

**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**Minutes of the 21-22 September 2017**  
**Meeting of the Council**  
**Boston, MA**

*Participants---* President-Elect Roger Wakimoto, Past-President Frederick Carr, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Rosen, and Executive Director Keith Seitter. *Councilors:* Philip Ardanuy, Andrea Bleistein, Carol Ann Clayson, John Cortinas, William Easterling, Tanja Fransen, Laura Furgione, David Gochis, Sue Ellen Haupt, Kevin Petty, Nicole Riemer, Alan Sealls. [Past-President MacDonald and Councilors Austin, Kinter, and Sobel were absent.] *Commissioners:* Donna Charlevoix (Education and Human Resources), William Mahoney (Enterprise), Bob Rauber (Publications), Yvette Richardson (Planning), and Bruce Telfeyan (STAC). [Commissioner McCann (Professional Affairs) was absent.] *AMS Staff:* Stephanie Armstrong, Tom Champoux, Lee Gordon, Claudia Gorski, Ken Heideman, Paul Higgins, William Hooke, Brian Papa, and Gwendolyn Whittaker. (Not all 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**

President-Elect Wakimoto called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. on 21 September 2017 and welcomed all. Secretary-Treasurer Rosen called the roll and announced a quorum of voting members was present.

**AMS Branding and Strategic Planning**

Brand consultant Michele Levy led the Council in a retreat-style session discussing the AMS brand and how to clarify messaging about what AMS is and what it will become in the next century.

*[Councilor Sealls arrived at 9:26 a.m.]*

*[Council briefly recessed from 9:53– 10:10 a.m. Upon resuming, President-Elect Wakimoto led Council in a moment of silence in memory of former President Parker.]*

**1.0 Meeting Minutes and Mail Ballots**

For its information, Council reviewed the meeting minutes and mail ballots of the Executive Committee.

All Council e-mail ballots not previously approved unanimously were formally approved, and ballots that were “provisionally approved” were formally approved.

Council reviewed and approved membership lists provisionally approved by e-mail ballot; approved the establishment of the University of California, Irvine student chapter and the Oregon State University student chapter; and approved the reactivation of the Marymount School of New York pre-college chapter, the Southern Wyoming chapter (including a name change to Wyoming local chapter), and the Central Virginia chapter.

## **2.1 STAC Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Telfeyan led the discussion of his report covering the Commission's 36 committees and boards. He noted that the STAC Best Practices document has proven very beneficial in guiding new members about their roles and responsibilities. After discussing ways to better recognize the service provided by committee and board chairs, Council agreed that badge ribbons should be provided to them at meetings. Council also asked staff to prepare and send thank you letters to all who serve on statement drafting committees, acknowledging the level of work that goes into this service.

### **2.1.1 Named Symposiums**

Council voted to approve a named symposium for Inez Fung for the 2019 Annual Meeting. It also asked that those who had submitted proposals for named symposiums be notified that their proposals would be considered for future annual meetings.

## **2.2 Publications Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Rauber reviewed proposed chief editor appointments, and Council voted to approve the following appointments and reappointments: JCLI: John Chiang, 2-year extension; JAS: Walter Robinson, 2-year extension, and Bill Brune, 2-year extension; Monographs: Greg McFarquhar, 2-year extension; WCAS: Henry Huntington, initial 3-year appointment. Council also approved the appointment of Zhuo Wang for a 3-year term as an at-large member of the Commission. Rauber reported the Commission has decided to eliminate Expedited Contributions (ECs) as a category of submissions to our journals, because initial editor decision and production times have dropped considerably since ECs were introduced and only 6% of all submissions are now ECs. Council engaged in an extensive discussion on the editor selection process and changes being made to increase opportunities for volunteers to become involved. Rauber discussed plans to deal with potential unintended gender biases in the selection of reviewers, which recent studies suggest may be an issue across the sciences. He reported on the successful revival of the Meteorological Monograph series, and he described steps being taken to produce a special monograph for the AMS Centennial. President-Elect Wakimoto asked that the Commission look carefully at how to make datasets available to other researchers and especially review efforts being made by other scientific publishers to ensure AMS is consistent with emerging trends in this area. The future of *Earth Interactions* was also discussed at some length, and the Commission will make recommendations to Council with respect to that journal in the coming months.

### **2.2.1 Update of AMS Copyright Policy**

Executive Director Seitter introduced some minor clarifying text to the AMS Copyright Policy, and Council voted to approve the changes.

## **2.3 Professional Affairs Commissioner's Report**

In Commissioner McCann's absence, Council reviewed her report, and Secretary-Treasurer Rosen led a discussion on proposed new language about the composition of the Board for Operational Government Meteorologists, which was approved by Council.

