



SAPROLITE

NEWSLETTER of the SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Winter 2019-2020

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Glossary of Geology defines *saprolite* as, “A soft, earthy, typically clay-rich, thoroughly decomposed rock, formed in place by chemical weathering of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks.” If you’ve ever done any field work in the humid temperate to tropical zone that dominates the southeastern U.S., you are well familiar with saprolite. I suppose that’s why it’s also the name of the newsletter of the Southeastern Section of the Geological Society of America. So, welcome to the 2020 issue of *Saprolite*. It only happens once a year, so enjoy it!

If you’re a member of GSA and live in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, or the Mexican states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, or Yucatan, you’re probably a member of the Southeastern Section. There are six sections: Southeastern, Northeastern, North-Central, Rocky Mountain, Cordilleran, and South-Central. Sections are primarily responsible for hosting annual Section Meetings within their geographic scope. Section meetings are relatively small and relatively close to home for members (more on our 2020 section meeting below). Technical sessions and field trips at section meetings often focus on regional geoscience topics. When you join GSA, you are automatically assigned to the Section in which you live, but you can also choose to be a member of any of the other sections. Our Section is governed by an elected Board consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair, Past Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and a Student Representative.

Geographical sections are just one way in which GSA is organized. The Society is also organized into scientific Divisions, of which there are 22. Each division is focused on a subdiscipline of the geosciences, such as geochronology, sedimentary geology, or structural geology, and tectonics. When you pay your GSA dues, you have the option to join one Division for free and can join other Divisions for a small fee. Divisions usually sponsor technical sessions at GSA’s Annual Meeting, and many divisions have their own newsletters and sponsor awards for achievement in their respective subdisciplines.

So, that’s the difference between Sections and Divisions. You may also hear about GSA *committees*. As of January 2020, there are *thirty* GSA committees. Committees are generally concerned with administrative topics such as finance, membership, publications, grants, and awards. There’s also the GSA Council (a governing board, elected by members) and Officers

(including the President and Treasurer, also elected by members). And let's not forget GSA's staff, led by an Executive Director, who are hired to run the day-to-day business of the Society. If you've been around GSA for a while, you probably know all this, but I wish someone had explained it to me when I first became a member. Each of these organizational entities represents an opportunity for getting involved in the governance and leadership of the Society.

If you're a student, you also have plenty of ways to get involved. Sections, Divisions, and Committees all have student representatives, and those student representatives make up the Student Advisory Council, which is described on the GSA website as "a dynamic and influential committee of GSA empowered with a direct line of communication with GSA Council." That sounds like a great way to start building a network of colleagues as well as a reputation for being involved in your profession early in your career.

Remembering Bob Tracy

Three years ago, Bob Tracy, an eminent metamorphic petrologist at Virginia Tech who served as Chair of the Southeastern Section for the 2016-2017 term, wrote this column. Bob was not only a giant in his field, but he also served on GSA Council, was a GSA Fellow, and was our section's representative to the GSA Geology and Public Policy Committee for many years. Unfortunately, Bob died of cancer in January of 2019. After his passing, much was written about his career and accomplishments. I'm not going to recount them all here, but I did want to revisit some of the things he said in this space in 2017. Bob wrote his "Letter from the Chair" in the weeks after the 2017 presidential inauguration. He foresaw, correctly, that the earth and atmospheric sciences would come under attack in the new political landscape. Bob wrote,

"My best advice to all is to be engaged in what is going on at the intersection of science and politics, to keep yourselves well informed, and to be prepared to be an activist for the things that are important to you personally, that are likely to affect your work and careers, and that may negatively affect the broader scientific enterprise that you are a part of."

Rather than despair, he reminded us all that GSA is a community of professionals with mutual interests, and that, by being an active part of this community, we have more power than we do individually. We will miss Bob, but let's honor his memory by remembering his challenge to us.

