

**Minutes of the 11 January 2009
Meeting of the Council
of the American Meteorological Society
Phoenix, AZ**

Participants

Council Members: AMS President Walter Dabberdt; President-Elect Tom Karl; Past-Presidents Rick Anthes and Franco Einaudi; AMS Executive Director Keith Seitter; Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen; and *Councilors*: Jennifer Alexander, Ray Ban, Richard Carbone, Richard Clark, Ken Crawford, Bill Proenza, Steve Rutledge, Joe Schaefer, Dian Seidel, J. Marshall Shepherd, and Tim Spangler.

Other attendees: *Commissioners*: Roger Wakimoto (STAC), David Jorgensen (Publications), Robert Serafin (Planning), John Toohey-Morales (Professional Affairs), Julie Winkler (Education and Human Resources), and Joe Friday (Weather and Climate Enterprise); *Incoming Councilors and Commissioners*: Lee Branscome, Mary Cairns, Mike Hardesty, Jill Hasling, Rebecca Morss, and Gene Takle; *AMS Staff*: Joyce Annese, Barry Mohan, Bill Hooke, Tony Soggi, Genene Fisher, Wendy Thomas, and Paul Higgins.

[The numbering in the following sections follows the Agenda numbering, but the items are listed in the order the issues were discussed at the meeting.]

0.0 Agenda

President Dabberdt called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. on Sunday, 11 January 2009. Participants introduced themselves, and Secretary-Treasurer Rosen announced a quorum of voting members was present. President Dabberdt welcomed the newly elected Council members and reviewed the agenda. Executive Director Seitter briefed the Council on additional security that had been arranged for the annual meeting.

1.3 and 1.4 Council Minutes and Mail Ballots

The Council approved the minutes of the September 2008 Council meeting, reaffirmed the e-mail ballots of 2008, and approved the membership list that was provisionally approved by e-mail ballot on 10 December.

2.1 Fifth Councilor

After reviewing the results of the election, President Dabberdt led a discussion on the selection of the Fifth Councilor. The Council voted to appoint Anne Douglass as the Fifth Councilor.

2.2 Ballot Structure

The ballot structure used for the fall 2008 Council election was discussed, and it was agreed the partitioned ballot with the suggestion to vote for at least one candidate in the targeted group was successful in addressing the sector balance issue. A straw poll among the Council showed clear support for continuing this approach for at least one more year, with perhaps disciplinary balance being targeted in the 2009 election. There was concern about the small number of ballots cast, and the Council suggested ways the staff could utilize the dues renewal, regular mail, and e-mail more effectively to address this issue in 2009.

3.1 Report of the STAC Commissioner

Commissioner Wakimoto provided the annual report of the STAC Commission, including a summary of the Commission meeting the day before. As recommended in the report, the Council voted to approve the following 2010 Lecturers: John Schaake (Horton), Rolando Garcia (Haurwitz), and Ed Zipser (Roberts).

The concept of a new STAC committee or board covering Space Weather was discussed, and the Council supported this disciplinary area being represented in some manner within STAC. The Council asked Commissioner Wakimoto to create an ad hoc group to study the issue and make a formal proposal to the Council.

After some discussion, the Council voted to adopt an AMS policy to allow extended abstracts that are submitted to the online conference database to be amended up to four weeks after the conference. Beyond that date, the database for the conference would be frozen.

3.2 Report of the Publications Commissioner

Commissioner Jorgensen provided a brief interim report on the Commission, noting the record page counts for the journals in 2008, the introduction of the new journal *Weather, Climate, and Society*, improving production times, and the launch of the fully digital BAMS in 2009. He said that a challenge for this year is that a large fraction of the editors are completing terms, and it will take effort to identify replacements. He also said that the cost of color figures in the journals continues to concern many authors, and more needs to be done to address this problem.

3.3 Report of the Professional Affairs Commissioner

Commissioner Morales provided an interim report on Commission activities, including its success in increasing the number of applications in the CCM and CBM programs, although the Boards now must work hard to process those applications in a timely manner. He reminded the Council that the AMS Seal of Approval Program was no longer accepting applications as of 31 December 2008, but there were well over 100 applicants before the deadline that will need to be reviewed. Two other successes deserving special mention are the mentoring program of the Board on Private Sector Meteorologists and the work of the Committee on the Station Scientist.

3.3.1 Certified Consulting Climatologist Program

Councilor Shepherd briefed the Council on a proposal to create a certification similar to the CCM that is targeted specifically to climatologists. After some discussion, the Council asked the Commissioner on Professional Affairs to consult with the CCM board about integrating this specialty into the CCM program in a manner that reaches out to the climatological community.

