

Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc.

Mineral & Metallurgical Processing Division
Hyatt Regency Denver, February 26, 2023, 9:00-11:30 am
Denver, CO

Meeting Minutes

Date submitted: February 27, 2023

Opening:

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Mineral & Metallurgical Division (MPD) of the SME was called to order at 9:00 AM on February 26, 2023 in Denver, CO by Ronel Kappes.

Present:

Ronel Kappes, Chair – Present
Garland Davis, Past Chair – Present
Dave Meadows, Associate Chair – Present
Jaeheon Lee, First Vice Chair – Present
Tarun Bhambhani, Second Vice Chair – Present
Aaron Noble, Secretary-Treasurer – Present
Kimberly Mills, Technical Program Associate – Present
Nick Gow, Membership Associate – Present
Chee Theng, SME Liaison – Present

Guests:

Jayson Ripke, Abdul Jalil Mohammed, Mike Moats, Jim Wickens, Ryan Foy, Adam House, Corey Foxworth, Jim Metsa, Bin Ji, Mohammad Rezaee, Sunnatulloer Shokizjon, Pengbo Chu, Zynep Cicek, Deniz Talan, Jordan Rutledge, Zach Zanetell, Fangyu Liu, Sumedh Gostu, Mark Strauss, Wencai Zhang, Eston Hartzell, Bennson Tanda, Erin Buck, Mike Spiches, Lana Alagha, Shihua Han, Chandiura Subasinghe, Younes Shekarian, Behzad Vaziri Hassas, Philip Keller, Hassan Amini, Hamid Akbari, Tom Rauch

A. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Safety Share

The group discussed the safety handout that was provided with the conference registration materials, particularly the discussion on altitude sickness. Attendees were encouraged to stay hydrated and rest as needed.

D. Open Issues

1. Programming

The MPD technical program for the MINEXCHANGE 2023 SME Annual Conference & Expo features 18 sessions, including a special symposium in honor of Patrick Taylor. MPD contributed more than 90 technical presentations, with very few last-minute cancelations. The Monday afternoon plenary session will include lectures honoring the division's major award recipients, and a certificate presentation to the Rong Yu Wan Ph.D. Dissertation Scholarship recipient.

Technical programming for the MINEXCHANGE 2024 SME Annual Conference & Expo will be led by Jaeheon Lee. All attendees were encouraged to attend the MPD Unit Committee Meeting in the afternoon to discuss session topics and special session ideas.

2. Social Functions and Fundraisers

The 2023 Scotch Nightcap will be held on February 28, 2023. The Bass Metals band will perform at the event, and Secretary-Treasurer, Aaron Noble, will serve as the MC. Sponsorship for this year was at a record level, with five title sponsors and six supporting sponsors. Total sponsorship revenue was \$48,000, and ticket sales revenue will be determined after annual meeting. Ticket sales were capped at 400.

In the lead up to the Scotch Nightcap for this year, the MPD Executive Committee created an ad hoc planning and execution committee, led by MPD past chair Garland Davis. This group held monthly planning meetings with SME staff to ensure the smooth execution of the event.

The MPD luncheon was supported by five title sponsors and three supporting sponsors. Attendees were encouraged to attend the luncheon.

The 2023-2024 MPD Calendar was distributed to all registered attendees of MINEXCHANGE 2023. All of the 12 month spots in the calendar plus the front cover and back cover were sold out, and the committee called special attention to Emma Salditt who supported the fundraising efforts.

3. Awards

The committee recognized this year's award recipients, who include:

Antoine M. Gaudin Award – Cyril O' Connor
Robert H. Richards Award – Stephen Morrell
Milton E. Wadsworth Award – Yeonuk Choi
Arthur F. Taggart Award – Grant Colligan, Brock O'Kelley, and Corby Anderson
MPD Outstanding Young Engineer Award – Thomas Rauch
Frank F. Aplan Award (shared with C&E Division) – Philip Thomson
James Douglas Gold Medal Award (by TMS this year) – Sevket Acar

Several members of the executive committee met earlier in the year to discuss the awards process. Topics of discussion included the need to communicate the committee expectations and requirements, particularly the requirement to build a pipeline of eligible candidates; the need to emphasize the award requirements; methods of standardizing the discussion and voting process; and the potential for a resting period for unsuccessful candidates. These discussions follow similar talks by SME leadership to provide award committee training in an effort to ensure consistency and transparency in the awards process.

As the next past chair, Ronel Kappes will develop a letter to be sent to the award committee chairs prior to awards season, which will capture these critical elements of the awards process.

Kimberly Mills discussed the newly approved MPD Best Presentation Awards to be initiated at this year's annual conference. As part of the new process, the committee chairs will work with session chairs to identify the best presentation in each unit committee. These nominees will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Recipients will receive an award certificate and recognition in the Fine Grind column. High-quality presentations can also be nominated for the Henry Krumb Lecture Series.