GSA's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

If you read GSA Today, you've surely noticed GSA's renewed commitment to professional conduct in all of our activities. Under the leadership of the Officers, Councilors, and Executive Director Vicki McConnell, the Society has recently adopted the [Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct](#). The Code covers such topics as scientific integrity, respect, inclusivity, bullying, retaliation, discrimination, harassment, and conflicts of interest. It sets mandatory standards of conduct that, if violated, may result in disciplinary or remedial action against violators. It also sets forth aspirational standards meant to guide us all toward professionalism and understanding in our interactions with others. I encourage you all to read the Code and embrace its principles.



GSA's RISE initiative goes hand-in-hand with the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. Founded on the [Events Code of Conduct](#), RISE stands for "Respectful, Inclusive Scientific Events." The Events Code of Conduct sets forth a list of expected behaviors specifically aimed at meeting attendees. Many of your section and division officers have been trained as RISE Liaisons, people you can talk to about the new policies and who serve as first points of contact when an incident occurs. You can recognize them because they will be wearing RISE buttons at meetings. If you observe or are subject to behavior that violates the Events Code of Conduct, please seek out anyone wearing a RISE button and report the incident to them. They have been trained to take your report to a select team of GSA leaders who will investigate the incident and enforce GSA's policies, if necessary.

State of the Southeastern Section

Blair Tormey, our amazingly well organized Secretary-Treasurer, has provided details of the Section's membership, finances, and meetings in the Annual Report below. I don't need to preiterate (did I just coin a new word?) those details here, but I do want to publicly thank Scott Harris and Katie Luciano for hosting last year's section meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. Serving as General Chairs for a section meeting is no simple task, but they made it look easy. Thanks to their work, we had a successful, well-attended, and fun meeting. Thank you, Katie and Scott!

Which brings us to the subject of our 2020 section meeting. This year, we're meeting jointly with the Northeastern Section, something we do every ten years or so. In fact, we last did it in 2010 in Baltimore. This year's joint meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Reston, Virginia, March 20-22. Arthur Merschat from USGS will be the General Co-chair for the Southeastern Section and Patrick Burkhart from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania will be the General Co-chair for the Northeastern Section. I've already registered and I'm excited about the technical sessions and field trips. I hope to see many of you there, at the [69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section](#)!

In an exciting development, the Management Board of the Southeastern Section has made tentative plans to meet jointly with the South-Central Section and the Cuban Geological Society in the spring of 2023. Yes, in Havana, Cuba! That's certainly something to look forward to.

I'd once again like to acknowledge Blair Tormey, who, as Secretary-Treasurer of the Southeastern Section, arguably has the most work to do to keep the Section running. Great job, Blair! Arthur Merschat, who, as Vice Chair, is organizing our 2020 section meeting, may be the first to argue that point. I know you're doing a lot of work right now, Arthur, and you will be duly recognized when it all turns out beautifully, as I know it will. To all the other members of the Management Board – Past Chair, Venkat Lakshmi; Past Vice Chair, Scott Harris; Chair-elect, Colin Sumrall; and our Student Representative, Allie Nagurney – a big THANK YOU for your work this past year. And may I, as one of my last duties as Chair, single out Allie for special recognition? This is not just because Allie and I share the same academic pedigree of Lafayette College (Go Pards!) and Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!). I just learned that Allie is the Chair of the GSA Student Advisory Council. Congratulations, Allie!

To all the other members of the Southeastern Section, I wish you all the best that the geosciences have to offer in 2020.

David Spears
Chair, Southeastern Section
david.spears@dmme.virginia.gov

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Management Board, 2019-2020

Chair:	David Spears	VA Dept. of Mines, Minerals and Energy
Past Chair:	Venkat Lakshmi	University of South Carolina
Vice Chair:	Arthur Merschat	United States Geological Survey
Past Vice-Chair:	Scott Harris	College of Charleston
Chair-Elect:	Colin Sumrall	University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Secretary-Treasurer:	Blair Tormey	Western Carolina University
Student Rep:	Allie Nagurney	Virginia Tech University
GSA Councilor:	Mark Little	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Membership

At the end of December 2019, SE Section membership stood at 2,530 total members, including 807 Professionals, 466 Seniors, 2 Honorary Fellow, 299 Early Careers, 849 Students, 65 K-12 Teachers, and 42 Affiliates.