*[Council recessed for lunch from 12:10-1:10 p.m.]*

## **2.4 Education and Human Resources Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Charlevoix reviewed the reports of the boards making up her Commission. She discussed efforts with the Professional Affairs Commission to create a Leadership Academy that is intended to increase the number of early-career professionals, particularly from underrepresented groups, in leadership positions across the atmospheric and related sciences. Charlevoix encouraged steps be taken to allow videoconferencing to be routinely used for committee and board meetings.

## **2.5 Planning Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Richardson led a discussion on a possible restructuring of the Planning Commission to increase its effectiveness in coordinating initiatives across the Commissions. Council was strongly supportive of the concept and asked that Richardson prepare a more complete proposal. Council also approved the appointment of Jared Lee to serve a new term on the Commission beginning immediately and running through January 2020.

## **2.6 Weather, Water, and Climate Enterprise Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Mahoney reported on the many activities underway in the Commission. He expects the Commission to make a recommendation about the future of the Weather Enterprise Economic Evaluation Team in January. Mahoney noted his term as Commissioner ends in January so a new Future Commissioner should be named at that time. Council approved Deanna Hence and Mike Gremillion as new members to serve 3-year terms on the Commission's Steering Committee, and it approved the appointment of Rich Spaulding to the Steering Committee to complete the term of a member who resigned.

## **3.1 Status of Statements in Process**

Councilor Kinter joined by speakerphone to inform Council on progress in updating the Statement on Climate Change and then ended his participation. A draft of the Statement on Communicating Scientific Uncertainty was provided to Council with a request that it provide informal feedback to the drafting committee the next day. The status of several other Statements was discussed.

## **3.2 Restart Tornado Statement**

With the time limit expiring on a prior effort to revise the Tornado Preparedness and Safety Statement, the process will be restarted, and Councilor Fransen agreed to act as Council liaison to the drafting committee. She will also explore the possibility of revising the Tornado Forecasting and Warning Statement in parallel.

## **3.3 Professional and Respectful Conduct at AMS Meetings**

Council reviewed and approved revisions to strengthen the Statement on Professional and Respectful Conduct at AMS Meetings.

## **3.4 Best Practices for the Communication of Weather Warnings to the Public**

Council reviewed the draft Best Practices for the Communication of Weather Warnings to the Public, and it approved the draft be posted for member comment.

### **3.5 Revised Statement Guidelines to include Best Practices**

Secretary-Treasurer Rosen led a discussion on changes to the *Guidelines for Statements* so that it includes the previously approved guidelines for the creation of best practices documents. Council approved a revised *Guidelines for Statements and Best Practices*.

### **3.1 Status of Statements in Process (Cont.)**

In continued discussion, it was agreed that the Statement on Hurricanes was also in need of revision and work toward doing so should start soon. Council expressed its desire for the staff to provide better information on Statements that are due for revision to help ensure they are better kept up to date.

*[Council briefly recessed from 3:30– 3:50 p.m.]*

### **4.1 Status of 2017 Budget**

Executive Director Seitter provided a brief assessment of the status of the current year's budget, noting several indications that suggest we will end the year better than projected this spring.

### **4.2 2018 Proposed Budget**

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the budget process and provided an overview of the prior year budget, the proposed 2018 budget, and trends for future years. After discussion of several aspects of the proposed 2018 budget, Council voted to approve it as presented.

### **5.0 Awards**

President-Elect Wakimoto reviewed the process this year that allowed Council approval of the awards recipient and new Fellows in the summer so these individuals could more easily participate in the upcoming Annual Meeting. He felt, and Council agreed, that this experiment was a complete success and that the process should continue.

### **5.1 Awards Oversight Committee Eight-Year Review**

Past-President Carr led a review of the AOC Eight-Year Review report, with Council considering each recommendation in turn. Council approved changes in nearly every award and lectureship, with some being minor and others more significant. The approvals included a new definition of "early career" as used with respect to the awards. It also approved a proposal to create a new Society-level award to recognize early-career professional achievement. Council chose to table a recommendation to transition the Charney Award to a mid-career Charney Medal, asking the AOC to gather more information and discuss the issue with past Charney Award recipients. It also requested the Researcher Involvement Committee be consulted about the definition of "mid-career."