3.4 Report of the Education and Human Resources Commissioner

In her final interim report, Commissioner Winkler provided updates on several successful programs in the Commission: the Student Conference and Career Fair, WeatherFest, and BAMS articles about the membership survey. She also noted that progress is being made to have the Society formally recognize students who perform well in the National Forecasting Contest.

The Council approved a formal motion to thank Commissioner Winkler for her six years of service to the Society.

3.5 Report of the Planning Commissioner

Commissioner Serafin presented the Report on Education and Training that was prepared jointly by the Planning Commission and the Commission on Education and Human Resources. Commissioner Serafin noted the next step will involve efforts by the AMS staff to implement the recommendations in the report. He then reported the Commission will re-examine ethics policies for the Society in the coming year to see if any changes to the existing guidelines are advisable.

3.6 Report of the Weather and Climate Enterprise Commissioner

Commissioner Friday began by reviewing the history leading to the formation of the Commission, and he concluded there is ample evidence that the Commission has been extremely successful in its efforts. He then made recommendations for appointments to the Commission Steering Committee, and the Council voted its approval.

[President Dabberdt left the meeting to open WeatherFest. President-elect Karl assumed the chair.]

4.1 Revised Climate Change Statement

President-Elect Karl stated that because the field of climate change has been evolving so rapidly, the AMS Statement on Climate Change, adopted in 2007, would benefit from updating. He suggested initiating a new statement that builds on the existing one but includes the needed updates. He also suggested the new statement include a short summary written for a lay audience that could be approved by the Council at the same time. The Council voted to initiate the process of creating a new statement as recommended.

[Lunch break at 12:05 – 12:30 p.m.]

[President Dabberdt resumed the chair.]

4.2 The AMS Statement “What is a Meteorologist?”

Executive Director Seitter led a discussion on options for a new guideline on the use of the term ‘meteorologist’, given that some of the documents referred to in the 1990 guideline are outdated. There was a sense of the Council that the existing guideline captured the essence correctly, but it did need to be replaced with a more current expression of the education and experience needed by a meteorologist. It was agreed that regardless of whether a revision will be developed as a formal statement or a Council guideline, the statement process should be followed to allow ample input opportunities for the membership. The Council asked the Commissions on Education and Human Resources and Professional Affairs to work together to begin the statement process.

4.3 Statement “Primers”

President-Elect Karl recommended that most statements include a summary appropriate for a lay audience that could also be used in press releases. It was suggested this be referred to as a “popular summary”. The Council voted to change the statement process to require the Council to decide, at the time the statement drafting committee is approved, on whether or not a popular summary would need to be included. The Council requested the specific language modifying the statement procedure be provided at its next meeting for approval.

4.4 Infrastructure Statement

The Council voted to approve two additional members (and one alternate) to the infrastructure drafting committee.

4.5 Weather Modification Statement

Wendy Thomas briefed the Council on the status of the précis and a proposed drafting committee for the weather modification statement. The Council discussed a number of items about the statement to help focus the proposal, which will be provided for e-mail balloting at a later time, as specified in the statement process.

11.0 Awards Nominations Committee

The Council voted to approve two new members (plus one alternate) to the Awards Nominations Committee to replace two members who had completed their service.

6.0 Curricula

Councilor Clark discussed the difficulty the Society has had in recent years getting departments to provide complete data for the AMS/UCAR *Curricula in the Atmospheric and Related Sciences* database. It was agreed this database should be modified to serve as a portal to each department's own Web site and a separate process should be used to occasionally solicit data on current enrollments and recent graduates. The Board on Higher Education will be asked to work with AMS staff to implement this new approach.

9.0 Member Survey

President-Elect Karl reviewed the intent of a short survey of AMS members to be done in 2009 to better understand which programs the membership feels are most important and, therefore, should be given highest priorities for resources. There was overall support for the concept, and the Council will have an opportunity to help shape the survey through online discussion in the coming months.

16.0 Close of Meeting

President Dabberdt thanked Council members for their efforts over the course of the past year and especially thanked those members of the Council whose terms completed with this meeting. President-Elect Karl led the Council in thanking President Dabberdt for his outstanding service over the year of his presidency. A motion to adjourn was made and approved.

[The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.]

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Having achieved a quorum, President Karl called the Council to order at 6:10 p.m. on 11 January 2009.

Appointment of Council representative to the Executive Committee

On the recommendation of President Karl, the Council voted to appoint Councilor Alexander to the Executive Committee for a two-year term ending January 2011.

The Council adjourned 6:15 p.m.