Financial Status of the Section

At the end of the fiscal year, 30 June 2019, the section had \$118,329 in its accounts, down from \$169,548 at the beginning of FY19. This decrease is due in large part to a one-time transfer of \$40,000 to the SE Section Endowment, bringing the balance of the endowment up to \$246,605. The total interest realized during FY19 was \$5,218. This interest, together with a reported surplus of \$4,880 from the section meeting in Charleston, SC, and section members' dues, is used to fund the Section's Student Research Grants, Student Travel Grants, and general operations of the section.

Future Section Meetings	Dates	Local Chair(s)
Reston, VA (joint NE)	March 20-22, 2020	Arthur Merschat (SE) Patrick Burkhart (NE)
Auburn, AL	April 1-2, 2021	Bill Hames
Cincinnati, OH (joint NC)	2022	Rebecca Freeman (SE); Craig Dietsch (NC)
Havana, Cuba (joint SC)	2023	TBD
Harrisonburg, VA	2024	Steve Leslie and Steve Whitmeyer

Student Research Grants

The Section has two research grant programs, one for undergraduates and another for graduate students. The graduate grant competition in the spring of 2019 resulted in the expenditure of \$14,000 from remaining FY19 funds to support the research of 11 graduate students from a pool

of 21 applicants. In the late spring of 2019, we awarded 8 undergraduate research grants, from a pool of 11 applicants, resulting in an expenditure of \$7051 from the \$15,000 allocated for FY20.

Student Travel Grants

The Student Travel Grant program continues to be very popular. In the fall of 2018, the Section expended \$5760 to support the travel of 64 students presenting papers at the annual meeting. In the spring of 2019, the section expended \$4500 in support of 50 students presenting papers at section meeting. The Section appreciates the matching funds provided by the GSA Foundation and the contributions from members. Total student expenditures for 2018-2019 was \$10,260.

68th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 68th annual meeting of the section was held in March 2019 in Charleston, SC. Scott Harris, at the College of Charleston, and Katie Luciano at the SC Geological Survey were the General co-Chairs. There were 23 theme sessions and 1 short course. 6 field trips were run successfully, and a field trip guidebook was produced. The meeting was well planned and well attended (757 attendees).

69th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Section

The 69th annual meeting of the section will be held in March 2020 in Reston, VA as a joint meeting with the Northeastern Section. Arthur Merschat, at the United States Geological Survey, will be the Southeastern Chair. The meeting should be successful both scientifically and financially.

Respectfully submitted,
Blair Torney
Secretary-Treasurer, Southeastern Section

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SECTION

Important Dates in 2020:

February 1, 2020: Session Submission Deadline, GSA Annual Meeting

February 1, 2020: Graduate Student Research Grant Deadline

February 18, 2020: Charleston Early Registration Deadline

March 20-22, 2020: Joint Southeast-Northeast Section Meeting, Reston, VA

April 1, 2020: Undergraduate Student Research Grant Deadline

September 8-9, 2020: Geosciences Congressional Visits Day (GEO-CVD)

October 25-28, 2020: GSA Annual Meeting, Montréal, Québec

Reston Meeting Tips for Students!

Read the Conference Program Beforehand and Download the Conference App

There are lots of exciting talks and events occurring and it can be hard to keep track of everything. I find it helpful, a week or so before the conference, to look up the schedule of sessions and talks and mark the ones that I want to attend. In the conference app, you can search by discipline or by day. You can even download the app for the conference, which lets you star any presentations you don't want to miss and create your own personal program!

Poster Sessions versus Talks

If this is your first conference, joint SE-NE meetings (and most conferences) are broken down into poster sessions and talks. For every time slot (morning and afternoon) there will be both poster sessions and talks occurring. Talks are 15-20 minutes in length with time for questions at the end. Poster sessions are normally 2 hours long, and offer time to interact with the poster presenters during their presentations. If you want to attend some talks in a session, but not all of them, it is okay to quietly leave after a talk is done. If you are trying to enter a session wait until you hear applause (a signal that a talk is over) and then you can quietly enter the room. You don't need to stay in one session for the entire time.