*Council adjourned for the day at 5:30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:07 a.m. on 22 September 2017 with the same members present.*

### **5.1 Awards Oversight Committee Eight-Year Review (Cont.)**

Past-President Carr continued the review of the AOC Eight-Year Review report. Again, Council approved the recommendations for changes to the remaining awards, with a significant

change being the transition of the three lectureships to mid-career awards that would be approved during the summer prior to the Annual Meeting at which the lecture would nominally occur rather than an additional year in advance. This timing transition will mean that no new lectureships will be chosen in 2018 because the 2019 lectureships have already been awarded, and the first lectureships as mid-career awards will occur for the 100th Annual Meeting in 2020.

Council also approved changes to the *Guidelines for Society and Commission Awards*, including making the AOC chair an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the three research award committees (ARA, ORA, and HRA). In addition, the time period during which nominations for early-career awards remain active was changed to be consistent with that for other awards. Council requested the staff to complete a full analysis of the gender diversity of all awards, including the nomination pools from the past several years. A list of all Commission-level awards was also requested for the January Council meeting. Executive Director Seitter noted that with the passing of President Parker, Past-President Carr agreed to chair the AOC again next year.

## **5.2 Awards Nominations Committee Report**

The ANC report was reviewed by Past-President Carr. The report contained several recommendations, some of which were incorporated in the AOC Eight-Year Review. For others, Council suggested a response be sent to the ANC and asked the Executive Director to draft the response for review by President-Elect Wakimoto.

## **5.3 ARA, ORA, HRA Committees for 2018**

Council reviewed the membership lists for the atmospheric, oceanic, and hydrologic research award committees.

## **5.4 Fellows and Awards Nominating Committees for 2018**

Council appointed Past-President MacDonald to chair the Fellows Committee again in 2018 to allow Past-President Carr to chair the AOC in the absence of what would have been President Parker's role as Past-President. Council then approved three new members to the Fellows Committee for terms ending in January 2021, with alternates in case any decline this service. Similarly, Council reappointed two members and approved five new members to the Awards Nominations Committee for terms ending in January 2021.

## **6.1 Annual Meeting Oversight Committee**

Council reviewed the report of the AMOC, noting the new chair and new member appointed by the Executive Committee.

## **6.2 Environmental Stewardship Committee**

Council reviewed the report of the committee, including its plan for the 2018 Annual Meeting.

## **6.3 History Committee**

Council reviewed the report of the committee, which highlighted the selection of this year's winner of the AMS Graduate Fellowship in the History of Science.

## **6.4 Finance Committee**

President-Elect Wakimoto reviewed the role of this new committee and the input it would provide to the Executive Committee and Council with respect to the budget process.

#### **6.5 Investments Committee**

Council reviewed the membership of the committee, which did not have a report for this meeting.

#### **6.6 Nominating Committee**

Council reviewed the membership of the committee, which did not have a report for this meeting.

#### **6.7 Local Chapter Affairs Committee**

Council reviewed the report of the committee, which noted the committee continues to update its Facebook page on a monthly basis. Council encouraged the committee to include more members from local chapters.

#### **6.8 Membership Committee**

Council reviewed the report of the committee, which included a number of recommendations for future consideration.

#### **6.9 Centennial Committee**

The Centennial Committee provided an extensive report, which Council reviewed. The report called for the creation of five task forces over the next year to develop new initiatives coming from its working groups. Council approved the creation of all five task forces, authorizing Past-President Gail, chair of the committee, to begin populating them.

##### **6.9.1 Member Engagement Model of Support**

Executive Director Seitter outlined the changes being implemented as part of a major staff restructuring to implement a staff support model built on member engagement instead of member services. Council requested that the staff provide a webinar on the new Higher Logic member engagement platform sometime prior to the Annual Meeting.

#### **7.1 Committee on Researcher Involvement**

Council reviewed the report of the RIC. No actions were required at this time, but Council noted the committee's plan to complete its last white paper and then sunset by January 2018.

#### **7.2 International Affairs Committee**

Council reviewed the IAC report and approved reappointments of Ghassam Asrar and Wassila Thiaw for new three-year terms ending January 2021.

#### **8.1 BAMS Task Force**

President-Elect Wakimoto briefly reviewed the initiation of a task force to recommend possible changes to *BAMS* as part of Centennial activities.

#### **8.2 AMS Meetings Task Force**

Council reviewed the report of the AMTF, which had no Council action items at this time.

### **8.3 Diversity and Inclusiveness Task Force**

President-Elect Wakimoto briefly reviewed the initiation of a task force to study the Society's efforts concerning diversity and inclusiveness to ensure they are as substantive and effective as possible.

### **9.0 Selection of Fifth Councilor**

After discussion, Council voted to elect Jen Henderson as Fifth Councilor, to begin her three-year term with the four Councilors elected by the members this coming January.

