

**Constitution and Bylaws  
of  
The Geological Society of America, Inc.**

**CONSTITUTION**

**Article I  
NAME AND SEAL**

The legal name of the Society is "The Geological Society of America, Inc."; it is known as "The Geological Society of America." The corporate seal of the Society is circular in form and bears the name of the Society and the founding date of 1888.

**Article II  
PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Society is the promotion of the science of geology by the issuance of scholarly publications, the holding of meetings, the provision of assistance to research, and other appropriate means. The Society also cooperates with other bodies having similar objectives and assists more recently formed societies interested in the specialized branches of geology.

**Article III  
MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in the Society consists of Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members, and Affiliates all of whom have full and equal voting rights.

**Article IV  
MANAGEMENT**

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by officers and councilors duly elected at regular intervals from the voting membership of the Society. As provided in the Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, the number of councilors shall be not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty-four (24), as may be provided from time to time by the Bylaws.

**Article V  
ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING**

The annual corporate meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place as the Council may from time to time prescribe, in order to conduct such business as may properly come before the meeting.

**Article VI  
STATUTORY OFFICE**

The statutory office of the Society shall be in the City, County, and State of New York, as required by the Certificate of Incorporation.

**Article VII  
TAX-EXEMPT STATUS**

The affairs of the Society shall at all times be managed in such a way as to preserve and safeguard its tax-exempt status.

## **Article VIII BYLAWS**

Bylaws not inconsistent with this Constitution or with the Certificate of Incorporation shall be adopted at the time of the adoption of this Constitution and may be amended as therein provided.

## **Article IX AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to this Constitution proposed not less than sixty (60) days before a lawfully held annual corporate or special meeting of the Society by a majority vote of the councilors present at a lawfully held meeting of the Council, or by a petition signed by the greater of one hundred (100) members or ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Society, shall be set forth in the notice of the annual corporate or special meeting and may be adopted by a majority of the membership present in person or by proxy at that meeting.

## **AMENDED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.**

### **Article I NAME AND SEAL**

The legal name of the Society is "The Geological Society of America, Inc."; it is known as "The Geological Society of America." It is also referred to herein as the "Society" and "GSA." The corporate seal of the Society is circular in form and bears the name of the Society and the founding date of 1888.

### **Article II PURPOSE**

The Society is organized, and shall at all times be operated exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended, for the purpose of the promotion of the science of geology by the issuance of scholarly publications, the holding of meetings, the provision of assistance to research, and other appropriate means. The Society also cooperates with other bodies having similar objectives and assists more recently formed societies interested in the specialized branches of geology.

### **Article III STATUTORY OFFICE**

The statutory office of the Society shall be in the City, County and State of New York, as required by the Certificate of Incorporation.

## Article IV MEMBERSHIP

### **1. MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW**

Membership in the Society consists of Members, Affiliates, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows. All of these shall receive a certificate or card evidencing and affecting their membership. Such certificate or card shall not be transferable.

### **2. MEMBERS**

**A. Qualifications.** Candidates for Member shall be persons who have a bachelor's degree in geology or a related field, including any physical or biological sciences or other disciplines (such as engineering, geography, or anthropology) related to geosciences, or equivalent training through practical experience; and/or active connections with geology through employment in geological work or teaching geology at the college level; or in teaching geology at the K-12 level; or through status as a graduate or undergraduate student in geology. Persons holding any category of membership in the Society must comply with GSA's Code of Ethics (the "Code") as a condition of membership. Any failure to comply with the Code may result in the imposition of any type of discipline, up to and including termination of membership, as determined by the Council.

**B. Election of Members.** By delegation of Council authority to the committee, Members shall be elected by the Membership and Fellowship Committee upon production of satisfactory evidence of each candidate's qualifications, such elections to be ratified by the Council at its next regular meeting following the committee action.

**C. Reduced Fees.** Members who are undergraduate or in-residence graduate students enrolled in a degree-granting institution and majoring in geology or related sciences, who are within the first five years of their geology professional career and not planning to re-enter academic studies, or who are teachers currently employed at an elementary or secondary level institution, may pay reduced dues. Members at least 65 years of age who have been Members for at least 25 years may pay reduced dues on an optional basis.

**D. Voting.** Members may vote in Society elections and have all rights and privileges of Members as detailed elsewhere in these Bylaws.

**E. Rights and Privileges of Membership.** Members in good standing are entitled to a subscription to GSA Today, reduced member rates for Society meetings, publications, and programs; along with other member-only discounts, benefits, and privileges.

### **3. AFFILIATES**

Candidates for Affiliate must be neither professionally trained nor employed in geology or a related field, including any physical and biological sciences or other disciplines (such as engineering, geography, or anthropology) related to geoscience, nor currently studying such science at the collegiate level. Affiliate members shall have all of the rights and privileges of membership.

## **4. FELLOWS**

The Council shall normally elect Fellows from the Members of the Society. Qualified nonmembers, however, may be nominated for Fellowship. Fellows may vote in Society elections and shall have all of the rights and privileges of membership as detailed elsewhere in these bylaws.

## **5. HONORARY FELLOWS**

Honorary Fellows are chosen from among distinguished geologists residing outside North America. Honorary Fellows may vote in Society elections and shall have all of the rights and privileges of membership as detailed elsewhere in these bylaws.

## **6. AWARDS AND AWARDEES**

The Society may give awards and medals ("awards") to members and nonmembers to recognize excellence. All persons granted awards - whether they are members or nonmembers - ("Awardees") must comply with GSA's Code of Ethics as a condition of receiving and remaining eligible to retain awards. The Society has the sole judgment and discretion to determine compliance with GSA's Code of Ethics and to grant, defer, or decline to grant awards to any person. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these bylaws or its policies, the Society also retains the right to revoke awards that have already been granted, if the Council determines in its discretion and judgment that it is in the best interests of GSA to do so. Nothing in this section confers membership status to nonmember Awardees.