Take Advantage of the Poster Session

Poster sessions are a great opportunity to network. Don't be afraid to walk up to a poster, and say "Hi, I'd like to hear about your poster!" That is all you need to break the ice and hear about some interesting science! Conferences are busy and it can be tough to talk to people right after their talks, so if you want to talk to someone who you heard talk earlier in the day, the poster session is a great chance to do that.

Make Sure You Account for Time

Between talks, poster sessions, and other events, joint SE-NE meetings can be hectic. Make sure you leave enough time to get to the conference center in the mornings, and account for time if you are moving between talks and poster sessions.

Take the Opportunity to Learn Something New

One of the cool things about joint SE-NE meetings is the diversity of geoscience research- from coastal storms to igneous rocks to geoscience education there is something interesting for everyone! It is always fun to attend a session in an area that you are unfamiliar with- you will definitely learn something new!

Attend A Career Workshop

The joint SE-NE meeting offers an opportunity to explore different careers as a geoscientist! There are several different events:

1. Career Planning and Informational Interviewing
2. Geoscience Career Exploration
3. Cover Letters, Resumes, and CVs
4. Professional Geologist Licensure
5. Mentoring Cafe

Each of these workshops (spread out over Friday and Saturday) will give different insights on job searches, career options, and what employers are looking for! I highly recommend attending at least one of these. These do not require pre-registration.

Free Lunch!

Now that I got your attention, there are three mentoring lunches. On Friday and Saturday, there will be a Roy J. Schlemmon Mentor Program in Applied Geoscience luncheon each day, and on Sunday, will be the John Mann Mentors in Applied Hydrogeology Program Luncheon. These are great opportunities to talk about careers in the geosciences with professionals. Don't miss out!

These are ticketed events and GSA student members will receive priority; any remaining space will be offered on first come, first served basis.

Attend A Special Event

In addition to poster sessions and talks, this meeting offers some awesome events to connect with your friends and make new ones! One of the great things about attending a Section Meeting is the community that exists between geoscientists, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of the Welcome Reception Thursday night, special lectures, and the mentoring program.

Need Help Getting There? Apply for a Travel Grant or Volunteer!

The Southeast Section offers some support to GSA Student Members to help defray the cost of travel to the meeting. Funds are limited, but every bit helps! Deadline to apply: February 18. Visit the meeting website to apply. As a student, you can also apply to be a volunteer for the opportunity for free meeting registration. See the meeting website for more details.

Last Thoughts:

1. Wear comfortable shoes!
2. Make it a goal to meet one new person each day.
3. Make sure your name badge is facing out.
4. If you have a free hour or two, go out and explore Reston!

Allie Nagurney
Student Representative, Southeastern Section

Congressional Visits Day Report

This past September, I represented the Southeastern Section of the GSA at the Geoscience Congressional Visits Day in Washington, D.C. Scientists from across the nation came together to advocate for the continued federal funding of the geosciences. This annual, two-day event offers an opportunity for students, researchers, and professionals to discuss the wide-ranging importance of geoscience research and organizations with policy makers as they develop and approve the government's annual budget.

I partnered with two graduate students from the University of Delaware and a government liaison from the Soil Science Society, and together we met with staff members from the offices of: Sen. Chris Coons (DE), Sen. Tom Carper (DE), Sen. Mark Warner (VA), Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (DE-AL), and Rep. Jennifer Wexton (VA-10). At each meeting, we shared about the importance of federal funding to our individual research projects, including USGS field mapping, heavy metal contaminants in agriculture, and the impacts of chemical run-off on the Chesapeake Bay. We also discussed the value of geoscience research to each office's constituents. Our conversations were positive and productive, with all parties coming away with a greater understanding and appreciation for each other.

I am thankful for the support of the Southeastern Section, and I highly encourage others to consider attending the Geo-CVD next year! This is a fantastic opportunity to better understand

how the government and scientists can work together and to connect with fellow geoscientists who also care about the future of the geosciences in America.

Evan Laughlin
Geology Undergraduate
College of William & Mary

****Note:** The Southeastern Section was proud to support Evan as our representative in the Geo-CVD. Each year, the Southeastern Section provides funding for a graduate student to participate in the Geo-CVD program. If you would like information on how to participate, please visit the [Geo-CVD webpage](#).

