

## IAMG General Assembly, 16 September 2002, Free University of Berlin

President Graeme Bonham-Carter convened the General Assembly at 6:07 p.m. with an overview of how the council does business. Most communication is accomplished via e-mail. Significant events of the past year are:

1. Signed a contract with Events & Management (E&M), Kingston, Ontario, to administer a permanent home office. This allows the IAMG address to remain unchanged even when the officers change. It relieves the treasurer from handling membership renewals, subscription requests, and complaints. IAMG members should notify any council member if they have problems in their interaction with E&M.
2. Established a distinguished lecturer program and chose John Davis as the first lecturer.
3. Established a student grants program that allocates \$5,000 and chose three recipients:
  - Ning Lu, University of Tulsa, received \$2,000.
  - Carolina Albert, Polytechnical University de Valencia, received \$1,500.
  - Hiratako Saito, University of Michigan, received \$1,500.
4. Chose award recipients:
  - Krumbein Medal to Mike Hohn.
  - Griffiths Teaching Award to Ian Lerche.
  - Best paper in *Computers & Geosciences* was shared by
    - Peter Flemings and Janette (Cookman) Metzger of Penn State, Ross Moore (Australia) and Scott Johnson (U.S.)
  - Best paper in *Mathematical Geology*, Lin Y. Hu, Georges Blanc, and Benoit Noetinger, "Gradual Deformation and Iterative Calibration of Sequential Stochastic Simulations" was announced by editor Ed Sharp.
5. Awards Committee chair will change after this conference from Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn to Heinz Burger.

The above business does not require convening a General Assembly, but changing the by-laws does. The Secretary General gave six months notice of the proposed by-law changes that will be considered at this assembly, and the wording of the changes was posted on the IAMG web site.

Two primary reasons for convening the General assembly:

1. Advent of the contract with E&M showed many classes of membership were not being used, and the cost of the contract--\$6,000 per year--indicated the dues might need to be restructured.
2. Proposal was made at last year's (2001) council meeting to establish a retired member status with reduced dues.

These issues were considered by a membership commission, chaired by Ricardo Olea. Council voted to accept the commission's recommendations, which require changes to by-laws 1 & 2. This background is provided so the members know there was due process.

President Bonham-Carter read the proposed by-laws changes (copy attached), which essentially

1. Specify the membership categories as institutional or individual, with individual being further divided into regular or student.

## IAMG General Assembly, 16 September 2002, Free University of Berlin

2. Allow dues and benefits to be determined by the council.

President Bonham-Carter then explained the rationale behind the proposed changes was the desire to retain members, and he reviewed the benefits of membership. In addition to these benefits, the council is considering a “members only” secure web site that might allow downloading of code.

IAMG is hoping to encourage more institutional memberships, and President Bonham-Carter reviewed the benefits of memberships in this category.

President Bonham-Carter then asked for questions from the floor.

Dan Tetzlaff: Do the prices for journal subscriptions differ depending on whether they're ordered through IAMG or directly from the publisher?

President Bonham-Carter : No, the prices are the same.

Ute Herzfeld: \$10 is too small a membership fee. Can we increase it by enough to cover the cost of the administrative office without discouraging journal readership?

President Bonham-Carter : This issue was discussed by the council. As presently structured, each new member to IAMG costs the association money, and the publishers don't make any money on the subscriptions, so no one has a financial incentive to increase membership. E-publishing has helped address this issue, so even if print subscriptions decrease, readership probably won't.

Ed Sharp: Proposed by-laws changes increase the minimum dues from \$32 to \$42, so one can no longer become a member on the cheap simply by subscribing to *Mathematical Geology*.

In the absence of any more questions, President Bonham-Carter asked for a motion on the proposed by-laws changes.

Ed Sharp moved that IAMG accept the by-laws changes as proposed.

Hernani Chavez seconded the motion.

By show of hands, the motion carried with only two “no” votes.

President Bonham-Carter: For other new business, many of you are aware of the problems at Kansas Geological survey. The council has received a petition to be signed by IAMG members and forwarded to University of Kansas.

Ed Sharp read the text of the petition.

President Bonham-Carter: The petition will be left in the conference registration office, and I encourage each of you to sign.

## **IAMG General Assembly, 16 September 2002, Free University of Berlin**

Dave Collins: Since some of the members may not be familiar with the issue, I'll also put in the registration office an executive summary of the 28 page rebuttal letter that was sent to the KU chancellor.

Carol Gotway Crawford asked how those who did not attend this session might be made aware of the petition.

Heinz Burger replied that he or Graeme would announce the petition at tomorrow morning's plenary session, and he would post notice on the conference bulletin board and mention it at the banquet on Wednesday.

Hernani Chavez asked if attendees could pay annual dues while at the conference.

President Bonham-Carter replied that the treasurer could accommodate individuals with special circumstances but paying dues at the conference will not be a general feature.

Mike Hohn moved to adjourn the General Assembly.

Gert Jan Weltje seconded the motion.

General Assembly adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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### ***BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR MEMBERSHIP RESTRUCTURING***

As required by IAMG's constitution, the Secretary General sent a notification to all IAMG members 6 months in advance of a General Assembly to be held during IAMG2002 in Berlin on Monday September 16th at 6.15 pm. The purpose of the General Assembly is to discuss and vote on two constitutional amendments. This memo provides members with some advance information about the proposed changes. By-Law 18 states that "The By-Laws can be amended only at a meeting of the General Assembly. Amendment of the By-Laws shall be by simple majority of votes."

The amendments concern By-Laws 1 and 2 that deal with membership, member dues and member benefits.