## **7. APPLICATIONS**

Applications for membership shall be transmitted electronically or in writing to the Executive Director on forms provided by the Society.

## **8. TERMINATION/EXPIRATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

Except as otherwise provided elsewhere in these Bylaws or the Certificate of Incorporation, membership shall be terminated by death, resignation, expiration of a term of membership or dissolution and liquidation of the Society. In addition, the membership of any member whose membership is suspended for more than 11 months shall automatically expire.

## **9. RESIGNATIONS**

Resignation from honorary fellowship, fellowship, membership or affiliation shall be transmitted in writing or electronically to the Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO). A former Honorary Fellow, Fellow, Member, or Affiliate who has resigned in good standing may re-apply for membership. Such members will retain their former status and original date of membership, but the years when not active will be excluded from the total years of membership when viewing eligibility for exemption (see Article X, Sections 3 and 4).

## **10. MEMBER DISCIPLINE**

Notwithstanding any other provision of these bylaws, GSA retains the discretion and authority to revoke an award or impose disciplinary sanctions upon any member, fellow, honorary fellow, affiliate, or Awardee, with such sanction as determined by the Council

## **11. SUSPENSIONS/ AWARDS REVOCATION**

Any fellowship, membership, award, or affiliation in the Society may be terminated, revoked, or suspended by the Council, after a hearing or opportunity to be heard, for conduct deemed prejudicial to the interests of the Society. A Fellow, Member or Affiliate whose dues are in arrears for one (1) month will be automatically suspended and they shall not be entitled to the Society rights and privileges.

## **Article V COUNCIL**

### **1. GENERAL DUTIES AND POWERS**

- A. **Duties.** The management of the affairs and the property of the Society shall be the responsibility of the Board, which shall also be known as the Council. The Council shall have the authority, power and responsibility for the general management, control and general supervision of the affairs, business, activities, property and assets of the Society so that the corporate activities are consistent with the stated purposes of the Society and that no act is committed by the Society in contravention of its Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.
- B. **Powers.** In pursuance of such supervision, the Council, through its Councilors, shall have and exercise all such powers as are granted it by law and by the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.

### **2. NUMBER OF COUNCILORS**

Pursuant to the Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, the Council shall consist of not less than ten (10), nor more than twenty-four (24) councilors, as may be provided from time to time by these Bylaws. The number of councilors is hereby set at eighteen (18), who shall consist of the three (3) elected officers and fifteen (15) other voting members, one of whom shall be the immediate past president, one of whom shall represent the regional sections, one of whom shall represent the Divisions, one of whom shall be deemed an “emerging leader” and shall represent GSA members who have achieved their highest degree within the last eight (8) years, one of whom shall be the Chair of the Student Advisory Council, and one of whom shall be the immediate past chair of the Student Advisory Council.

### **3. TERMS OF OFFICE OF COUNCILORS**

With the exception of the Councilor slots held by the Immediate Past Chair of the Student

Advisory Council, and by the current Chair of the Student Advisory Council, each of whom serves in an *ex officio* role on the Council for a term as set forth in the GSA Rules & Guidelines for the Student Advisory Council, each Councilor shall serve for a four-year term beginning at the start of the fiscal year following that annual corporate meeting at which such Councilor's election is certified and ending at the end of the fiscal year in which their term expires after the annual corporate meeting at which his/her respective successor's election is certified. Three new Councilors will normally be elected each year.

#### **4. NOMINATION OF COUNCILORS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

At least 180 days before each annual corporate meeting of the Society, the Committee on Nominations shall file with the Council a list of nominees for positions of Councilors and Officers to be elected for the ensuing year by the voting membership of the Society, with the exception of the Chair of the Student Advisory Council, who is elected according to the committee rules for that body. Any person nominated as a Councilor shall be a voting member of the Society and shall be selected as a candidate on the basis of his or her scientific distinction, previous service to GSA, geographic location, and field of interest within the Earth Sciences. Each candidate shall be at least eighteen (18) years old.

Prior to each annual corporate meeting of the Society, the Council shall prepare and cause to be mailed or electronically circulated to the voting membership of the Society a list of candidates for officers and councilors for the ensuing year. The list of names shall normally be chosen from those submitted to the Council by the Committee on Nominations. In addition to the names from the Committee on Nominations, (i) for a year in which a Section representative is elected to Council, four nominations for that Council seat shall be submitted by Section officers, and (ii) for a year in which a Division representative is elected to Council, four nominations for that Council seat shall be submitted by Division officers. Any one hundred (100) voting members of the Society may submit in writing to the Executive Director not less than ninety (90) days before the annual corporate meeting alternative nominations for one (1) or more of the positions to be filled. A list of all nominations shall be included in the notice of the annual corporate meeting. In addition to this method, space shall also be provided on the official ballot for write-in votes.

#### **5. OFFICIAL BALLOT**

An official ballot containing (i) the nominations of the Council, (ii) nominations from Section officers for a Section representative (in the applicable years), (iii) nominations from Divisions for a Division representative (in the applicable years), (iv) nominations for an "emerging leader" Council position (in the applicable years), (v) any name received by the Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO) from at least 100 members of the Society in accordance with Section 4 above, and (vi) space for write-in votes, shall be given personally, mailed, or circulated electronically to the voting membership of the Society with the notice of each annual corporate meeting. The notice shall be given not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting.

## **6. ELECTIONS**

New members of the Council shall be elected by the voting membership 20 days before each annual corporate meeting. The election of Councilors shall be by a plurality of the votes cast by the voting membership, and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each Council position open for election. In the event of a tie the outcome will be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The results of the election shall be announced to all members at the annual meeting of the members and shall be certified at that time.

