

TEXT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GSA COAL GEOLOGY DIVISION BYLAWS

The following text presents proposed changes to the bylaws of the GSA Coal Geology Division. Proposed additions are underlined. Proposed deletions show ~~strike-through~~. Explanatory notes are [in brackets]. *Only the parts of the bylaws with proposed changes are shown.*

ARTICLE I - *Organization, Name, and Purpose*

3. *Definition.* Coal geology refers to a field of knowledge concerning origin, occurrence, relationships, and geologic characteristics of the many varieties of coal and associated rocks, coal-derived gases, fluids, and solid byproducts, both naturally occurring and man-made, from the exploration, extraction, or utilization of coal, including their economic implications. [Note: Definition is expanded to reflect research interests of membership, e.g., cbm, etc.]
4. *Purpose.* The purpose of the division is to provide a suitable forum ..., to stimulate research and interchange of scientific information about coal and related issues within the wide range of its geologic significance, and to act as an organized group in promoting these objectives within the framework of the Geological Society of America.

ARTICLE IV - *Officers and Management Board*

1. *Officers.* The officers of the division shall be a chair, a first vice-chair, a second vice-chair, and a secretary. [Notes: For consistency, chairman changed to chair throughout. Spelled out existing officer rotation to clarify officer responsibilities and commitments.]

The chair, ~~and vice-chairmen~~ first vice-chair, and second vice-chair ~~shall be elected~~ shall serve for terms of one year and shall not be eligible for re-election to their respective offices until three years have elapsed after the expiration of their terms of office. Officers are expected to rotate annually to the next office. In sequence, the second vice-chair is expected to serve as first vice-chair in the following year and to serve as annual meeting program chair during their tenure as first vice-chair. In the following year, the first vice-chair is expected to become the chair. In the year after that, the outgoing chair is the past chair. Therefore, the second vice-chair accepts a commitment of four years to the management board and an additional year as past-past chair to serve on an award committee. The secretary shall serve for a term of three years and shall be eligible ~~for re-election~~ to serve subsequent terms as desired without limitation. If another member of the division wishes to run for secretary after the current secretary's three-year term ends and the current secretary wishes to continue, both names shall be put on a ballot for vote as defined under the terms of officer elections in Article IV-3. The terms of office shall begin immediately following the annual business meeting at which results of the election are announced.

....

3. *Election of Officers and Member-at-Large.* The nominating committee and/or management board of the division shall nominate one or more candidates annually for ~~chair, first vice chair, and~~ second vice-chair, and every three years for secretary and for member-at-large. [Note: Only candidates for second vice-chair are needed because the chair and vice-chair are succeeded positions as defined in Article IV-1.]

Nominations should be submitted by February 1. When approved by the management board, these nominations shall become the regular ticket and shall be submitted by the secretary of the division. If there is only one nomination for a position on the board, a vote on the nomination will be held at the annual business meeting. If there is more than one nomination, the names shall be submitted by the secretary of the division to the executive director of the Society who shall have prepared and mailed distributed to the voting affiliates a ballot which also shall have space for write-in nominees

ARTICLE V - Committees

1. *Program Committee.* ... The second vice-chair shall have the responsibility of initiating and coordinating the program for the annual meeting two years in advance, ~~including technical sessions, symposia, and field trips;~~ in this way, the program that they plan can be initiated during their tenure as first vice-chair. [Note: Added for clarification.]

The ~~first vice-chair and/or program committee shall plan and arrange for the~~ is responsible for technical sessions of the division at the annual meeting and such other programs as may be directed by the management board.

2. *Publications Committee.* A publications committee consisting of three voting affiliates of the division ~~shall~~ may be appointed by the chair with the approval of the management board.
3. *Nominating Committee.* A nominating committee consisting of three voting affiliates of the division ~~shall~~ may be appointed by the chair with the approval of the management board.

The nominating committee shall nominate candidates annually for ~~chair, first vice chair, and~~ second vice-chair, and every three years for secretary and for member-at-large.

4. *Gilbert H. Cady Award Committee.*

- a. *Selection Committee.* This committee shall consist of a chair and two other members of the division. All members of the award selection committee shall serve for three years, with their terms staggered so that one new member is named each year as one member retires. ~~The chair of the division will designate a member of the award committee to~~ past chair of the division will serve as chair of the committee. [Note: Making a specific past-officer the chair of the committee each year eliminates the confusion that sometimes occurs in nominating a chair from year to year as division officers change.]

