** Tony Broccoli (Publications), Genene Fisher (STAC), Kevin Goebbert (EHR), Doug Hilderbrand (Enterprise), Maureen McCann (Professional Affairs), and Yvette Richardson (Planning). **Future Commissioner:** Mike Augustyniak (Professional Affairs). **Secretary-Treasurer-elect:** Bruce Telfeyan. **Staff:** Wendy Abshire, Stephanie Armstrong, Joe Boyd, Beth Farley, Claudia Gorski, Paul Higgins, Bill Hooke, Brian Mardirosian, Brian Papa, Kelly Savoie, and Gwendolyn Whittaker. (Not all participants attended the entire meeting.)

[The numbering of the following sections corresponds to the Council agenda. The sections are listed in the order they were addressed at the meeting.]

A quorum of voting members being present, President Glackin called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. EDT. *[Councilors Arndt, Ebi, and Leung were absent, and Councilor Pullen joined at 1:45 p.m.]*

0.0 Welcome, Roll Call, and Agenda Review

President Glackin asked for a moment of silence to mark the passing of recently retired AMS archivist Jinny Nathans. She then provided an opportunity for all on the call to say a few words of greeting. President Glackin next reviewed the agenda for the meeting, noting a few modifications to the order of items.

1.5 Consent Items on Council Mail Ballots

Council voted to reaffirm all of the mail ballots since its February meeting that did not have unanimous approval. Council also voted to approve the reactivation of the University of Utah Student Chapter that was provisionally approved by e-mail ballot sent on 3 February and of the SUNY Brockport Student Chapter that was provisionally approved by e-mail ballot sent on 12 March. Council also voted to approve the establishment of the National Cathedral Precollege Chapter of the AMS which sought provisional approval by e-mail ballot sent 2 July.

2.1 Awards Oversight Committee Report

Past-President Evans, as AOC chair, reviewed its report, noting especially the recommendations for Council action. Council voted to approve changes to the *Guidelines for Society and Commission Awards*, namely changes to the process for named special journal collections and incorporating text about elevating to Fellow the recipients of certain Society awards and text about transferring award nominations. Council also approved a new requirement for material to be included in nominations for the Award for

Excellence in Science Reporting, and Council eliminated the requirement that the chairs of the Atmospheric Research Awards, Oceanographic Research Awards, and Hydrologic Research Awards committees serve on each other's committees. Council then voted to approve all awardees and citations as presented in the AOC report.

3.0 Proposed AMS Fellows

Past-President Wakimoto, as Fellows Committee chair, briefed Council on the process for selecting new Fellows, which he recommended be followed in the future. Council voted to approve the proposed list of new Fellows (in the absence of Councilor Steenburgh and Commissioner McCann), noting it was well balanced with regard to gender. Council also voted to approve recommendations of the Fellows Committee for procedural changes and to include criteria regarding citizenry, ethics, and promoting diversity in reviewing Fellow nominations. Council discussed the desirability of collecting demographic data to better assess progress in achieving diversity in our awards, and Commissioner Richardson mentioned that a task force is examining issues surrounding the collection of such information from the membership.

[Council briefly recessed from 2:14–2:30 p.m.]

4.0 Honorary Members

President Glackin presented to Council three Honorary Member candidates recommended by the Executive Committee (EC). Council voted to elevate Robert Watson, Florence Rabier, and Bill Hooke to the rank of Honorary Member.

12.0 Culture and Inclusion Cabinet

Councilor Burt, as CIC chair, reviewed the qualifications of four proposed members of the CIC, and Council voted to appoint them for terms ending January 2023. Council then discussed the process to identify the remaining CIC members, noting gaps in the membership that might be considered.

5.0 Addressing Racism in the Community

Informed by documents available to Council, including recommendations from our Annual Meeting Oversight Committee, President Glackin and Councilor Burt led an extensive discussion on how AMS can better address racism while pursuing our goals of diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility (DEIBA) in our programs and throughout the community. There was agreement that AMS is poised to take a leadership position on these issues among geoscience societies. Noting the historic lack of black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) in the atmospheric sciences, Council discussed a more coordinated strategy among AMS, other professional societies, and federal agencies investing in programs to attract and retain individuals in our discipline. Council recommended the following actions for the CIC: develop strategic and implementation plans as soon as practical, develop guidelines for collecting demographic data about AMS members, help implement anti-bias training across AMS programs, and develop language to include diversity efforts in the criteria for all awards and certification programs. Council also expressed a desire that there be approaches found to reduce scheduling conflicts at the Annual Meeting among the diversity sessions, related receptions, and the student conference. Council requested that Associate Executive

Director Armstrong work with the CIC to develop a proposal for anti-bias training across relevant programs for volunteers and staff. Commissioner Broccoli was asked to report to Council at a future time on the impact of the double-blind peer-review experiment being conducted by three of our journals.