## **7. RESIGNATION, REMOVAL, AND REPLACEMENT OF COUNCILORS**

- A. Resignation.** Any Councilor may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the President.
- B. Removal.** Councilors may be removed at any meeting of the Council, with or without cause, by a vote of the majority of Councilors other than the Councilor with respect to whom such vote is taken.
- C. Vacancies.** Council positions vacated by resignation, removal, or death will be filled by vote of a majority of the Councilors then in office. The Council shall choose replacements from a list of former nominees for councilor. Any councilor who is absent from three consecutive council meetings shall be deemed to have resigned. A Councilor appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office until either the term of the Councilor who is being replaced is completed, or the next annual corporate meeting at which the election of Councilors is in the regular course of business, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

## **8. MEETINGS OF COUNCIL: QUORUM**

The Council shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings during each calendar year for conducting the business of the Society, and such other special meetings as the Council shall prescribe. Notice of council meetings must be given in writing or electronically at least three (3) days in advance of such meeting. A waiver of notice either in writing or electronically may be initiated for and signed by the GSA President. A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, but less than a quorum shall have power to adjourn any meeting. Any such adjourned meeting may be reconvened without further notice.

## **9. VOTING REQUIREMENT**

Any reference in these bylaws to an action, decision or vote of the Council shall mean a vote of the majority of the Councilors present at any meeting of the Council at which there is a quorum.

## **10. ACTION OF THE COUNCIL WITHOUT A MEETING**

Unless otherwise provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws, any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Council or of any committee thereof

may be taken without a meeting, if all of the Councilors or committee, as the case may be, consent thereto in writing, and the writing(s) are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Council or committee. The vote and writing of each member of the Council or committee may be transmitted by mail; electronically, e.g., via DocuSign; by hand; or by overnight mail.

## **11. MEETINGS BY MEANS OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT**

Unless otherwise provided by the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws, members of the Council, or any committee designated by the Council, may participate in a meeting of the Council or such committee by means of a conference telephone, video conference or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other, and participation in a meeting pursuant to this Section shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

## **12. DELEGATION OF TASKS TO NON-MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

From time to time, the Council may, at the Council's decision, delegate defined tasks to other GSA members who have particular qualifications to undertake a particular service. However, any decision affecting the governance of the Society shall be made by the Council.

## **13. EXPENSES OF COUNCIL**

Members of the Council may be reimbursed from the funds of the Society for their traveling expenses when attending meetings of the Council.

# **Article VI**

## **OFFICERS**

### **1. NUMBER OF OFFICERS**

The elected officers of the Society shall be members of the Council by virtue of their position as officers, and shall consist of a president, a president-elect, and a treasurer. The appointed officers shall be an Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO) and such others as the Council may from time to time determine, each to hold office at the pleasure of the Council or for such period of time as the Council shall designate. The salaries of the appointed officers shall be fixed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Executive Committee.

### **2. NOMINATION AND QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

Prior to each annual corporate meeting of the Society, the Council shall prepare and cause to be mailed or electronically circulated to the voting membership of the Society a list of candidates for officers for the ensuing year, except that the office of President-Elect shall be for two years, the first year of which shall be as President-Elect, and the second year of which shall be as President. For the office of Treasurer, the candidates will be listed every third year. The list of names shall normally be chosen from those submitted to the Council by the Committee on Nominations. Alternative nominations for one (1) or more of the positions to be filled may be submitted by the greater of ten percent of the voting

membership or one hundred (100) voting members of the Society, submitted in writing to the ED & CEO not less than ninety (90) days before the annual corporate meeting. A list of all nominations shall be included in the notice of the annual corporate meeting. In addition to this method, space shall also be provided on the official ballot for write-in votes.

Candidates for positions as officers shall be voting members of the Society, and shall be at least 18 years old.

### **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The president and the president-elect shall be elected 20 days prior to each annual corporate meeting of the Society, with the president to hold such office for a one-year term, from the start of the fiscal year following the annual corporate meeting until the end of the fiscal year of the next corporate meeting and until the successor shall have been elected and qualified; and the president- elect to hold such office for a two year term, the first year of which shall be as president- elect, and the second year of which shall be as president. The treasurer shall be elected 20 days prior to the annual corporate meeting of the Society every three years, and shall hold such office for a three-year term, from the start of the fiscal year following the annual corporate meeting until the end of the fiscal year of the third corporate meeting and until the successor shall have been elected and qualified.

The election of Officers shall be by a plurality of the votes cast by the voting membership, and each voting member shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for each Officer position open for election. The results of the election shall be announced to all members at the annual meeting and shall be certified at that time.

Any person who is elected as president, president-elect, or treasurer shall by virtue of that office also be a member of the Council. The term of office of President is one year and until a successor shall have been elected and qualified. The persons elected president-elect and treasurer shall be elected to the Council for a three (3) year term.

### **4. RE-ELECTIONS**

The president and the president-elect shall not be eligible for re-election to their respective offices until at least three (3) years have elapsed from the expiration of their terms of office as president or president-elect, respectively. The treasurer shall be eligible for re- election to the office of Treasurer for one subsequent three-year term.

### **5. RESIGNATIONS, REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT**

**A. Resignation.** An Officer may resign at any time by providing written notice of such intent to resign to the President.

**B. Removal.** Any officer elected or appointed by the Council may be removed, upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the Councilors, with or without cause. Should there have been any contractual agreement with the officer so removed, that contract shall be referred to, and termination shall be in accordance with the terms of the contract.

**C. Replacement.** The Council by majority vote will fill officer positions vacated by resignation, death, or removal, and such officer shall serve until the next

annual corporate meeting and his/her successor is elected and qualified.

## **6. APPOINTED OFFICERS**

The Council shall appoint an Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO) who shall serve as secretary of the Society, and such other officers as the Council may from time to time determine.