Do you have news to share with the Southeastern Section?

Email the Section Secretary-Treasurer (Blair Tormey, btormey@wcu.edu) to include it in the next issue of Sapolite!

Vote for Section Officers

A copy of the ballot for officer elections is included at the end of this newsletter. The ballot will also be made available electronically through GSA this spring.

IN MEMORIUM

The following are members of the Southeastern Section that we lost between March 2018 and March 2019. If you know of any members that we have lost this year, please notify GSA Membership. Also, if you wish to share any remembrances in the next issue of SaproLite (2020), please contact the Section Secretary-Treasurer, Blair Tormey (btormey@wcu.edu).

Don W. Byerly	Knoxville, TN	01 April 2018
Frank B. Couch, Jr.	Arrington, TN	31 January 2017
James B. Cowart	Tallahassee, FL	12 April 2018
William L. Duggan	Nokomis, FL	Notified: 11 December 2018
Dolf W. Fieldman	Vero Beach, FL	10 September 2018
Nicholas Hood	Auburn, AL	30 June 2018
John P. Kempton	Fairhope, AL	12 August 2018
A. Conrad Neumann	Durham, NC	28 January 2019
Edmund Nosow	Lexington, KY	15 July 2015
Ranard J. Pickering	Arlington, VA	29 October 2018
Anthony Rabun	Greensboro, NC	Notified: 31 December 2018
Robert J. Tracy	Blacksburg, VA	05 January 2019

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN SECTION
Ballot for 2020 - 2021 Officers Southeastern Section

Please vote by completing the section at the bottom and mailing it to GSA postmarked no later than 1 March. Biographical information on the candidates is on the following pages.

You may vote online **by 1 March** at: <http://rock.geosociety.org/ballot/vote.asp?Name=SE>

Access the online e-ballot by using either your GSA member number or your e-mail address that is in your GSA member records. For membership assistance, please contact GSA at: gsaservice@geosociety.org or call (888) 443-4472. You may also submit your completed ballot by Fax: (303) 357-1074.

Section Chair (one-year term):

- Colin Sumrall
 Write-in _____

Chair Elect (one-year term):

- Scott Harris
 Write-in _____

Vice Chair (one-year term):

- Bill Hames
 Write-in _____

Secretary-Treasurer (one-year term):

- Blair Tormey
 Write-in _____

The Southeastern Section Bylaws were amended to be more consistent with those of other GSA Sections. Do you approve the amendments highlighted in the attached pages?

- _____ Yes
_____ No
_____ Abstain

Mail Ballot To: Section Office, Geological Society of America
PO Box 9140, Boulder, CO, 80301-9140

Mailed ballots should be postmarked no later than 1 March.
You must complete the following section to validate your ballot:

Your Name (printed) _____

Your Signature (required) _____

Your GSA Member Number * (required) _____

* Your 7 digit GSA member number is on the top right corner on the external mailing label. If you need assistance with your member number, call: (888) 443-4472

Biographies of Candidates for 2020 - 2021 Section Officers

Section Chair (one year term)

COLIN D. SUMRALL, Paleobiology. Education: Arizona State University, B.S. 1989; University of Texas at Austin, M.A. 1991; University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D., 1996. Professional Experience: Assistant Professor, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, 2012-present; Member: GSA.

Chair Elect (one year term)

M. SCOTT HARRIS, Coastal & Marine Sedimentology and Stratigraphy, and Geoarchaeology. Education: College of William and Mary, B.S. 1988; University of Virginia, M.A. 1992; University of Delaware, Ph.D., 2000. Professional Experience: Associate Professor, COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON, 2008-present; Member: GSA.

Vice Chair (one year term)

WILLIS E. HAMES, Igneous and Metamorphic Petrology. Education: University of Georgia, B.S. 1983, University of Georgia, M.S. 1988; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Ph.D. 1990. Professional Experience: Professor, AUBURN UNIVERSITY, 1994-present; Member: GSA.

Secretary-Treasurer (one year term)

BLAIR TORMEY, Sedimentology and Stratigraphy. Education: Pennsylvania State University, B.S., 1996; University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, M.S., 1999; University of Wisconsin, 1999-2002. Professional Experience: Coastal Research Scientist, WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, 2005-present; Member: GSA; AAPG; NAGT.