During the last IAMG conference in Cancun, the IAMG Council received a renewed request to lower membership payment for retired members. Later last year, Council decided to contract office assistance primarily to make the burden of the Treasurer more manageable and to provide the Association a permanent address (IAMG Newsletter 64, p. 3). The cost of this service will be about US\$6,000 a year. Finally, earlier this year, Council received a request to start a category of Honorary Member.

Triggered by these developments, last winter Council decided to form a Membership Commission to review in depth the subject of IAMG membership. The Commission, consisting of Ricardo Olea (chair), Jef Caers, Angela Diblasi, Olivier Dubrule, Juan Jose Egozcoe and

## IAMG General Assembly, 16 September 2002, Free University of Berlin

Richard Howarth submitted its report to Council last May and Council has approved by wide margins all changes that have been put to vote. The cornerstone of the Commission's proposal is the idea to change the requirement to be a regular member. For more than 20 years members paid a fee plus mandatory subscription to at least one journal at a discount price; ten years ago, the fee was dropped; and now the proposal is to bring back the fee and get away from the requirement to subscribe to the IAMG journals. The objectives of the change are:

(1) to diversify the sources of income; (2) to decouple membership rights from individual benefits in the By-Laws; (3) to provide a simple mechanism to allow retired members to keep full rights at a more affordable price than having to subscribe to journals; (4) to make membership available to individuals who either cannot afford the journals, or who prefer not to pay for journals that they can read at their libraries; (5) to restore a small membership fee, payable by all members whether or not they subscribe to a journal, to help offset new and existing administrative costs.

In terms of institutional membership, the idea is to reduce the four categories in By-Laws 1c-1f to only one. Implementation of these proposals requires the following constitutional amendments:

### Current IAMG By-Laws 1 and 2 pertain to Membership:

1. *Annual membership fees are fixed as follows:*
  - (a) *Individual membership dues are determined by the choice of subscription to a journal, of which at least one is required. The full cost of the dues is paid to the publisher for the journal subscription, as defined by contracts with the publishers. Annual membership fees thus may be adjusted from year to year to reflect changes in the subscription prices.*

*During 2000, the annual rates resulting from contracts with the publishers are:*

<i>Mathematical Geology</i>	<i>\$32 (U.S.)</i>
<i>Computers &amp; Geosciences</i>	<i>\$71 (U.S.)</i>
<i>Natural Resources Research</i>	<i>\$49 (U.S.)</i>
  - (b) *Corresponding membership is free (\$0). Corresponding membership is limited to individuals residing in countries with inconvertible currencies.*
  - (c) *Institutional membership is \$1,000 (U.S.)*
  - (d) *Company membership is \$1,000 (U.S.)*
  - (e) *Sustaining membership is \$5,000 (U.S.)*
  - (f) *Patron membership is \$10,000 (U.S.)*

*All members will receive the IAMG Newsletter as part of membership.*
2. *To maintain membership in IAMG the annual fee must be paid before January 30 of the calendar year to which it relates.*

**Reason for change:** To comply with the idea to charge a fee, make subscription to journals optional, and avoid listing prices in the By-Laws. Prices change continuously and any change in the By-Laws requires General Assembly approval. The practical thing to do is to post details in the Internet, where, with the simple approval of Council, updates can be done in a timely and simple fashion.

## IAMG General Assembly, 16 September 2002, Free University of Berlin

**Proposed change:** Under the proposed membership structure, these two By-Laws will now read as follows:

### *By-Law 1: Membership.*

*The Association offers two main types of membership: individual and institutional. Individual Members can be Regular Members or Student Members. Any individual interested in the activities of the Association qualifies to be a Regular Member. A Student Member needs to be enrolled at a university of acceptable academic standards.*

### *By-Law 2. Dues and benefits.*

*Dues and benefits shall be determined by Council and published on the IAMG Home Page (<http://www.iamg.org>). To maintain membership, the annual dues must be paid in a timely manner upon receiving an invoice from the IAMG Office. Dues are not refundable.*

## **Notice of benefits to be posted on the IAMG web page (assuming approval of amendments)**

### IAMG Dues and Benefits of Membership.

#### 1. Individual membership

##### a. Ordinary member:

Dues: US\$10 per year

Benefits:

(1) Special rates on subscriptions to Mathematical Geology, Computers & Geosciences and Natural Resources Research.; (2) Special discounts on other IAMG publications, including IAMG monographs, Silver CD, and IAMG proceedings volumes on CD, where available; (3) Reduced registration rate at IAMG conferences; (4) Receipt of IAMG Newsletter; (5) Access to IAMG membership directory; (6) Eligible to hold office in IAMG; (7) Eligible to vote at IAMG General Assemblies.

##### b. Student member

Dues: \$5 per year

Benefits: Same as those for Ordinary Members, except that the Computers & Geosciences print subscription is 50% less.

#### 2. Institutional membership

Dues: US\$3,500 per year

Benefits:

(1) Library subscription to all three IAMG journals; (2) Special rates for purchasing other IAMG publications, including monographs, Silver CD, and

**IAMG General Assembly, 16 September 2002, Free University of Berlin**

IAMG proceedings volumes on CD, where available.; (3) Special registration rates at IAMG conferences; (4) Space provided for promotion at IAMG conferences; (5) Prominent acknowledgment of support in the Newsletter and IAMG conferences; (6) Receipt of IAMG Newsletter; (6) Access to electronic directory of members; (7) Having the right to vote; (8) Preferential treatment in the scheduling of presentations as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

*The proposed changes in By-Laws and the statement of benefits and dues to be posted on the web have been approved unanimously by the IAMG Council. Members wishing to read the report of the Membership Commission may do so on the IAMG Home page at [www.iamg.org](http://www.iamg.org). This report will be available on the web until after the Berlin meeting.*