## **7. ANNUAL REPORT**

At each annual corporate meeting of the Society, the president shall submit to the membership on behalf of the Council a report upon the affairs of the Society for the year just closing, and this shall include a report verified by the president and treasurer or by a majority of the Council setting forth all information required by law with respect to the last preceding fiscal year. There shall be submitted to each annual corporate meeting a resolution providing for the ratification and confirmation of all acts of the Council during the preceding year.

# **Article VII**

## **POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND OTHER POSITIONS**

### **1. THE PRESIDENT**

The President shall preside at all the meetings of the Society, of the Council, and of the Executive Committee. Subject to the direction and control of the Council, the President will be in charge of the management of the affairs and the property of the Society and shall exercise general supervision over the Society so that the corporate activities are consistent with the stated purposes of the Society and so that no act is committed by the Society in contravention of its Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws. The President shall not oversee the day-to-day running of the Society and work of the permanent staff, which will typically be delegated to the Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO). The President, subject to the approval of Council, may also delegate authority for the management of the affairs and the property of the Society, to the extent allowed by the bylaws, to the ED & CEO. No employee may serve as the President. The President shall also have the responsibility of ensuring that the policies instituted by the Council with regard to the promotion of the science of geology are implemented and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to the President by the Council. He or she shall represent the Society on all appropriate occasions. He or she shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees of the Council and of the GSA Foundation Board of Trustees, with or without vote as identified in the rules of each committee.

### **2. THE PRESIDENT-ELECT**

The President-Elect shall have and assume the powers and duties of the President in the event of the absence or disability of the President. The President-Elect shall perform such other duties as may be delegated to her/him from time to time by the Council.

### **3. THE TREASURER**

**A.** The Treasurer, under the direction of the Council, shall collect and disburse all funds of the Society except those for which other provisions shall have been made in the Bylaws and in the rules or resolutions of the Council. All funds, securities, and other investments of the Society shall be deposited in the name of the Society in the custody of banks or trust companies designated by the Council or the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep records of all receipts and disbursements and other financial transactions and of the funds, securities, and other investments of the Society. The Treasurer shall submit an annual report to the Council as directed by the laws of the State of New York. The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee and is responsible for reporting to the Executive Committee and Council whether the budgets presented to Council for approval are fiscally sound and whether the monthly expenditures are in line with the approved budget. The Treasurer also serves on the Executive Committee. He/she is advisory (*ex officio*) to the Audit Committee, the Committee on Investments, and the Programmatic Overview Committee, with or without vote as identified in the rules of each such committee.

**B.** The Treasurer-elect position will be initiated one year before the Treasurer is scheduled to leave office. The Committee on Nominations shall file with the Council a list of nominees and one person shall be appointed the Treasurer-elect. The duties of the Treasurer-elect shall be to assist the Treasurer in preparation for said Treasurer-elect to be elected to the Treasurer position the following year. The Treasurer-elect is not an Officer or Councilor until such time they are elected to the Treasurer position.

### **4. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (ED & CEO)**

The Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO) shall be employed by the Society to carry out the directives of the Council and assure that the headquarters staff focuses their efforts on the priorities set by Council. The ED & CEO further shall direct, and be responsible to the Council for, the work of the permanent staff and day-to-day operations of the Society; other authority and duties with respect to the management of the affairs and the property of the Society may be delegated to the ED & CEO by the President, to the extent allowed by the bylaws, subject to the approval of Council.

The ED & CEO, who shall also serve as Secretary, shall give notice of and attend all meetings of the Council and keep records of its proceedings; shall attend meetings of the Executive Committee when requested; shall keep a list of the membership of the Society; shall collect the annual dues and pay them over to the treasurer; shall notify the officers and membership of their election; shall notify members of their appointment on committees; shall have custody of the corporate seal of the Society and shall affix and attest it as directed by the Council; and shall have other authority and duties as are appropriate and customary for the office of Secretary, except as the same may be expanded or limited by the Council from time to time.

### **5. CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO)**

If and so long as the Society shall have a CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER (COO), that person shall have and may exercise all of the powers delegated to him or her by the Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO).

## **Article VIII** **COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

### **1. COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

The Council, by majority vote of the entire Council, may designate from among its members an Executive Committee and other committees, each consisting of three or more Councilors, and which, to the extent in a specific resolution passed by the Council, or as set forth in these bylaws, shall have the authority of the board, except that no committee shall have authority as to (i) submission to members of any action requiring members' approval, (ii) the filing of vacancies in the Council or any committee, (iii) fixing compensation of Councilors for serving on the Council or any committee, (iv) amendment or repeal of bylaws, or (v) amendment or repeal of any Council resolution which by its terms is not so amendable or repealable.

In addition, the Council may appoint committees of the Society, but no such committee shall have the authority to bind the Council. The current committees of the Society are set forth in Article VIII, Section 2.

The Council may, by resolution passed by a majority of the Council, create or remove committees of the Council or the Society, and shall appoint each committee's members.

The Council may reimburse the members of such committees for the traveling expenses that they incur when attending regular meetings of their committees authorized by the Council. The president, or a representative designated by the president, shall be an *ex officio* member of every committee, with or without vote as identified in the rules of each committee.

