

AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
Meeting of the Council
9 January 2005
San Diego, CA

Minutes

President Avery called the Council meeting to order at 8:00 AM on 9 January 2005.

Present: President Avery; President-Elect Lyons; Past President Rosen; Councilors Arkin, Barros, Blaskovich, Colton, Francis, Hollingsworth, Jones, Karl, Karoly, Killeen, Marsh, and Wash; Commissioners Colman, Klemp, McVehil, Toohey-Morales, and Winkler; Executive Director Seitter; Secretary-Treasurer Spengler; and Recorder Rasmussen.

1. Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes

President Avery welcomed the Council, newly elected Councilors, and other attendees and previewed the agenda, noting it was full. The Council approved the minutes of the October 2004 Council Meeting.

2. STAC Commission Report

Commissioner Colman delivered the report. The Council approved a request to continue planning two international meetings: the 8th International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography in Brazil in 2006 and the 33rd International Conference on Radar Meteorology in 2007. In addition, Commissioner Colman provided information about early planning for an international satellite conference in 2007. The Council approved a request from the Interaction of the Sea and Atmosphere Committee to change their name to the Air–Sea Interaction Committee. The Council approved a request from the Board on Urban Environment to increase the number of members to nine by adding one additional member each year for the next two years. AMS staff noted a request from the Commissioner to add “Urban” to the comprehensive list of member areas of interest. The Council approved a request from the Boards on Urban Environment and Societal Impacts to allow each board to select a flexible number of *ex officio* members. Finally, Commissioner Colman noted that as time pressures at meetings continue to mount, more and more contributors are being asked to give posters in lieu of talks. This is problematic because recordings of oral presentations appear in the online meeting record whereas the content of poster presentations does not. AMS Staff noted the need to continue ongoing work toward treating posters and oral presentations as equals in the online record of meetings.

3. Professional Affairs Commission Report

Commissioner Toohey-Morales delivered the report. The Board on Broadcast Meteorology reports that the Certified Broadcast Meteorologist test will soon become operational. It also stated that the certified broadcaster fee structure is out of line with the CCM fees and is becoming a burden to Seal holders as more stations shift the Seal costs onto their meteorologists. Executive Director Seitter noted that the staff is now reviewing the fee structures of the AMS certification programs.

With approval of the new Weather and Climate Enterprise Commission, the Board on Private Sector Meteorology will need new terms of reference and a new name. The Council approved a motion to thank Board on Operational Government Meteorologists for its efforts in producing a white paper, in consultation with the Board on Higher Education, on hydrometeorological education, and urged BOGM to move forward with publishing the paper in BAMS. The Council approved appointment of James Giraytys to the Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists.

4. Planning Commission Report

Commissioner McVehil delivered the report. The Council approved the appointment of addition of Marv Geller and Ana Barros to four-year terms.

5. Journalism Award

Proposed terms of reference were presented for review and approval. The Council, however, deferred approval pending a few requested changes.

6. AMS Policy and Government Relations Programs

The Council approved a motion to remove “Atmospheric” from the name of the AMS Policy Program. Director Hooke requested the change because the former name did not well describe the breadth of policy issues addressed by the Program.

Policy Program Director Hooke asked for approval for the draft AMS/UCAR Presidential Administration Transition Document. The Council requested changes and suggested that a revised draft could be circulated by e-mail for approval.

Director Hooke reviewed the history of the AMS Government Relations Program as it has evolved over the years. He proposed that the Policy Program take on a new role that expanded its scope to include a series of educational seminars for Hill staffers that would provide credible and scientifically sound information on issues impacting policy without an advocacy component. This would be a new activity for the Policy Program in addition to the existing Forum series and the Summer Policy Colloquium. The Council approved having the Policy Program begin this seminar series, but also discussed the need for the Society to continue to take on an advocacy role in some selected situations on behalf of the community.

7. Concerns about Recent Changes to the CCM Program

George D. Greenly, Jr., CCM addressed the Council to discuss concerns of roughly 60 CCMs about the procedures used by the Society and its CCM Board during the period leading up to the Council’s recent decision to add a continuing professional development requirement for active CCMs. In particular, he stated that a consensus among the CCMs about the new requirement does not exist and that there are unanswered questions. He requested that the new requirement be rescinded, and a new working group be appointed, because he and the CCMs he represents believed that considerable opposing input from the CCM community had not been given adequate weight during the deliberations. Once Mr. Greenly and the Council members began to discuss details, however, it became evident the concerns of the CCMs represented by Mr. Greenly were largely based on incomplete and incorrect information and that the procedures used by the Society and its CCM Board were, in fact, sound. Thus, the Council concluded that there was no basis for rescinding the new requirement for continuing professional development.

