

2(c). President-Elect’s Perspective

Since our last board meeting, here are some Council projects and activities that continue to move our strategic plan forward:

Related to Scientific Leadership and Collaboration

The American Geophysical Union is a leader, collaborator, and sought after partner for scientific innovation, rigor and interdisciplinary focus on global issues.

- Discussed the impact of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary science on meetings and membership affiliation. A white paper written by Peter Schlosser and used as the basis for this discussion is posted on the online board collaboration site. (It can be found as reference material under this meeting date.)
- Provided input to the strategic analysis of AGU publications by Rising Tide and brainstormed improvements for journals as well as *Eos* as input to the Board.
- Some Council members were interviewed as part of strategic review of publishing.

Related to Science and Society

The American Geophysical Union engages members, shapes policy, and informs society about the excitement of Earth and space science and its role in developing solutions for the sustainability of the planet.

- Adopted AMS position statement on free and open communication of scientific findings.
- Recommended that the Outreach Committee include this topic of academic freedom on the list of new statements to be developed.
- Discussed what is required to become an authoritative voice for the Earth and space sciences, the evolution of AGU’s public engagement efforts, and the need for increased member involvement.

Related to Talent Pool

The American Geophysical Union is a diverse and inclusive organization that uses its position to build the global talent pool in Earth and space science.

- Discussed the role of students/early career and under represented groups in the Council.

Submitted by	Discussion Leaders	Staff Contact
Carol Finn, President-Elect/Council Chair cfinn@usgs.gov	Carol Finn	None

Related to Organizational Excellence

As a scientific society, the American Geophysical Union operates within a new business model that is sustainable, transparent, and inclusive in ways that are responsive to members and stakeholders.

- During the last 3 years AGU has undergone tremendous change with the implementation of a new strategic plan, and governance and staff structure based on listening to the voices of our members through dialog, surveys and elections. The Future Focus Task Force envisioned AGU as a knowledge based organization, in which who makes the decision is not as important as the quality of the information on which the decision is based. Within this view of AGU, the Council is the body that reflects the diversity of voices/perspectives within the AGU that guides the scientific policy of the Union and is a ‘place’ where voices are heard in dialogue and decisions are made via a process of deliberation. The work of the Council at the December, 2010 and August, 2011 Council meetings and in the Mission:Alignment Project (M:AP) is helping to define the path toward reaching these goals. In the August, 2011, the Council reviewed and discussed progress of M:AP team and provided extensive input on:
 - Honors and recognition
 - Affiliation/organization
 - Council role and composition
- The M:AP team, with broader Council input, has developed a significant Council work plan. The August meeting contained many agenda items from that work plan.
- The Council approved recommendations of the Honors and Recognition Committee and M:AP working group 2, including definition of characteristics and criteria for new Union- level medals, awards, and prizes, and for Section/Focus Group awards and lectures; delegation of authority for approving new Section/Focus Group awards and lectures from the Council to the H&R Committee; revision of conflict of interest policy as it applies to nominators and nominees for honors and recognition and asked for further development of an “Ambassador Program” to possibly include awards for interdisciplinary, public and science policy, societal impact and science communications, advocacy, applied science, leadership, and others.
- Provided input into the process and timelines for the 2012 elections for the Governance Committee.
- Developed a “parking lot” of issues from the August Council meeting for action by the appropriate group (committee, Board, Council working group, staff, etc.).

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Emerging Issues

- The role /relationship between the board, council and committees is evolving and still needs time to provide greater clarity as to the order and flow of decision making and communication of those decisions.
- How best to advance interdisciplinary and trans disciplinary science and still provide disciplinary “homes”?

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