### **2. SOCIETY COMMITTEES**

The Council may appoint each year at its October/November (Fall) meeting the following Society committees and members of each committee for one-to-four-year terms as specified in individual committee rules:

Academic and Applied Geoscience Relations  
Annual Program  
Audit  
Arthur L. Day Medal Award  
Congressional Science Fellowship Selection  
Diversity in the Geosciences  
Doris M. Curtis Memorial Fund for Women in Science Award  
Education  
Executive  
External Awards  
Fellowship  
Finance  
Geologic Mapping Award in honor of Florence Bascom  
Geology and Public Policy

GSA International  
Investments  
Joint Technical Program  
Membership Nominations  
Penrose Conferences & Thompson Field Forums  
Penrose Medal Award  
Professional Development  
Programmatic Overview  
Publications  
Public Service Award  
Research Grants  
Student Advisory Council  
Young Scientist Award (Donath Medal)

### **3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Council may appoint from among its members an Executive Committee that shall be empowered to act for the Council between its regular meetings. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Council for its information, and any action on any item of business which the Council shall have theretofore specifically authorized the Executive Committee to act, shall be subject to ratification by the Council at its first meeting following such action. The Executive Committee shall consist of at least five (5) members of the Council and shall include the president, president-elect, treasurer, a Council member-at-large (nominated by the newly elected president), and the immediate past president or another member of the Council. The president shall be chair of the Executive Committee, and the presence of one-half or more of its members shall constitute a quorum.

### **4. AD HOC COMMITTEES.**

Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the Council for such special tasks as circumstances warrant. An ad hoc committee may either be a committee of the Council or a committee of the Society. An ad hoc committee shall limit its activities to the accomplishment of the task for which it was appointed and shall have no power to act except as specifically conferred by action of the Council. Upon completion of the task for which appointed, such ad hoc committee shall stand discharged.

### **5. DUTIES**

The Council shall determine the duties of each Society committee and of each special committee. Each Society and special committee shall make its report directly to the Council at such times as the Council may direct.

### **6. COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION.**

Any member of a committee may participate in a meeting of the committee by means of telephone, videoconference, or similar communications allowing all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time, and to participate in all matters before

the committee, including, without limitation, the ability to propose, object to, and vote upon a specific action to be taken by the committee.

## **Article IX ASSOCIATED SOCIETIES**

Any national or international society that has aims consistent with those of The Geological Society of America, that is, the advancement of the science of geology, may, with the approval of the Council, associate itself with the Society for the purpose of cooperation in annual, sectional, or divisional meetings, in publications, or in other appropriate ways.

Such Associated Societies membership need not be confined to Members, Teachers, and Student Associates of the Society. They may be known as 'Associated Societies' in relation to The Geological Society of America.

Some Associated Societies are strategic partners of GSA and have cooperative agreements for collaboration. The relationship to GSA varies depending on the nature of the collaborative efforts. These Societies may jointly sponsor meetings, enter into joint agreements regarding publications, or collaborate in other ways to meet mutual goals.

Depending on the nature of the collaborative efforts, an individually crafted memorandum of understanding may be negotiated to memorialize the terms of any joint programs, sponsorships, publications, or other joint initiatives.

## **Article X FINANCES**

### **1. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Society begins July 1 of each year and ends June 30 of the following year.

### **2. ANNUAL DUES**

Dues shall be payable upon initiating a membership. The various options involving different groupings of publications and the cost of options each year shall be as determined by the Council.

To retain membership in the Society, all Fellows, Members, and Affiliates must pay the stated dues, except as otherwise set forth in these bylaws.

### **3. EXEMPTION FROM DUES**

The following categories of Members and Fellows shall be exempt from dues:

Honorary Fellows;

Penrose and Day Medal recipients;

Fellows and Members who have reached the age of 70 years and have paid annual dues for 30 years; and

Disabled members, as determined by the Committee on Membership on a case-by-case basis, for the duration of their disability.

Each Fellow or Member in any of these exempt categories shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership regardless of non-payment of dues.

#### **4. ARREARS**

Fellows, Members, and Affiliates whose dues have not been paid during the renewal period to which they pertain shall be deemed in arrears, and they shall not be entitled to the Society rights and privileges, including the right to vote, until such dues have been paid. Fellows, Members, or Affiliates whose dues have not been paid for one (1) calendar year shall have their membership in the Society expire.

A Fellow, Member, or Affiliate who has been suspended for nonpayment of dues (Article IV, Section 8) may request reinstatement of membership by writing directly to the Membership and Fellowship Committee. Such members, if reinstated, will retain their former status and original date of membership, but the years when not active will be excluded from the total years of membership when viewing eligibility for exemption.

#### **5. PENROSE BEQUEST**

The Penrose Bequest, established by the will of the late Richard A.F. Penrose Jr., “shall be considered an endowment fund the income of which only to be used and the capital to be properly invested.”

#### **6. BEQUESTS**

The Society may accept gifts and bequests at the discretion of the Council.

#### **7. AUDIT**

At each annual corporate meeting a firm of certified public accountants shall be appointed by the voting members present in person or lawfully represented at such meeting to audit the financial affairs of the Society. At the close of each fiscal year, the auditors shall audit and examine records, accounts, vouchers, and financial transactions of the treasurer and the other officers and custodians of the Society, and the funds, securities, and other investments of the Society in the custody of the treasurer and other officers and custodians of the Society, and shall prepare a balance sheet and a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund balances, prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and shall report thereon to the Council at its first regular meeting of the new fiscal year. The Council shall review the results of the audit and any related management letter with the independent auditor. In addition, the Council shall:

- (i) review with the independent auditor the scope and planning of the audit prior

to the audit's commencement;

- (ii) upon completion of the audit, review and discuss with the independent auditor: (A) any material risks and weaknesses in internal controls identified by the auditor; (B) any restrictions on the scope of the auditor's activities or access to requested information; (C) any significant disagreements between the auditor and management; and (D) the adequacy of the Society's accounting and financial reporting processes;
- (iii) annually consider the performance and independence of the independent auditor

Only Independent Councilors may participate in any Council deliberations or voting related to the audit. For purposes of these bylaws, "Independent Councilor" means a Councilor who (i) is not, and within the last three years has not been, an employee of the Society or of an affiliate of the Society, and does not have a relative who is, or within the last three years was, a key employee of the Society or any affiliate of the Society; (ii) has not received, or has a relative who received, in any of the last three years, more than \$10,000 in compensation from the Society or any affiliate of the Society; and (iii) is not an employee of, and does not have a substantial financial interest in, and does not have a relative who is so employed or has such interest in, any entity that has made (other than charitable contributions) payments to, or received payment from, the Society or any affiliate of the Society, for property or services in an amount that, in any of the last three fiscal years, exceeds the lesser of \$25,000 or 2% of such entity's consolidated gross revenue. An "affiliate" is an entity controlled by, or in control of, or under common control with the Society. A "key employee" is any employee in a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the Society.