6.0 Provide Strategic Guidance for 2021 Budget

President Glackin noted the goal of the discussions at this meeting is to provide guidance to staff on the preparation of the 2021 budget that will be presented to Council in the fall. She noted the staff briefings over the past few months had been designed to give Council a better understanding of the various programs, and she encouraged Councilors to view the recorded presentations. President Glackin reminded Council that the individual status reports would not be covered the next day in order to allow time for an executive session, but that anyone with questions should raise them in the meeting.

6.1 Overview of 2020 Revised Budget and Mid-Year Status

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the year-to-date budget-to-actual data for the first six months of the year. The COVID-19 pandemic led to major changes in many programs, especially the Society's meetings program, with resulting impacts in income and expense. The ability of AMS to secure a Payroll Protection Plan loan had largely offset the shortfalls in the budget so far, and with the prospect of that loan being forgiven, the current budget situation is not as severe as it would otherwise be.

6.2 Meetings for 2020 and 2021

Director of Meetings Gorski briefed Council on the status of the 2020 specialty meetings, the 2021 Annual Meeting, and the specialty meeting schedule for 2021 as it now stands, noting that the situation continues to be fluid as plans change due to the pandemic.

6.3 Possible BAMS changes

Associate Executive Director Papa briefed Council on budget impacts related to the new *BAMS* and additional changes that might be considered next year. Council did not support dropping the print version of *BAMS* at this time but felt it might be useful to survey members about the potential content and format of an all-digital version.

[Council recessed for the day at 4:03 p.m. and reconvened on 21 July 2020 at 1:01 p.m. EDT by videoconference with a quorum of voting members present. Councilors Arndt, Ebi, and Leung were absent, and Councilor Morris joined the meeting at 2:06 p.m.]

6.4.1 AMS Emeritus Members

Associate Executive Director Papa briefed Council on the impact of the increasing number of Emeritus Members and possible changes that could be made to that designation to enhance dues income. After discussion, Council was not in favor of making any changes to the Emeritus Member criteria.

6.4.2 Monthly Dues

Director of Member Engagement Farley briefed Council on an analysis of implementing monthly dues, including survey results that showed only a very small percentage of the membership favored that approach. Council expressed concern that the approach could have been presented differently in the survey and asked for additional analysis.

6.4.3 Tiered Dues

Director Farley also provided an update on the impact of tiered dues on renewals and overall dues income. The consensus of Council was to continue with the current tiered approach but conduct a survey or focus groups to learn if improvements could be made (including a monthly subscription-style payment option). Councilors Lackmann, Klockow-McLain, and Grow volunteered to help explore approaches to obtain member input.

6.5 Facilities Requirements

Associate Executive Director Papa briefed Council on facilities requirements for Headquarters, including the financial aspects of maintaining 44 Beacon. No changes in the status of the buildings will be made at this time.

6.6 COVID-19 Based Budget Impacts

Associate Executive Director Papa briefed Council on budget scenarios that were prepared to help provide input to Council for its guidance on preparing the 2021 budget. It was noted that federal research support was still strong and so there may be less impact on publications than the scenarios suggest. It was also noted that virtual meetings offer opportunities to leverage that format toward new, and financially beneficial, approaches in the future. It was suggested that work continue to provide strong career development support for members, as one of several avenues to provide value for members during these challenging times.

6.7 Overall Guidance for 2021 Budget Preparation

Council expressed its appreciation to the staff for preparing the scenarios. Council's guidance is to base the budget on the worst-case scenario, except for the differences noted in the discussion. Council also expressed its desire to stay more closely engaged on budget issues, and it asked that it continue to be provided quarterly updates. President Glackin noted that given the challenging times, at the Fall Council meeting Council will discuss its role in updating the 2021 budget, which is normally approved by the EC in the March timeframe.

[Council briefly recessed from 2:58–3:12 p.m.]

7.0 Governance and Possible Changes to Constitution and Bylaws

President-Elect Farrar briefed Council on the draft report from the task force and reviewed its recommendations. Council supported the notion of a student representative on Council and asked the task force to explore avenues for achieving that. Council suggested more effort be made to inform graduate students that they are eligible to vote, and it suggested more study be given to the issue of undergraduate student members

having voting rights. Council approved a change in procedures for electing Council members to serve on the EC, and it supported the list of issues still under review. Council agreed that this task force now replaces the one previously working under the Planning Commission, and Council thanked those involved in that earlier work.