In addition, serving in an *ex officio* and voting capacity are the division chair, and first vice-chair, and second vice chair. Non-officer members of the committee must have at least ten years experience in coal geology as defined in Article I-3 and/or have been a member of the Coal Geology Division for ten years. An attempt should be made to consider at least one past Cady Award winner as one of the two non-officer members of the committee. Members of the committee may not nominate individuals for the award. [Notes: The ten-year qualifiers were added to insure integrity of the committee for the division's highest award. Everyone who has been on the committee for as long as we can remember has filled this qualification. Also important to get previous Cady Award members on the committee.]

- b. *Frequency of Award.* The award ~~will~~ may be made annually ~~but may be withheld in any year in which no recommendation for the award is forthcoming or for which funds are not available.~~ If no award is made in an award year, interest and other associated funds may accumulate or may be added to the principal sum as determined by the Council of the Society.
- c. *Qualifications for the Award.*

(1) The basis of the award will be for outstanding contributions to the field of coal geology as defined in the bylaws of the Coal Geology Division of the Society as, "coal geology," as defined in Article I-3 "Coal geology refers to a field of knowledge concerning origin, occurrence, relationships, and geologic characteristics of the many varieties of coal and associated rocks, including their economic implications". [Note: Coal geology was defined differently and redundantly throughout the bylaws. We are suggesting that we always refer to the Article I-3 definition for consistency.]

.....

- e. *Selection Procedure.* Nominations for the Gilbert H. Cady Award will be made in accordance with the following procedures:
- (1) The secretary also shall place a call for nominations The call ~~should~~ shall contain a statement of the general qualifications for the nominees, the deadline for receipt of the nominations, and the name and address of the award committee chair to whom the nominations should be sent.

.... Letters of recommendation and support from other in the field of coal geology are strongly encouraged.
 - (2) Annually, the chair of the committee (division past-chair) will distribute to committee members a consolidated list of candidates ...

.... The final selection shall be based on a majority vote of the committee (~~four out of six votes~~) (three out of five votes). The committee's selection will become the division's nominee for the award. [Note: The committee only consists of five people.]
 - (3) The internal deliberations of the committee will be held in strict confidence within the committee, but biographies and pertinent correspondence shall be delivered to the secretary of the division who will make them available to the succeeding chairmen committee chair upon request.
 - (4) If a nominee is not selected, the nominator must renominate that nominee in succeeding years by resending or updating the nomination as defined in Article V-4a to the new award committee chair. [Notes: Some nominators have felt that nominations should roll over automatically to the next year without additional paperwork, but paperwork can be lost because award committee members change and generally are not in the same location.]
 - (5) The citationist for the awardee shall be asked by the committee to present the award at the awards ceremony as the GSA annual meeting, or to arrange for someone else to present the award. [Note: This is usually the way it has been done, but there have been a few years where there was confusion on who would make the presentation.]
5. *Antoinette Lierman Medlin Scholarship Award Committee.* The Antoinette Lierman Medlin Scholarship Awards ~~will~~ may be awarded annually in accordance with the bylaws of the Society. The awards will be made for the best proposed research project by a full-time ~~graduate~~ student in the field of coal geology, where coal geology is defined as in Article I-3. Coal geology is defined by division bylaws as "a field of knowledge concerning origin, occurrence, relationships, and geologic characteristics of the many varieties of coal and associated rocks, including their economic implications." Multiple awards may be made annually if the award committee deems multiple nominees merit the award and there are available funds. [Note: We have given multiple awards in some years when cash was available and there were qualified candidates.]
- a. *Selection Committee.* The scholarship committee shall consist of a chair and ~~four other~~ at least two other members of the division. ~~Every year, the chair of the division shall designate a chair of the committee. The first vice-chair of the division shall chair the committee.~~ The remaining ~~four~~ members shall consist of the member-at-large of the division and one other person, to be selected by the committee chair and the division chair after all proposals for the award have been received. The committee members shall not be professors at schools from which proposals have been received. The committee members shall serve one-year terms. [Note: Making a specific past officer the chair of the committee each year eliminates confusion in nominating a committee chair from year to year as division officers change.]
 - b. *Frequency of Award.* The award ~~will~~ may be made annually ~~but may be withheld in any year in which the committee decides that there is no appropriate candidate.~~

c. *Qualifications for the Award.* The basis of the award will be for the best proposed student research project in the field of coal geology as defined ~~above~~ in Article I-3.

....

e. *Selection Procedure.*

(5) The moneys allocated by the scholarship committee will be made available to the award recipient as soon as the committee's selection is forwarded to GSA ~~as needs arise.~~ ...