January 24, 2020

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION BYLAWS

Established by Council on December 28, 1947*

ARTICLE I

Name and Organization

1. The name of the section is the Southeastern Section, a regional organization of The Geological Society of America, Inc.
2. This section of The Geological Society of America, Inc., is organized in accordance with Article VIII of the Bylaws of that Society and is governed by the provisions of that article.

ARTICLE II

Geographical Limitation

1. For purposes of scientific fellowship and discussion, the limits of the section shall correspond with the limits of the Society. Meetings of the Southeastern Section shall be open to all Members, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Affiliates of the Society and their guests for attendance at scientific sessions, presentation of papers, and participation in field conferences.
2. For the purpose of administration, the geographical extent of the section shall include: in the United States, the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and in Mexico, the states of Campeche, Quintana Roo, and Yucatán.

ARTICLE III

Membership

1. Members, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Affiliates of the Geological Society of America residing within the geographical limits of the section shall normally be members of the section and shall have all rights and privileges pertaining thereto including the rights to vote and to hold office.
2. Members, Fellows, Honorary Fellows, and Affiliates of the section whose principal interests lie within the geographical limits of another section may become members of the other section, with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto, on written or electronic request to the Society; in so doing, they relinquish their rights and privileges in the Southeastern Section, except that by paying additional dues as determined by the Geological Society of America, any member can belong to any additional number of sections, with all rights and privileges pertaining thereto. By following a similar procedure, those who reside within the geographical limits of another section may transfer or extend their rights and privileges to the Southeastern Section.

ARTICLE IV
Officers and Management Board

1. **Officers.** The officers of the section shall be a chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary-treasurer, all of whom shall hold membership in the section. Their terms of office shall be for one year and shall end at the close of the section annual meeting. Only the secretary-treasurer shall be eligible for re-election.
2. **Responsibility to the Council of the Society.** In accordance with Article VIII, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the Society, the duly elected officers of the Southeastern Section shall be responsible to the Council of the Society for the conduct of the affairs of the section. Each year not later than February 15, the secretary-treasurer shall render to the Council an annual report outlining the activities of the section during the preceding calendar year and scheduled activities in the future. Immediately after each section annual meeting, the secretary-treasurer shall submit to the executive director of the Society a report of the proceedings of the meeting.
3. **Management Board.** The management board shall be composed of the officers, the officers-elect, and the past officers of the section. Council members(s) residing within the section boundaries shall be *ex officio* members. The chairs of the section committees (currently education, geology and public policy, liaison, and student support) shall be voting *ex officio* members. The vice-chair and secretary-treasurer-elect shall become members of the management board one week prior to the section annual meeting start date. The chair-elect shall become a voting member of the management board one year prior to taking the office of chair, and the retiring officers shall continue as members of the management board until one week after the beginning of the next year's section annual meeting.

Student Representative. A student representative, appointed by the outgoing section chair, shall serve until the close of the next section annual meeting. The student representative may serve multiple terms, and shall be a voting member of the management board. The student representative will also represent the section on the GSA Student Advisory Council.

4. **Election of Officers.** The nominating committee of the section shall submit to the chair-elect, before the last day of the section annual meeting, the names of candidates for chair, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer with their written or electronic acceptance of the nomination. These nominations shall be announced at the section annual meeting and shall constitute the regular ticket, to be submitted by the chair of the section to the executive director of the Society for distribution in a ballot to the voting members of the section in the fifth or sixth month after the section annual meeting. Nominees for the vice-chair and secretary-treasurer will be for the year beginning with the close of the next section annual meeting. The chair will be nominated for the year beginning with the close of the second section annual meeting after the nomination.

Additional nominations may be made within 120 days after the close of the section annual meeting if accompanied by a petition carrying the names of at least fifteen voting members of the section and a statement of willingness to serve, signed by each nominee. Such

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nominations will appear on the ballot. Provision for write-in nominations on the ballot shall also be made.

