AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Minutes of the 18 July 2019
Meeting of the Council
Boston, MA

Participants--- President Jenni Evans, President-Elect Mary Glackin, Past-President Roger Wakimoto, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen, and Executive Director Keith Seitter. *Councilors*: Elizabeth Austin, Melissa Burt, John Cortinas, Kristie Ebi, Tanja Fransen, David Gochis, Erica Grow, Bob Henson, Wayne Higgins, Kim Klockow-McClain, Gary Lackmann, Shirley Murillo, Adam Sobel, and Jim Steenburgh. [Councilor Henderson was absent.] *Commissioners*: Tony Broccoli (Publications), Donna Charlevoix (EHR), Pam Emch (Enterprise), Genene Fisher (STAC), and Maureen McCann (Professional Affairs). [Commissioner Richardson was absent.] *Guests*: Courtney Schumacher. *Staff:* Wendy Abshire, Stephanie Armstrong, Joe Boyd, Beth Farley, Claudia Gorski, Paul Higgins, Bill Hooke, Brian Mardirosian, Brian Papa, Kelly Savoie, and Gwendolyn Whittaker. (Some participated via teleconference, and not all guests and staff attended the entire meeting.)

[The numbering of the following sections follows that in the agenda, but the sections are listed in the order they were addressed at the meeting.]

0.0 Agenda

A quorum of voting members being present, President Evans called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. EDT and welcomed all. President Evans reviewed the purpose of this extraordinary meeting of Council and the agenda.

1.0 Awards Oversight Committee Report

Council approved all award recipients and citations as presented in the AOC report. Council welcomed the information on the diversity of the nominee pool when it was provided in individual award committee reports, and it encouraged this be done for all committees.

2.0 Proposed AMS Fellows

Council approved 25 new Fellows, with Councilors Cortinas and Sobel, on the list of proposed Fellows, recusing themselves from the vote. Council congratulated Councilors Cortinas, Sobel, and Commissioner Charlevoix on their election to Fellow. Council acknowledged two additional individuals who were elected to Fellow by virtue of earning a major award.

3.0 Honorary Members

Council voted to approve as Honorary Members Jane Lubchenco, V. Ramanathan, and Julia Slingo.

1.0 Awards Oversight Committee Report (cont.)

Having completed approval of the award recipients, Council returned to the AOC report, and Past-President Wakimoto led a discussion on proposed new awards. Council voted to approve the creation of the Joanne Simpson Tropical Meteorology

Research Award. Council also approved the renaming of the Simpson Mentorship Award to be the Robert H. and Joanne Simpson Mentorship Award. Council discussed at length the possible creation of three additional awards. Councilors Murillo and Steenburgh agreed to engage with the AOC subcommittee on the possible creation of an innovation award, and President-Elect Glackin offered to work with the AOC subcommittee on the other two potential awards, with these proposals to be considered further at the fall Council meeting. Council thanked AOC subcommittee chair Schumacher for her efforts.

4.0 Task Force on Professional Conduct

Council reviewed a draft Code of Conduct proposed for posting for member comment. A small working group was charged with making appropriate edits for Council to consider later in the day. Council was also given 30-day notice of a change to Article 1, section 8 of the Society's Bylaws listing Council's powers and authorizations to include establishing and updating a code of conduct. Council will vote on this Bylaw amendment at its fall meeting.

[Council briefly recessed from 9:54-10:03 a.m.]

5.0 DEI Task Force – Joint Commission on Culture and Inclusion

Councilor Burt, co-chair of the DEI task force, led a discussion on the report of the task force, which included a proposal for the creation of a new joint commission to oversee the implementation of the report's many individual recommendations. Council debated the merits of creating a new commission versus reorganizing the existing Commission on Education and Human Resources, with no consensus emerging. Council affirmed that finding a way to effectively move forward on the many recommendations in the report is a high priority, and determining the best approach to doing so should be on the agenda for the fall Council meeting. It was suggested by Councilor Burt and Commissioner Charlevoix that this discussion be continued on a Council conference call prior to the fall Council meeting.

