

## **GEOCHRONOLOGY DIVISION BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### ***Organization, Name, and Purpose***

1. This division of The Geological Society of America, Inc., is organized in accordance with Article IX, *Divisions of the Society*, of the bylaws of that Society and is governed by the provisions of that article.

2. *Name.* The name of the division is the Geochronology Division of the Geological Society of America, Inc.

3. *Definition.* Geochronology refers to a field of knowledge concerning the timing and rates of geological events and processes. These events include, but are not limited to, mass extinctions, stage boundaries, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, major floods, and impact events. Processes include, but are not limited to, tectonic, geomorphic, igneous, metamorphic, sedimentological, biogeochemical, and paleoclimatic processes. Included are numerous methods involving radioisotopic decay, astrochronology, cosmogenic nuclides, luminescence, magnetostratigraphy, and the application of these techniques. From geological to human time scales, geochronology underpins our ability to constrain the rates of processes that present key challenges to societal security and sustainability, including coastal processes, climate change, critical zone management, earthquake and volcanic hazards, and natural resources.

4. *Purpose.* The purpose of the division is to bring together scientists interested in geochronology, to provide a suitable forum for presentation and discussion of problems and opportunities in geochronology, to stimulate research and teaching in geochronology, and to act as an organized group in promoting these objectives within the framework of the Geological Society of America.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### ***Membership***

1. Any Member, Fellow, Honorary Fellow, or Affiliate of the Geological Society of America who is in good standing may become a member of the Geochronology Division. To effect division membership, an applicant shall express his/her desire on the GSA application or membership renewal forms or in writing to the secretary of the division or the executive director of the Society. All division members in good standing are eligible to vote and to hold office in the division.

*Voting Rights:* Individual Members in the Division, in good standing, all have full and equal voting rights and are entitled to one vote on Division matters, except as outlined in the Bylaws and in the Rules and Regulations of the Division as described and outlined in Article VIII. An individual whose current dues to both the Division and Society have been paid is in good standing.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### ***Finances***

1. The division shall be financially responsible for its normal expenses. All other financial obligations or commitments of the division must have prior approval of the GSA Council.
2. The division may collect annual dues or special assessments from affiliates when recommended by its management board and approved by a majority vote of the voting affiliates.
3. The division may solicit and accept contributions of funds to be used and expended under the supervision of the management board and subject to GSA Council approval.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### ***Officers and Management Board***

1. *Officers.* The Chair, First Vice Chair, and Second Vice Chair shall serve for terms of one year and shall not be eligible for re-election to their respective offices until three years have elapsed after the expiration of their terms of office. Officers are expected to rotate annually to the next office. In sequence, the Second Vice Chair is expected to serve as First Vice Chair in the following year and to serve as annual meeting program chair during their tenure as First Vice Chair. In the following year, the First Vice Chair is expected to become the Chair. In the year after that, the outgoing Chair is the Past Chair. Therefore, the Second Vice Chair accepts a commitment of four years to the management board and an additional year as past-past chair to serve on an award committee. The Secretary and the Treasurer shall each serve for a term of three years and shall be eligible to serve subsequent terms as desired without limitation. If another member of the division wishes to run for Secretary or for Treasurer after the current Secretary's or Treasurer's three-year term ends and the current Secretary or Treasurer wishes to continue, both names shall be put on a ballot for vote as defined under the terms of officer elections in Article IV-3. The Diversity and Outreach Coordinator shall serve for a term of three years and shall be eligible to serve subsequent terms with approval of the management board. Two Student Representatives will serve two year terms in alternating years. The Historian is a previous management board member who is appointed and will serve a two year term, but is eligible for reappointment for multiple terms. The terms of office for all positions shall begin immediately following the annual business meeting at which results of the election are announced.

2. *Management Board.* The management board shall consist of the Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, two Student Representatives, Diversity and Outreach Coordinator, Historian, and the immediate past Chair. A student may serve as an ex-officio member of the Management Board.

3. *Election of Officers.* The nominating committee and/or management board of the division shall nominate one or more candidates annually for second vice-chair, and every three years for secretary and diversity and outreach coordinator. Nominations should be submitted by April 30. When approved by the management board, these nominations shall become the regular ticket and shall be submitted by the secretary of the division. If there is only one nomination for a position on the board, a vote on the nomination will be held at the annual business meeting. If there is more than one nomination, the names shall be submitted by the secretary of the division to the executive director of the Society who shall have prepared and distributed to the voting affiliates a ballot which also shall have space for write-in nominees.