Ballots shall be returned by the voting members to the ~~chair~~secretary-treasurer, who will count them. Election shall be by a simple majority of those voting for each office. Within five days after counting the ballots, the ~~chair~~secretary-treasurer shall notify the candidates as to the results of the election.

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5. **Removal of a Management Board Officer.** Any officer who fails to perform the duties prescribed in the bylaws, or brings discredit to GSA or the Section in any way, ~~or does not adhere to the "GSA Constitution and By-laws" or the GSA "Code of Ethics",~~ may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the other officers of the management board. Any management board officer may make a motion for removal of another officer. The Section officer who is subject to a motion for removal must be provided an opportunity to respond and present an argument against removal prior to any vote on the motion.
6. **Vacancies.** Any vacancy occurring during the term of any elected Section officer shall be filled by appointment of the management board and such appointee shall serve until the close of the next section annual meeting..
7. **Officer Resignation.** Any Section officer may resign at any time by giving written notice of such resignation to the Section Chair and Section Secretary-Treasurer.

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ARTICLE V *Committees*

1. **Program Committee.** The vice-chair shall be chair of the program committee, and ~~with the advice of the management board,~~ shall appoint such other members as ~~he deems~~ necessary, ~~and to represent diversified interests.~~
2. **Nominating Committee.** The immediate past chair shall be chair of the nominating committee. The current chair shall appoint two additional voting members of the section. This committee shall nominate one candidate for the office of chair, vice-chair, and secretary-treasurer and shall obtain statements of willingness to serve from each candidate. These nominations shall be reported to the management board at its section annual meeting.
- ~~3. **Auditing Committee.** An auditing committee consisting of three voting members shall be appointed by the chair. This committee shall review all fiscal reports and report to the management board at its section annual meeting.~~
3. **Student Support Committee.** A student support committee shall consist of ~~at least~~ four appointed voting members serving staggered two-year terms, and a voting chair who shall serve a one-year term. Each year the outgoing section chair, with the approval of the management board at the annual section meeting, shall appoint the members. The committee chair shall be elected by the committee members from among those who have served previously on the student support committee.

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Commented [BT6]: Language removed to reflect what is actually done in practice. The fiscal reports are reviewed by the entire Management Board at the section annual meeting, making this committee redundant and unnecessary. Similar updates added to Article VII.

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4. **Education Committee.** ~~An education committee shall consist of a voting member from each state within the section.~~ Each year the outgoing section chair, with the approval of the management board, shall appoint ~~these members and shall also appoint~~ a chair ~~from among the committee members of the Education Committee, who shall appoint additional voting members of the section.~~ The president of the southeastern section of the National Association of Geology Teachers (NAGT) shall be an *ex officio* member of this committee.
5. **Geology and Public Policy Committee.** The Committee on Geology and Public Policy is charged with developing and disseminating information from the geological sciences to promote the use of such information in the formulation, discussion, and decision regarding public policies. The committee's educational informational activities should be directed toward both the membership at large of the GSA and toward the general public. These efforts are expected to include a symposium or public information session given at the Southeastern Section's annual meeting. All activities of the section committee must follow the guidelines as set forth for the GSA Committee on Geology and Public Policy. In particular, any advocacy statements must first be referred to the President of the Society; then be reviewed by the GSA Committee on Geology and Public Policy; and finally be supported by a majority of Council.

Commented [BT8]: Language added to reflect what is actually done in practice.

Each year the outgoing section chair, with the approval of the management board, shall appoint a chair of the Geology and Public Policy Committee, for a term of three years, who shall appoint additional voting members of the section. The section's student representative for Congressional Visits Day shall be an *ex officio* member of this committee.