The report of the auditors shall be kept on file with the Society as per its record retention policy and shall be open to the inspection of the members at all times.

## **8. DISBURSEMENTS**

All checks or demands for money and notes of the Society shall be signed by any of the officers of the Society, or such other person(s) as the Council may from time to time designate in accordance with any policy established by the Council as to the number of signatures required on checks above identified thresholds.

## **9. EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

All agreements, conveyances, transfers, obligations, certificates, and other instruments obligating GSA to the commitment of financial or equivalent resources (individually, "Contract," collectively, "Contracts") shall be executed and delivered or accepted on behalf of the Society according to the following procedures:

- a. Contracts less than \$2,000. Contracts for less than \$2,000 may be approved and authorized (signed) by a Director, Chief Operating Officer (COO) or Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO), without prior legal review, regardless of whether the Contract is for a budgeted or unbudgeted expenditure. "Director" as referenced in this Section of the Bylaws is a staff

position responsible for a GSA Headquarters Department and is appointed by the ED & CEO.

b. Contracts less than \$25,000. Contracts for less than \$25,000 may be approved by a Director and ED & CEO, COO, ED & CEO, or Director of Finance, without prior legal review; provided, however, that the Contract is for a budgeted expenditure. Contracts for less than \$25,000 for unbudgeted items require written approval of the ED & CEO and Director of Finance. Legal review is at the discretion of the ED & CEO.

c. Contracts more than \$25,000. Budgeted contracts more than \$25,000 shall be reviewed and approved by the ED & CEO, COO, or Director of Finance. All unbudgeted contracts for more than \$25,000 in all cases require approval of the Executive Committee, which represents the Council. Legal review is required for all Contracts more than \$25,000. In certain circumstances, to be determined by the ED & CEO on a case-by-case basis, where the Contract is routine and was previously approved as to form, the ED & CEO may authorize such Contract without legal review.

## **10. WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY.**

The Society shall adopt a whistleblower policy to protect from retaliation persons who report suspected improper conduct. Such policy shall provide that no director, officer, employee or volunteer of the Society who in good faith reports any action or suspected action taken by or within the Society that is illegal, fraudulent or in violation of any adopted policy of the Society shall suffer intimidation, harassment, discrimination or other retaliation or, in the case of employees, adverse employment consequence. The whistleblower policy shall include the following provisions: (i) procedures for the reporting of violations or suspected violations of laws or Society policies, including procedures for preserving the confidentiality of reported information; (ii) a requirement that an employee, officer or director of the Society be designated to administer the whistleblower policy and to report to the Council; (iii) a requirement that the policy be distributed to all Councilors, officers, employees and to volunteers who provide substantial services to the Society (posting it on the Society website is sufficient).

## **Article XI** **MEMBERS' MEETINGS**

### **1. ANNUAL CORPORATE MEETING**

The annual corporate meeting of the members of the Society shall be held at such time and place as the Council may from time to time prescribe, in order to conduct such business as may properly come before the members. The annual corporate meeting of the members of the Society shall normally be held in the month of April or May in each year at a location or virtually to be determined by the Council.

## **2. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the members of the Society, except as otherwise required by law, may be called at any time by the president or a majority of the full Council. In addition, special meetings of the members may be convened by voting members entitled to cast one hundred (100) votes or ten percent of the total number of votes entitled to be cast at such meeting, whichever is greater, who may, in writing, demand the call of a special meeting specifying the date and month thereof, which shall not be less than two nor more than three months from the date of such written demand. The ED & CEO upon receiving the written demand shall promptly give notice of such meeting, or if he or she fails to do so within five days thereafter, any voting member signing such demand may give such notice.

## **3. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

Notice of the place, date, and hour of every meeting of the membership shall be given personally, by mail, or by electronic means to each member entitled to vote at such meeting. If the notice is given personally, by first-class mail, or by electronic means, it shall be given not less than ten (10) nor more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting. Unless it is an annual corporate meeting, the notice shall indicate that it is being issued by or at the direction of the person or persons calling the meeting. Notice of a special meeting shall also state the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. If mailed, notice is given when deposited in the United States mail, with postage thereon prepaid, directed to the voting member at the address as it appears on the record of members, or if the member shall have filed with the Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer (ED & CEO) a written request that notices to him or her be mailed to some other address, then directed to such other address. If a meeting has convened and is adjourned to another time and place, no notice is required if the time and place to which the meeting is adjourned is announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken.

## **4. QUORUM**

At all meetings of the members of the Society (except a special meeting for election of councilors called on the demand of the voting membership pursuant to the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law), members entitled to cast one hundred (100) votes or one-tenth (1/10th) of the total number of votes entitled to be cast, whichever is lesser, present in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum; but less than a quorum shall have power to adjourn any meeting. Any such adjourned meeting may be reconvened without further notice if the time and place to which the meeting is adjourned are announced at the meeting at which the adjournment is taken.

## **5. TELLERS AND INSPECTORS OF ELECTION**

At any time prior to a meeting, except a special election required by the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, the president may appoint two (2) or more tellers and inspectors of election to serve at such meeting. The presiding officer at the meeting shall fill any teller vacancies if there are less than two tellers at a meeting. The tellers and inspectors of election at each meeting shall count the voting membership present in person or lawfully represented at such meeting and report the result orally to the meeting and shall also

canvass the ballots cast on every vote taken by ballot and report the results in writing to the meeting.