### **10.0 Secretary-Treasurer Appointment**

With Secretary-Treasurer Rosen excused from the meeting, Council voted to reappoint him as Secretary-Treasurer to an additional two-year term ending January 2020.

*[Council briefly recessed from 9:55– 10:15 a.m. Councilor Easterling left the meeting at this time and returned at 11:04 a.m.]*

### **11.0 Mentoring Program**

Councilor Fransen led a discussion on a mentoring program for the Society that is currently entering a pilot trial phase. Council expressed its support for the program and asked that metrics be developed to gauge success.

### **12.0 Collaboration with Other Organizations**

In discussing current collaborations with other organizations, Council expressed a desire that AMS should more formally collaborate with some organizations that serve minority science communities (such as SACNAS) and also those that serve the emergency management community.

### **13.1 AMS 100th Anniversary Campaign**

Council reviewed progress on the 100th Anniversary Campaign and the timeline for efforts through 2018.

### **13.2 Fellowship and Scholarship Program**

Council reviewed as an informational item the extensive list of scholarships and fellowships awarded over the past year.

### **14.1 2017 Specialty Meetings**

Council reviewed the listing of specialty meetings held in the current year, all of which were quite successful.

### **14.2 2018 Annual Meeting**

President-Elect Wakimoto reviewed the plans for the upcoming 98th Annual Meeting, including changes to previous annual meeting formats in order to improve the experience for attendees. Council offered a number of ideas about ways to make the meeting as successful as

possible, especially with respect to organizing special sessions dealing with the current, impactful hurricane season.

#### **14.3 2019 Annual Meeting**

President-Elect Wakimoto reviewed the plans for his Annual Meeting in 2019, reviewing the theme and ideas for additional new approaches to aspects of the meeting.

#### **14.4 2020 and Beyond Annual Meetings**

Council reviewed the list of locations and dates secured for upcoming Annual Meetings. With Houston being a chosen venue for three of these in the years following 2020, Council discussed the current California action not allowing state funds to be used to travel to Texas due to discriminatory laws there. Rather than move these future meetings from Texas, Council agreed that a statement should be prepared expressing that AMS would maintain its plan to bring the meetings to Houston to support its recovery following Hurricane Harvey, but also to be vocal in not supporting discriminatory laws.

#### **15.0 Policy Program Status Report**

Policy Program Director Higgins gave a brief status report on the program.

*[Council recessed for lunch from 12:05-1:00 p.m.]*

#### **15.1 Membership Status Report**

Council reviewed a status report on membership in the Society.

#### **15.2 Communications Status Report**

Council reviewed a report on efforts to increase communication with members and those outside the Society.

#### **15.3 Publications Status Report**

Council reviewed a report on staff efforts in support of the publications program, including significant improvements to the Publications web pages.

*[Councilor Riemer left the meeting at 1:30 p.m.]*

#### **15.4 IT Status Report**

Council reviewed the status of implementing new software platforms to support member services, which will enable increased member engagement.

#### **15.5 Education Program Status Report**

Education Program Director Abshire reported on the major changes in the program that have been implemented in the past year under her leadership of the program.

#### **15.6 Science, Service, and Society**

Executive Director Seitter reviewed efforts this year that fall under the Council-approved Framework for Government Relations. Council discussed the scope of initiatives and support for the level of activity.



**15.7 AMS/Sigma Xi Lecturer for 2018**

Council was informed that the Executive Committee had chosen Kristen Averyt as the 2018 AMS/Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer.

**15.8 James Mahoney Memorial Lecturer for 2018**

Council was informed that the Executive Committee had chosen Jane Lubchenco as the 2018 Mahoney Lecturer.

**15.9 Annual Report 2016**

It was noted that the annual report for 2016 was available on the AMS website.

**16.0 AMS Affiliation with Other Organizations**

Council reviewed an informational item listing of all the organizations with which AMS has formal and informal relationships.

**17.0 Other Matters**

Councilor Clayson led a discussion on ways the AMS might better serve and entrain the physical oceanography community, which currently takes advantage of the *Journal of Physical Oceanography* and greatly values the Society's awards in oceanography but has little participation in other AMS activities. After substantial discussion, a working group was formed including Councilors Ardanuy, Clayson, and Gochis, who will work with the Planning Commission to develop ideas to address this issue.

*[Councilors Bleistein and Furgione left the meeting at 1:52 p.m.]*

**3.1 Status of Statements in Process (Cont.)**

Councilor Haupt led a discussion of the draft Statement on Communicating Scientific Uncertainty that had been provided the day before and collected a number of informal comments for the drafting committee to consider.

*Council adjourned at 2:35 p.m.*