A motion was made and seconded to modify the division handbook to include the responsibilities associated with this award. Specially, under section 2 of the PROGRAM COMMITTEE responsibilities, the following text is to be added: *"The Technical Unit Committee Chair will recommend, upon advice from the Session Chairs, recipient(s) of Best Presentation from each Unit Committee. These nominees will be approved by the Executive Committee."* The motion carried unanimously.

4. Scholarships

During the 2022-2023 scholarship season, MPD awarded \$22,500 in scholarships to:

- Outstanding Senior, Richard Klimpel Memorial Scholarship, \$7,500: Lix Shirley Tafur Figueroa, National University of San Marcos
- Outstanding Junior, \$4,000: Madison Sandoval, University of Nevada, Reno
- Outstanding Graduate, \$4,000: Isabel Penaloza, University of Nevada, Reno
- Graduate Scholarship, \$2,000: Younes Shekarian, Pennsylvania State University
- Undergraduate Scholarship, \$1,500: Jose Andres Restrepo Marulanda, National University of Colombia (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)
- Graduate Scholarship, \$1,500: Oznur Onel, Virginia Tech
- Rong Yu Wan Ph.D. Dissertation Scholarship, \$2,000: Behzad Vaziri Hassas, Pennsylvania State University

These recipients were selected from a pool that included over 80 applicants. MPD Scholarship Committee Chair Nick Gow discussed modifications that were made to the awards process this year to help streamline the committee reviews as well as modifications to the size and number of awards.

5. MPD Committees

The MPD Nominating Committee held a virtual meeting one week prior to the regular annual meeting. The committee agreed that this process (as opposed to an on-site meeting) was preferred.

The committee also discussed the use of an online MPD Volunteer Interest form that was introduced in December 2022. This form has been very helpful in identifying volunteers and their interests.

6. Fine Grind

Starting with the March 1, 2023 article, the Fine Grind editorial responsibilities will fall to the incoming Secretary-Treasurer, Kimberly Mills.

7. Member Engagement

The committee noted the positive feedback from the December membership engagement coffee break, focused on how to volunteer with MPD. QR codes were circulated so that members could note their interest on the online MPD Volunteer Interest form. Other ideas for member engagement, including SME's mentoring program and short career path videos, were discussed.

8. Student Engagement

The MPD Student Poster Contest will include 23 posters from undergraduate and graduate students. The committee thanked Mohammad Rezaee for his leadership this year and encouraged everyone to view the posters on Wednesday morning.

Aaron Noble discussed ongoing plans to host an MPD Student Video Contest in the fall. The contest would give students the opportunity to present their research or internship experiences.

The Metallic Student Design Contest finals were conducted on Sunday afternoon. The committee thanked Nick Gow for his leadership in this endeavor. All attendees were encouraged to attend the reception with the students later that afternoon.

The committee discussed new ideas to engage student members, including travel awards and other uses of the sections funds. One idea was to create a student MPD Ambassador program to provide MPD liaisons to the various student chapters. This idea will be further discussed over the following year.

9. Financial Review

Current Secretary-Treasurer Aaron Noble provided an update on the division finances and encouraged everyone to attend the business meeting after the luncheon on Wednesday. Overall, the division finances are very strong, given the generous sponsorship and support over the past several years.

10. Other Conferences

Updates were provided on other MPD-affiliated conferences, including:

Hydrometallurgy 2023 – Jaeheon Lee and Nick Gow co-chairs with assistance from Michael Free (TMS) and Gisele Azimi (MetSoc) as organizing committee members.

XXXII IMPC 2024 – John Marsden overall chair, Ronel Kappes and Tarun Bhambhani co-chairs.

Extraction 2025/Copper 2025 – Michael Moats overall chair, Kimberly Mills SME chair.

World Gold 2025 – Nick Gow and Thomas Rauch co-chairs, will be held with MINEXCHANGE 2025 SME Annual Conference & Expo.

E. New Business

A member called attention to the SME Jobs of Tomorrow initiative, which includes excellent commentary from several MPD members. All attendees were encouraged to watch the videos online.

Members were also encouraged to sign up for the SME mentoring program through the flyer that was provided with the meeting materials.

F. Agenda for Next Meeting

Items to be discussed at the next meeting will include:

- Safety Share
- MINEXCHANGE 2024 SME ACE Programming and Fundraising
- 2023-2024 Fine Grind Schedule
- Scholarships
- Other MPD-Affiliated Conferences
- Membership and Student Engagement

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM by Ronel Kappes. The next general meeting will be at 2:00 PM on March 1, 2023, in Denver, CO.

Minutes submitted by: Aaron Noble

Approved by: Ronel Kappes