6.0 Strategic Guidance for 2020

President Evans framed the agenda for the rest of the meeting in the context of budget challenges the Society has faced the prior few years. She emphasized the need to set priorities carefully in order to guide staff on the creation of the proposed 2020 budget that will be presented at the fall Council meeting.

6.1 Overview of 2019 Revised Budget and Mid-Year Status

Executive Director Seitter led an extended discussion on year-to-date financial data and key performance indicators. Particular focus was given to the Society's membership and publications programs. Seitter gave a brief overview of steps taken to streamline publications. The financial status of membership numbers continues to be a concern. The Policy, Education and Development programs were also discussed, with some concern being expressed about the finances of each program. Overall, however, Seitter was able to report that the net operating income for 2019 appears to be on track to

meet a budget surplus goal, although this would likely be conditional on continued positive return on AMS investments.

6.3.1 Early Career and/or Tiered Dues Structure

Council discussed a proposal from the Task Force on Early-Career Involvement to change the dues structure to one based on member income levels. An alternative proposal that retains the current structure but establishes two tiers of lower early-career dues was also discussed. A decision on the proposals was deferred until later in the day.

[Council recessed briefly at 12:03 p.m. to allow members to serve themselves a working lunch, which commenced at 12:20 p.m.]

6.2.2 Publications Commission

Commissioner Broccoli briefed Council on deliberations of the Publications Commission at its recent meeting, and recommendations from that meeting. Of immediate interest, the Publications Commission recommended that page charges for AMS journals be lowered to be more competitive with other journals. After discussion, Council approved the proposed new author charge structure.

6.3.3 New Teacher Certification Connection with Membership

President Evans noted the intent of this new certification is to increase the number of K-12 teachers who are AMS members. More information will be provided at the fall Council meeting.

6.3.4 New BAMS

President Evans noted this information item and its goal to make the new BAMS an effective recruitment and retention mechanism for the Society.

6.4 Centennial Initiative Implementation Plans

Council discussed at some length the five Centennial Initiatives and the need to carefully consider budget impacts while planning implementation. Councilors volunteered to serve as liaisons to each of the Centennial Initiative committees working on implementation plans. Council requested that, prior to its fall meeting, each committee prepare a one-page executive summary of its plan, and that all plans be structured using the same template. Council also suggested that the committees look at possible synergies and trade-offs among proposed initiatives and existing programs to take maximum advantage of resources. The committees should also work with staff and commissioners on how the new initiatives might align with the existing AMS Commission structure. Guidance was given to Executive Director Seitter on preparing the proposed 2020 budget with these initiatives in mind, while also giving DEI initiatives high priority and considering opportunities for revenue generation within the initiatives.

4.0 Task Force on Professional Conduct (cont.)

Council reviewed edits that had been made to the draft Code of Conduct and approved it for posting on the AMS website for 30 days for member comment.

6.5 Education Program External Review

Director of Education Abshire briefed Council on the external review of the Education Program and progress on implementing recommendations made by the review team.

6.6 Development Administrative Costs and Endowment Policy

Council discussed possible changes in the Society's endowment and fundraising policies that would begin using a portion of donated funds to cover administrative costs associated with the program. Council asked staff to modify the proposed plan based on the discussion and have a revised plan ready for consideration at the fall Council meeting.

6.3.2 Enthusiast Membership

Council discussed a proposal for changing the existing Associate Member category to be more attractive to nonprofessional enthusiasts. After a lively discussion, Council determined that while the concept had merit, Council needed more information. It was decided to postpone a decision to a later date.

6.3.1 Early Career and/or Tiered Dues Structure (cont.)

Council returned to the discussion and voted to approve a tiered membership dues structure based on self-reported income levels, with a slight modification to the proposed tiers. Council also asked that more information on automatic renewal and on allowing dues to be paid in monthly installments be prepared for its fall meeting.

6.3.5 Other Ideas Related to Member Services

Council discussed additional ideas to make membership more attractive, both to early career professionals and others.

7.0 Priorities and Guidance for Preparing the 2020 Budget

President Evans summarized the decisions made during the meeting and the items that were identified for further action at the fall Council meeting.

Council adjourned at 2:57 p.m.