2016 Elections for SIPS Focus Group Officers

Elections for the 2017–2018 SIPS Focus Group president and secretary as well as other AGU leaders are in progress. The slate of candidates is on the AGU elections page. The AGU election polls opened on 29 August 2016 and will remain open through 27 September. Although there are a total of 110 candidates across all 25 ballots, we encourage all eligible voters to click on the unique link provided by the election vendor and check out their ballots. All voters should receive ballots for the Board of Directors and the student and early career candidates on the AGU Council. Voters should also receive ballots for all sections and focus groups to which they belong. If you have any questions about the ballots you received, please contact the AGU Member Services Center by emailing service@agu.org or by calling +1-202-462-6900 (international calls) and +1-800-966-2481 (toll free for North America). AGU Member Services are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

To vote, note the following:

- Candidate info is posted on elections.agu.org, and the same info is also provided on the voting site provided by the vendor.
- Emails were sent out to all eligible voters between 29 and 31 August from noreply@directvote.net. Please check your junk mail if you’re not sure you received the message, or ask for your credentials to be resent.
- You can visit the voting site as many times as you like until the election closes on 27 September.
- Each ballot is a separate election; it’s up to you to decide how many ballots you’d like to submit. We hope you will submit at least 1 ballot.
- Voting is simple and fast! Each open position has two candidates, and candidates are asked to answer the same question, giving voters comparable info about both candidates. If you have any questions, please contact AGU_Governance@agu.org.

SIPS-Related Events at the 2016 AGU Fall Meeting

Here is a preliminary list of policy-related events that are being planned for the Fall AGU Meeting. Times, dates, and locations are to be determined. Please visit the SIPS Meetings Information website for more details. Once the meeting program has been announced in October, a link to public affairs and related policy sessions will be added to the website.

- SIPS Focus Group Lunch on Tuesday (complimentary tickets for volunteers and students)
- How to Be a Congressional Science Fellow or Mass Media Fellow Workshop
- Science Policy 201: Advocacy in Action
- One-on-One with an Attorney
- Climate Science Legal Defense Fund/AGU Legal Symposium

AGU is Looking for 2016 Fall Meeting Mentors
AGU is looking for mentors for the Fall AGU Meeting. Please consider being a mentor. More information is available on the Undergraduate Mentoring Program on this [website](#) and for the Sharing Science mentor program on this [website](#). The deadlines for applying are before the end of September, but the deadlines may be extended.

**Consider Contributions to AGU's Science Policy Blog, The Bridge**

Please consider submitting an article to AGU’s science policy blog, *The Bridge*. Submissions are welcome at any time.

**AGU Donor Incentive Program**

AGU is piloting a [donor incentive program](#) that would provide additional, unrestricted funding to the SIPS Focus Group if 5% of our FG members contribute $50 or more to any AGU program, including general support. The funding amounts rise as the percentages increase as follows:

- 5% participation = $1000 contribution from AGU to SIPS
- 7% participation = $2000 contribution from AGU to SIPS
- 10% participation = $3000 contribution from AGU to SIPS
- 12% participation = $4000 contribution from AGU to SIPS
- >15% participation = $5000 contribution from AGU to SIPS

SIPS has leveraged donations for the SIPS reception and for student travel grants to the AGU Fall Meeting. Additional donations could be used to enhance the reception and support more students. Please let us know if you have other ideas for donations.