AGU Council Meeting Summary

14 December 2014
Washington D.C.

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Meeting Summary
Focus for December 2014

– Time for reflection on the last year’s accomplishments and learning
– Looking to the year ahead; beginning of the orientation of new Section & Focus Group leaders and Student & Early Career Council members
– Reports on the work of Sections/Focus Groups and Committees/Task Forces
– Passing of the gavel
Meeting Summary
State of the Union

• Margaret Leinen provided an update on topics raised in the last open mic session
  – Finance Committee will address funding for Sections & Focus Groups at the April meeting.
  – Governance Committee will develop improved ways to recognize volunteers.
  – Request that Council members who want to take up the topic of position statements speak with her.
  – Noted that the September in person meeting was added as the Council suggested.
• Highlighted science issues on the horizon
Meeting Summary
State of the Union

• Lessons learned from Carol Finn
  – Anticipate and manage change. Be patient.
  – Develop strategies, then evaluate and adapt.
  – Invite the future into the room (students and early career). Always involve members.
  – Communicate often, and in multiple ways.
  – Trust our processes, they provide clarity, reduce confusion and speed smart decision-making.

GIVE EVERYONE THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT. OUR POWER IS AS A WHOLE.
Meeting Summary
State of the Union

• Chris McEntee highlighted 3 accomplishments that highlight how Council, Board & staff partner
  – Data Science (skills-building, standards and collaboration)
  – Publishing (new journals, editors)
  – Digital Strategy (eos.org + more)
• Provided an update on the evolution of the Thriving Earth Exchange.
• CFO Mark Hernick reported on AGU Finances, which are on target with a strong balance sheet.
Meeting Summary
Scientific Trends Task Force

• Christy Till provided an overview of the goals, process and outcome of the Task Force work.
  – While the process was quick, over 1,000 individuals responded, and the top level findings have “face validity” and can be built upon.
  – Findings are being considered by Committees, including Publishing and Affiliation & Engagement, and others.
  – The Council discussed next steps and implications.
Meeting Summary
Meetings Strategic Review

• Jim Davis summarized findings from the Meetings Review and the challenge of evolving from a position of strength (content, meeting experience, use of technology, best meetings practices)

  Meetings should not be an event that just happens and then disappears. How can we extend the experience?

• Council discussed three questions
  – Chapman’s – expansion of topics
  – Fall Meeting – inter/transdisciplinary research beyond SWIRLs
  – Virtual – integrating and expanding the virtual video program

• Feedback will be summarized, posted on Collaboration site and discussed by the Meetings Committee
Meeting Summary
Fellows Program Review

• Rana Fine reported on the state of the Fellows nominations and selection process, highlighting need for increased diversity of gender, geography and interdisciplinary science

• Procedural improvements to be implemented
  – Improved demographics tracking
  – Increase awareness of who can nominate and participate
  – Take steps to increase diversity
  – Disseminate known best practices to S & FG and Union Fellows Selection committee
  – Continue to study the quota system
  – Address issues concerning the H-index; remove the requirement
  – Holdover policy to be altered to require updates
Meeting Summary
Fellows Program Motion Carried

The AGU Council approves recommendations to change in wording for AGU Fellows Selection Criteria, and endorsement of the AGU “College of Fellow” concept, as recommended by the Fellow Program Review Task Force and endorsed by the Honors & Recognition Committee.
Meeting Summary
Sharing Best Practices

• Billy Williams, Director of Science presented a summary of Best Practices submitted by the Sections/Focus Groups and Committees/Task Forces

• The Council discussed these findings
The Council was updated by Judith McKenzie on new program initiatives, policies, new award approvals and operational items resulting from the Honors & Recognition Committee’s annual review of the Union Honors Program.
Other Actions Taken

- The Consent Agenda was approved
- The gavel was passed and contributions of outgoing Council members were acknowledged
Questions? Comments?

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