## **6. BALLOTS**

The Council shall cause to be prepared and mailed or electronically distributed to the voting membership with the notice of each annual corporate meeting of the Society, the official ballot with the candidates for the Council in the upcoming year as set forth in Article V, Section 4 of these Bylaws, and with the candidates for Officers as set forth in Article VI, Section 2 of these Bylaws. The official ballot shall also set forth other propositions that may come before the meeting. Ballots shall be returned by the voting membership as directed with the ballot. Along with the ballot sent to each member shall be a proxy containing language authorizing another person to attend the meeting and vote as directed in the ballot. A voting member may authorize another person to act for the member at the annual meeting by signing the proxy and submitting it with the ballot.

Such proxy shall also contain a provision that it will be accepted and exercised only if it is received not later than twenty (20) days before the date of the meeting.

## **7. JOINT MEETINGS**

The Council may at its discretion arrange for the holding of meetings of the Society jointly with other similar bodies for the discussion of matters of mutual interest, but attendance at the annual corporate meeting of the Society shall always be restricted to the membership of the Society.

# **Article XII**

## **REGIONAL SECTIONS**

### **1. REGIONAL SECTIONS**

Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members, and Affiliates resident in specified geographical regions may, with the approval of the Council, organize as sections of the Society. The duly elected officers of such sections shall be responsible to the Council for the conduct of the affairs of their sections and shall render to the Council an annual report from their sections. Each section shall be known as "The ..... Section of The Geological Society of America."

All Members, Affiliates, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows residing within the geographical limits of a section will normally be members of that section and will be so listed unless they choose membership in another section or sections, as described in the following paragraph.

All Members, Affiliates, Fellows, and Honorary Fellows can choose to belong to multiple sections and pay a separate fee to be a voting member with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto, on written request to the Society. If a section(s) is not selected, section membership will default to the geographical location of the GSA member.

Affiliation with additional sections for purposes of receiving meeting notices and attendance at meetings, but without privileges of voting or of holding office, is available upon written request to the Society.

## **2. SECTION BYLAWS**

Each section may adopt for its own use bylaws approved by the Council which are consistent with the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Society. The Council will attempt to ensure that the bylaws for the several sections are consistent with one another.

To become effective, proposed changes in a section's bylaws must receive management board approval, acceptance by the voting affiliates of the section, and ratification by Council. "Management board" as referenced in this section of the Bylaws refers to the governing body of a section.

## **3. REGIONAL MEETINGS**

Each section may, with the approval of the Council, organize annual and special meetings within its own region. Circulation of notice of all such meetings shall be the responsibility of the sections, and notice shall be sent to the membership within the respective region as well as to the headquarters of the Society and to all officers and members of the Council.

## **4. FINANCES**

Each section may, with the approval of the Council, make its own arrangements for the raising of the necessary funds for the proper conduct of its operations. This may be done by means of the registration fees charged for attendance at meetings of the section. Account of all such funds shall be rendered to the Council at the end of each fiscal year.

# **Article XIII**

## **DIVISIONS OF THE SOCIETY**

### **1. DIVISIONS OF THE SOCIETY**

Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members, and Affiliates from particular branches of geology, and Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members, and Affiliates concerned with the application of geology to other fields of endeavor may, with the approval of the Council, organize as divisions of the Society. The duly elected officers of such divisions shall be responsible to the Council for the conduct of the affairs of their divisions and shall render to the Council an annual report from their divisions. Each division shall be known as "The Division of The Geological Society of America." Affiliation with any division or divisions is available to any Honorary Fellows, Fellows, Members, or Affiliates upon written request to headquarters.

### **2. BYLAWS**

Each division may adopt for its own use bylaws approved by the Council which are

consistent with the Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Society. The Council will attempt to ensure that the bylaws for the several divisions are consistent with one another.

To become effective, proposed changes in a division's bylaws must receive management board approval, acceptance by the voting affiliates of the division, and ratification by Council.

### **3. DIVISIONAL MEETINGS**

Each division may organize meetings as a part of and in association with the Society's Annual Meeting and Exposition. If a division desires to organize special meetings apart from the Society's Annual Meeting and Exposition, prior approval must be sought and obtained from the Council. Notice of meetings held at the time of the annual meetings of the Society shall be included in the general Society notice of such meetings. Notice of any special divisional meetings shall be the responsibility of the division itself, which shall send such notice to its enrolled membership as well as to the headquarters of the Society and to all officers and members of the Council.

### **4. FINANCES**

Each division may, with the approval of the Council, make its own arrangements for the raising of the necessary funds for the proper conduct of its operations. Account of all such funds shall be rendered to the Council at the end of each fiscal year.

## **Article XIV PUBLICATIONS**

Consistent with the stated purpose of the Society of promoting the science of geology, the Council shall arrange for the regular publication and distribution of scholarly papers as journal articles, memoirs, special volumes, or other media for the transmittal of information on the science of geology. The Committee on Publications shall be responsible to the Council for the high standards that are to be maintained in all such publications. Voluntary assistance with the work of producing the publications through such tasks as critical reviewing shall be a general responsibility of the membership.