8.0 Organizational Procedures

Secretary-Treasurer Rosen reviewed the changes to the Organizational Procedures that were approved by prior Council decisions. Council accepted edits in the language for the Culture and Inclusion Cabinet that had been recommended by the EC and approved all changes.

9.1 Task Force on Professional Conduct

Councilors Lackmann and Burt, co-chairs of the task force, briefed Council on its final report. Executive Director Seitter remarked that the task force's recommendation to feature the AMS Code of Conduct more prominently on our website is being implemented. Council voted to dissolve the task force as requested with its thanks for its excellent work.

9.2 Ethics Committee

Council reviewed the report of the Ethics Committee, which is still in its early stages of work. Council approved the appointments of Gary Lackmann and Gerry Mulvey to the committee for terms ending January 2023, but it also noted the committee should add a few more members to gain greater diversity. Council noted the committee is still developing its terms of reference, and Council agreed that the committee's charge should focus on creating procedures rather than adjudicating complaints.

10.0 Transition Document

Councilor Henson briefed Council on the draft transition document. Council approved the document to be posted for the 30-day member comment period subject to minor edits provided by Secretary-Treasurer Rosen. Council recommended that following the comment period the document be recast into a primary statement of no more than two pages with an accompanying background section.

[Council recessed for the day at 4:42 p.m. and reconvened on 22 July 2020 at 1:02 p.m. EDT by videoconference with a quorum of voting members present. Councilor Arndt was absent, Councilor Leung joined at 1:19 p.m., and Councilor Ebi was present for only portions of the meeting.]

11.1 STAC

Commission Fisher briefed Council on the many activities underway in the commission, and especially the rapid shift in conference approaches required by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fisher informed Council of the recipients of Commission-level awards, and Council expressed concern about these awards relative to similar Society-level ones. Fisher agreed to discuss this concern with her commission. There were no actions items for Council.

11.1.1 Named Symposiums

President Glackin reported that the organizers of the two named symposiums for the 2021 Annual Meeting had expressed concerns because the honored individuals would not be able to participate in person for the events. Noting there are no other proposals for named symposiums at the 2022 Annual Meeting, Council agreed with the request to defer both to that meeting.

11.2 Publications

Commissioner Broccoli reported that the Society's journal and monograph programs are strong, with a record number of submissions in 2019. Council voted to reappoint Gary Lackmann for a two-year term as WAF Chief Editor (Councilor Lackmann recused himself from this vote), approved amendments to the procedures for named special collections, approved an amendment to the document outlining obligations of editors and reviewers, and accepted the commission's recommendation that the term "second summer" replace that for the phenomenon traditionally known as "Indian summer."

11.3 Professional Affairs

Commissioner McCann reviewed the reports of the various boards under the commission. Council discussed changes being made to the CCM exam process to allow virtual exams and supported those and other efforts outlined in the report. Council also discussed ways for the Board on Best Practices to better integrate its work across other commissions.

11.3.1 Joint Professional Affairs and EHR Commission report

Commissioners McCann and Goebbert reviewed the joint commission activities, such as the Early Career Leadership Academy, the Board on Community Service, and the certified AMS teacher program. Because of the pandemic, the 2020 ECLA cohort will complete its program next year, and there will not be a 2021 ECLA class.

11.4 Education & Human Resources

Commissioner Goebbert briefed Council on the various activities underway in the commission, noting that the pandemic has impacted a number of those activities. Goebbert indicated that Council can expect to see revised terms of reference for the Board on Women and Minorities later this year. Council expressed strong support for the work of the boards and an appreciation for the energy in the commission.

[Council briefly recessed from 2:40–2:51 p.m.]

11.5 Planning

Commissioner Richardson reported on the activities of the seven task forces currently active under the Planning Commission, noting that she expected most to have reports for the September Council meeting. It was agreed that the governance task force and early-career task force would sunset with the thanks of Council for their efforts. Council discussed the need for coordination among those groups seeking to survey the

membership so that the major survey being prepared under the BWM (working with AIP) could incorporate the needs of the other groups.

11.6 Weather, Water, & Climate Enterprise

Commissioner Hilderbrand briefed Council on the activities of the many boards and committees under the commission, including new ad hoc committees being formed on Mind the Gap and on Engineering Resilient Communities. He expressed his appreciation on behalf of the community for the speed with which Council was able to prepare a special statement in the spring on tornado response during a pandemic.

President Glackin thanked the staff for their professionalism and hard work, even as they grappled with the challenges posed by the pandemic. She then called Council into executive session to deal with an item related to the challenges facing AMS, its organization, and leadership.

Council briefly recessed at 3:26 p.m., and reconvened in executive session at 3:30 p.m.

Council adjourned at 4:03 p.m. EDT.