



## **Please Vote to Ratify Council Recommendations for Governance Change**

To: Members of AGU  
From: Tim Grove, President, AGU  
Date: October 2009

Dear Colleagues:

While AGU's scientific values and principles stand the test of time, our science is evolving against a dynamic backdrop of rapid economic, political, and technological change. Communicating science through meetings, publications, and public education and outreach needs to keep pace with these changes. At the same time, we must create an effective, flexible governance structure.

For continued future success, we need a governing body that maintains watchful oversight of both the fiscal and legal business of AGU in a continuously evolving marketplace. This structure must also focus on increasing support and services in the areas that our members tell us are of greatest importance.

Now that the Council has approved the Bylaws needed to enact those changes, it is time to ask you – the members of AGU – to ratify their decision.

There are several types of changes reflected in the new bylaws. These changes:

1. Create a new Board of Directors and differentiate both the role and structure of the Board from the more science-focused role and structure of the Council
2. Collapse two former documents (Statutes and Bylaws) into a single set of Bylaws
3. Remove provisions in the new Bylaws that more appropriately belong in Policy and Procedures – typically operationally-focused items that change over time
4. Update language to be in compliance with legal and parliamentary requirements, including accepted best practice in governance standards.

For additional information and perspective, I encourage you to read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) available on this web page. You can also view a brief [video](#) of AGU leaders talking about the importance of these changes.

Thank you for your continuing support of our efforts to create a stronger, more vibrant AGU, focused on the needs of both the Union's membership and the larger scientific community. It's an exciting time for us all!

Cheers,

Tim