....

(7) The chair of the award committee (the first vice-chair of the division) will announce and/or present the award at the GSA annual meeting. [Note: Avoids confusion at the meeting on who is responsible for making the announcement.]

(8) (7) Within two years of receiving the award, the awardee shall submit an abstract suitable for submission to a regional or national GSA meeting in a Coal Geology Division-sponsored session. By May 1 of the following year, the award recipient shall submit to the chair of the scholarship committee a report, of no more than ten typewritten pages, describing the results of the research project and a brief statement of expenditures, with receipts. In addition, the recipient shall submit to the committee an abstract suitable for submission to GSA. The committee shall evaluate the report and the abstract. If warranted, the committee shall write a letter to the division program committee recommending that the presentation by the award recipient be included in the upcoming Coal Geology Division technical session at the GSA annual meeting. [Note: There shouldn't be a need for the abstract to go to the committee as long as it has been approved for a Coal Geology Division-sponsored session.]

(9) (8) If the abstract is accepted for presentation at the GSA annual meeting, the scholarship fund will provide up to one-half of the expenses (with a \$250 \$1,000 maximum) for the student to attend the meeting. In addition, the fund will provide the student with a ticket for the Coal Geology Division's award luncheon during which an appropriate certificate will be presented to the award recipient. [Note: Award amount is increased due to increased cost of attending the meeting since the bylaws were written and because of increased availability of funds. Stating a maximum does not limit the committee from giving less if the funds decrease in the future.]

6. *Other Committees.* Other committee chairs ~~chairmen~~ may be appointed by the chair with the approval of the management board. Appointment of committee members will be the responsibility of the committee chair. Examples of other committees include:

a. *Distinguished Service Award.* This award recognizes the volunteered contributions of a member who has served to promote the division and its various functions. Division members are encouraged to submit nominees for this award anytime through the year in time to be ratified by a majority vote of the management board and for the award to be presented at the GSA annual meeting. Submissions may be made to any member of the Coal Geology Division management board. The award shall consist of a plaque or certificate furnished by GSA, as per Society guidelines.

b. *Best Paper Award.* At the annual meeting, the division officers present will select at least two officers or division members to vote on the best oral presentation in Coal Geology Division-sponsored symposia or technical sessions. Those selected are expected to attend all of the talks at Division-sponsored sessions and choose the best. The name of the winner will be submitted to the division secretary who will forward the name to the Geological Society of America following the meeting so that a plaque or certificate can be furnished by the Society, as per Society guidelines.

c. Best Poster Award. At the annual meeting, the division officers present will select at least two officers or division members to vote on the best poster presentation in Coal Geology Division-sponsored sessions. The name of the winner will be submitted to the division secretary who will forward the name to the Geological Society of America following the meeting so that a plaque or certificate can be furnished by the Society, as per Society guidelines.

[Note: Parts 6a-c are added because the division gives these awards annually and they are posted on the website, but they were not previously mentioned in the bylaws.]

.....

9. ~~Student and Teacher Associates.~~ Student and Teacher Associates may be appointed as conferees to any committee. [Note: Current GSA bylaws state that all members and associates are eligible to vote, hold office, and serve on committees.]

ARTICLE VI - Management

3. *First Vice-Chair.* The first vice-chair shall assume the powers and duties of the chair in the event of the absence or disability of the chair. He/she shall ~~be a member of chair~~ chair the division program committee and is responsible for the current year's annual meeting programs and events, and shall be the division's representative on the Council's Joint Technical Program Committee. The first vice-chair shall also chair the Medlin Scholarship Committee.

....

6. Member-at-Large. The member-at-large shall sit on at least one standing committee of the management board and will serve as a member of the Medline Scholarship Committee. [Note: The member-at-large position should be officially recognized in the bylaws.]

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

2. *Management Board Meetings.* The management board shall meet during the annual meeting of the Society, optimally before the division's annual business meeting, so that pertinent issues may be addressed by the management board and can be subsequently discussed in the business meeting ~~immediately prior to the annual business meeting.~~ Special meetings of the management board may be called at any time by the chair, with the consent of a majority of the management board. Decisions may also be made by ~~mail~~ vote. [Notes: The most convenient time for the board to meet is at the annual meetings. This is how we've done it for the last several years, and it seems to work well.]

3. *Technical Sessions.* The participation of non-members of the Society who are engaged or interested in coal geology, as defined in Article I-3, ~~and paleobotany~~ shall be encouraged at all technical sessions.