Mr. Greenly also expressed concern about the lack of CCM marketing, and stated his belief that the Society must market the CCM credential, but not the CCMs themselves. Executive Director Seitter replied that AMS is a Society run by volunteers, with a very small professional staff, and that much of the work in developing a CCM marketing program must be done by volunteer CCMs. With that caveat, he expressed his strong personal commitment to making CCM marketing a top priority.

The Council broke at noon for lunch and then reconvened at 1:00 PM.

8. Midterm Review

Councilor Arkin reported that the Midterm Review Final Report had been posted for comment for the required period and that no substantive changes had been required. The Council accepted and approved the report, with gratitude to the report committee.

9. Ballot Change Proposal from the Planning Commission

The Council voted to approve the Planning Commission’s proposal to change the wording of instructions to voters on the AMS Ballot. The newly approved wording is, “You may vote for up to four candidates for the Council. So that the Council membership reflects the broad membership of the AMS (roughly divided evenly into private sector, public sector, and academia), the Council asks that you take balance into consideration, and consider voting for at least one candidate from each sector. However, you are of course free to vote for the candidates of your choice, based upon your judgment of their qualifications to serve the entire membership. Please read the enclosed biographical information and candidate statements for more information on each candidate.”

The Council expressed the sentiment that a get-out-the-vote campaign is needed to encourage greater participation of the membership in the elections.

10. Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise

John Snow, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Weather and Climate Enterprise, provided a summary of committee actions following the October 2004 Council meeting. The draft committee report was posted to the AMS web site for comment, and it attracted some 60 comments. A few comments suggested that CCMs should be mentioned more prominently. In discussing the comments, there was broad agreement that the new Commission must work hard to remain strictly neutral in order to remain credible, and that great care must be taken in appointing members to commission boards to achieve balance.

During the discussion, the Council expressed concern that the name Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise may not be seen as being as inclusive as desired, but was unable to agree upon a better name. The Council requested that the Commission review its name and suggest a better one, if possible.

The Council voted to accept the final report. It also voted to appoint George Frederick as Commissioner for a three-year term, and it directed him to proceed with the implementation of the Commission as outlined in the Ad Hoc Committee's final report.

11. Possible AMS Response to the New NOAA Partnership Policy

A number of AMS members and affiliated organizations such as the National Council of Industrial Meteorologists have expressed displeasure with the new NOAA Policy on Partnerships in the Provision of Environmental Information. After discussion, the sentiment of the Council was that the Enterprise Commission could provide venues for discussion of the new policy. The Council, however, took no formal action.

12. Dues Increase for 2006

After discussion, the Council voted to increase annual dues, effective for 2006, as follows: Full Member, \$80; Associate Member, \$55; and Precollege Teacher, \$40. Dues for Student Members, Members with Student Privileges, and Precollege Associate members will remain at \$15. Also remaining unchanged is the dues schedule for former student members who upgrade their memberships.

13. Office of Public Outreach

Executive Director Seitter reviewed the status of a proposal AMS to create an AMS Office of Public Outreach. He requested authority to continue working toward the possible creation of such a component within the AMS staff structure. Executive Director Seitter was directed to proceed, with the Executive Committee providing oversight.

14. Bachelor's Degree Statement

Commissioner Winkler introduced the topic by noting that the statement has a five-year update cycle and it is now time to reexamine the current statement. When the reexamination began the Board on Higher Education anticipated that only small changes would be needed, but the resulting draft ended up being a considerable expansion of the current statement.

The committee working on the update included representatives from the Board on Private Sector Meteorology, the Board of Operational Government Meteorologists, and the Board on Outreach and Pre-College Education. A large number of people reviewed the current statement and 50 people provided comments and input, including participants from the Heads and Chairs meeting that took place in October 2004.

The new statement includes emphasis on the importance of information technology skills, statistical reasoning applied to decision making, climate change, and multidisciplinary studies. The three tracks in the current statement have been augmented with five additional tracks. Mention of new opportunities for research and apprenticeship/internship have been added. Much concern was expressed in the inputs about the need for flexibility. In response, the new statement focuses on demonstrated competencies rather than coursework requirements.

An important outstanding question for membership and the new broadcast certification is: What qualifies as the *equivalent* of a bachelor's degree. Once the new statement is accepted the Admissions Committee will make that determination.

The Council approved posting the proposed new statement for a 30-day comment period.

President Avery thanked the outgoing Councilors and the second past president for their service and adjourned the Council meeting at about 3:45 PM.