Membership:

- ~~a. There shall be fourteen (14) members, one representing each state or commonwealth in the Southeastern Section's geographic area.~~
- ~~b. The membership should include an appropriate working balance among individuals employed by academic institutions, government agencies, and industrial organizations.~~
- ~~c. The membership should include individuals with an appropriate knowledge of and professional competence in the fields of engineering geology, hydrogeology, mineral resources, fuels resources, quaternary geology, geochemistry, and geophysics.~~
- ~~d. Members serve for three years, each term beginning on the first day of the Southeastern Section's annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the member representing the state in which the Southeastern Section's meeting is held to organize a symposium or a public information session at that meeting.~~
- ~~e. Members shall be appointed by the chair of the Southeastern Section. Normally three or four members shall be appointed each year, although the initial appointment shall consist of all fourteen members, with five to serve one year, five to serve two years, and four to serve three years. Members are eligible for reappointment.~~

~~A chair of the committee shall be elected by the members of the section Geology and Public Policy Committee and serve for a period of three years. The chair need not be one of the fourteen~~

~~members of the committee. The chair shall also serve as the section representative on the national GSA Committee on Geology and Public Policy.~~

7. ~~*Liaison Committee.* The Liaison Committee is charged with distributing information about GSA and recruiting new members. The committee members shall consist of GSA members in academic institutions, government agencies, and private corporations. The members of this committee will serve indefinite terms at the pleasure of the board. The chair of this committee will be appointed by the section chair and will serve a three year term.~~

6. *Ad Hoc Committees.* The chair, with the approval of the management board, may appoint special committees when they are needed.

Commented [BT9]: Language deleted in order to reflect what is actually done in practice. Other sections do not include this language in their bylaws.

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Commented [BT10]: Language deleted to reflect what is done in practice. Each officer fills this role, especially the Section Secretary. Other sections do not include this language in their bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

1. *Annual Meeting.* The place and time of the section annual meeting, and such special meetings as desired, shall be determined by the management board of the section and shall be reported to the executive director of the Society. Insofar as possible, the meeting shall be held in the spring.
2. *Management Board Meeting.* The management board meeting shall normally be held at the time of the section annual meeting. Special meetings of the management board may be called at any time by the chair. Business may also be conducted by mail correspondence or remote meetings.
3. Quorums for Meetings. (a) A quorum for the annual business meeting shall consist of the voting members present and voting. (b) A quorum for the management board meetings shall consist of the chair or vice-chair and at least three other members of the management board.

Commented [BT11]: Language added to reflect the 21st century.

Commented [BT12]: Language added to match bylaws of other sections.

ARTICLE VII

Finances

1. The expenses of the section, so far as they shall be paid from the general funds of the Society, shall be limited to ordinary economical expenses of the section meetings and balloting expenses relating to election of officers.
2. In accordance with Article VIII, Section 4, of the Bylaws of the Society, 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.
3. Following a review by the Section auditing committee ~~Management Board~~, the secretary-treasurer shall submit an account of all funds for the calendar year to the Council of the Society not later than February 15. The fiscal year begins July 1 in accordance with the Society.

Commented [BT13]: Language added to match bylaws of other sections.

Commented [BT14]: Language changed to reflect what is done in practice. The entire Management Board reviews the finances at each annual Section Meeting. An auditing committee is redundant and unnecessary.

Commented [BT15]: Language added to match bylaws of other sections.

ARTICLE VIII

Rules and Amendment of the Bylaws

1. *Rules.* Rules supplementing the bylaws may be adopted, amended, or rescinded by a majority vote of the management board of the section.
2. *Amendment of Bylaws.* Proposed amendments to the bylaws may be initiated by the management board or by written petition to the management board signed by at least twenty-five members eligible to vote in the section. After approval by the management board, the proposed changes shall be submitted to the voting membership by mail ballot or

at an annual meeting of the section, and shall be accepted by a simple majority vote. The accepted changes shall be submitted to the Council of the Society for ratification, and thereby adoption by the section.

All section bylaws must be consistent with the Certificate of Incorporation, the Constitution, and the Bylaws of the Society.

□ □ □ □

Bylaws amended on April 1, 2016, May 7, 1973; May 9, 1978; May 28, 1982; May 13, 1988; May 6, 1989; April 18, 1994; May 5, 1995; May 11, 1996; May 10, 1997; October 18, 1997; April 24, 2004 (addition of Puerto Rico to Southeastern Section); October 4, 2008 (bring member categories and fiscal year into conformance with Society's; add option for electronic communications; add states of Mexico to Section and revise committee membership accordingly); January 24, 2020 (amendments to standardize bylaws with those of other GSA Sections).

* GSA Council Minutes, Volume December 1946-December 1947, page 222.