## **Article XV CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

### **SECTION 1. STATEMENT OF POLICY**

These Bylaws recognize that both real and apparent conflicts or dualities of interest sometimes occur in the course of conducting the Society's affairs. A conflict as used in these bylaws refers to those circumstances as defined in the Society's Policy on Conflict of Interest and Disclosure of Certain Interests (the "Conflict Policy"). Conflicts are undesirable because they may place the interests of others ahead of the Society, and because they often reflect adversely upon the persons involved, regardless of the actual facts or motivations. Therefore, the Society's affirmative policy, as set forth in these Bylaws and in its Conflict Policy, shall be to require that each councilor, officer and senior employee (as defined in

the Conflict Policy and hereafter referred to as “Responsible Persons”) act in the Society’s best interest and comply with applicable legal requirements, and (a) be familiar with the terms of the Conflict Policy, (b) disclose to the Council any possible personal, familial or business relationships that reasonably might give rise to a conflict involving GSA, (c) not be present at or participate in Council or committee deliberations or vote on the matter giving rise to such conflict; (d) not attempt to influence improperly the deliberation or voting on the matter giving rise to such conflict; as further defined in the Conflict Policy. The existence and resolution of the conflict shall be documented in the Society’s records, including the minutes of any meeting at which the conflict was discussed or voted upon. This Section and the Conflict Policy shall be interpreted to be consistent with the New York Not-for-profit Corporation Law and the Internal Revenue Service as respects tax-exempt organizations.

## **SECTION 2. DISCLOSURE OF ALL CONFLICTS**

All Responsible Persons under the Society’s Conflict Policy shall (a) annually complete a disclosure form identifying any relationships, positions or circumstances that s/he believes could contribute to a conflict of interest. In addition, each such person shall disclose any real or apparent conflicts prior to Council or committee action on a contract or transaction involving such conflict. Such disclosure shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting.

## **SECTION 3. PRESCRIBED ACTIVITY BY PERSONS HAVING CONFLICTS**

As further set forth in the Society’s Conflict Policy, all Responsible Persons with a real or potential conflict of interest shall not participate in or be permitted to hear the Council’s or committee’s discussion of the matter pertaining to the conflict except to disclose material facts and respond to questions. Such Responsible Person shall not be counted in determining the presence of a quorum for purposes of a vote on the matter pertaining to the conflict; the remaining disinterested members of the Council or committee, as the case may be, may vote on the matter. Such person’s ineligibility to vote shall be reflected in the minutes of the meeting. However, if a Councilor needs to step out of the room due to a conflict of interest or a related party transaction, the Councilor is still considered “present” at the meeting and counts towards a quorum.

## **SECTION 4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Society may not enter into any related party transaction unless the transaction is determined by the Council to be fair, reasonable and in the Society’s best interest at the time of such determination. Any Councilor, officer or key employee who has an interest in a related party transaction shall disclose to the Council the material facts concerning such interest. With respect to any related party transaction in which a related party has a substantial financial interest, the Council shall (i) prior to entering into the transaction, consider alternative transactions to the extent available; (ii) approve the transaction by not less than a majority vote of the Councilors present at the meeting; and (iii) contemporaneously document in writing the basis for the Council’s approval, including its consideration of any alternative transactions.

A “related party transaction” is a transaction, agreement or other arrangement in which a

related party has a financial interest and in which the Society or any of its affiliates is a participant. A “related party” is (A) any Councilor, officer or key employee of the Society or any of its affiliates, (B) any relative of such person, (C) any entity in which such individual has a 35% or more ownership or beneficial interest, or in the case of a partnership or professional corporation, a direct or indirect 5% ownership interest, or (D) any other person who exercises the power of Councilors, officers or key employees over the affairs of the Society or any affiliate.

An “affiliate” is an entity controlled by the Society, in control of the Society or under common control with the Society.

## **Article XVI** **INDEMNIFICATION**

The Society shall, to the fullest extent permitted by the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, indemnify any present or former Councilor, officer or employee of the Society or the personal representatives thereof, made or threatened to be made a part in any civil or criminal action or proceeding by reason of the fact that such Councilor, officer or employee, or his or her testator or intestate, is or was a Councilor, officer, or employee of the Society or, at the request of the Society, served any other organization, entity or enterprise in any capacity, if (i) the Councilor, officer or employee acted in good faith and in a manner which the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Society, and (ii) with respect to any criminal proceeding, the Councilor, officer or employee had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful.

All such indemnified costs and expenses incurred shall be advanced by the Society pending the final disposition of such action or proceeding if authorized by the Council. However, no indemnification shall be made if a judgment or other final adjudication adverse to the Councilor, officer or employee establishes that his acts or omissions (i) were in breach of his duty of loyalty to the Society or its members, (ii) were not in good faith or involved a knowing violation of law, or (iii) resulted in receipt by the Councilor, officer or employee of an improper personal benefit.

The above rights of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which such Councilor, officer or employee may be entitled apart from this Article. The Society shall purchase and maintain insurance to protect and indemnify the Society, its members, Councilors, officers, employees and other persons otherwise entitled to indemnification to the full extent and as permitted by law, when, as, and if the Council shall so direct.

## **Article XVII** **AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the Councilors present at any regular meeting of the Council. Every such amendment may be repealed by a majority of the voting membership present in person or lawfully represented at the next annual corporate or

special meeting of the Society. Any amendment proposed not less than sixty (60) days before the next annual corporate or special meeting of the Society by a petition signed by the greater of ten percent of the voting membership of the Society, or one hundred (100) of the voting membership of the Society shall be set forth in the notice of such meeting and may be adopted by a majority of the voting membership present in person or lawfully represented.

I, Nathan A. Niemi, DO HEREBY ATTEST TO enactment of these Bylaws by vote of the Council at its meeting duly called and convened on 7 February 2025, and by vote of the Society's membership ratified at the GSA Corporate Meeting held on 29 April 2025.



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President

I, Melanie Brandt, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that I was the Secretary of the Geological Society of America, and in attendance at the meeting of the Society duly called and convened on 7 February 2025 (GSA Council Meeting), and in attendance at the Corporate Meeting of the Society duly called and convened on 29 April 2025, and do further certify that the foregoing Bylaws were duly enacted at such meetings as the Bylaws of the Society.



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Secretary