The election of officers shall be in accordance with the election procedures of the Society and shall be under the supervision of the Society. All provisions governing the election of officers of the Society which are applicable to the division shall govern the election of officers of the division.

4. *Vacancies.* Any vacancy occurring during the term of any elected officer of the division shall be filled by appointment of the Management Board, and such appointee shall serve until the next biannual election of division officers.

## **ARTICLE V**

### ***Committees***

1. *Program Committee.* A program committee consisting of two or more voting affiliates of the division shall be appointed by the management board. Under normal circumstances, the First Vice Chair shall be the program chair.

The program committee shall plan and arrange for the technical sessions of the division at the annual meeting and such other programs as may be directed by the management board.

The program committee chair shall serve as the division's program representative on the Council's Joint Technical Program Committee.

2. *Nominating Committee.* A nominating committee consisting of four voting affiliates of the division who are not members of the management board shall be appointed by the division chair. The nominating committee shall nominate one or more candidates annually for second vice-chair, and every three years for secretary, treasurer, and diversity and outreach coordinator following the guidelines in *Article IV, Section 3*, of these bylaws.

3. *Geologic Time Scale Committee.* The Geologic Time Scale Committee should include at least three members appointed by the Geochronology Division Board: one involved with relational time (e.g. stratigraphy, biostratigraphy, cyclostratigraphy), one with absolute time (e.g. radioisotopic dating for appropriate time period such as U/Pb, Ar/Ar), and another involved with paleomagnetism. The committee shall meet at least one time each year in conjunction with meetings of the International Committee on Stratigraphy (ICS), and will take recommendations made by the ICS to decide which changes to implement into the Geological Society of America's (GSA) version of the time scale. Any changes will be communicated to GSA's publications unit, who will maintain ownership of the time scale within the GSA. Updates to the time scale shall give credit to the Geologic Time Scale Committee of the Division, and membership on the committee through time shall be listed on our community website.
4. *Other Committees.* Other committees may be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Management Board.
5. *Responsibility.* Reports, recommendations, or other actions by appointed committees, other than the nominating committee, shall be subject to the approval of the management board. After such approval, the Secretary/Treasurer of the division shall report appropriately to the executive director of the Society if the attention or action of the Council is required. Appointed committees shall present annual reports which shall be summarized in the annual report of the management board.
6. *Tenure.* Committee appointments shall expire at the close of the next meeting of the division, unless otherwise specified. Vacancies on committees may be filled by interim appointment at any time by the committee chair. Committee members may be reappointed without limitation.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### ***Management***

1. *Management Board.* The property and affairs of the division shall be managed by the management board. At the annual business meeting, the management board shall submit a report of the preceding year's activities of the division which shall include the reports of the division chair and secretary-treasurer and the reports of the various committees. Before September 30 of the following year, this report shall be submitted by the secretary-treasurer of the division to the executive director of the Society. The report will be presented to the affiliates of the division in the division's newsletter.
2. *Chair.* The division chair shall preside at meetings of the division and the management board. The chair shall submit a report to the management board on the activities of the division during his/her term of office and on future plans.
3. *First Vice Chair.* The First Vice Chair shall assume the powers and duties of the chair in the event of the absence or disability of the chair. The First Vice Chair will, under

normal circumstances, be the program committee chair and serve as the division's representative on the Council's Joint Technical Program Committee.

4. *Second Vice Chair.* The Second Vice Chair shall assume the powers and duties of the chair in the event of the absence or disability of the Chair and the First Vice Chair.

5. *Secretary.* The Secretary shall keep records of the proceedings of the division, shall act as secretary of the management board, and shall keep the website up-to-date (e.g., with the latest bylaws and current board member information). The Secretary shall maintain liaison with GSA headquarters and shall serve, ex officio, as a member of all committees. The Secretary shall notify the officers and the members of the committees of their election or appointment and shall arrange for issuance of notices of all division and management board meetings and election results.

6. *Treasurer.* The Treasurer shall keep financial records for the division and account to the Council of the Society for all funds advanced by the Society. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all funds of the division and shall keep records of all receipts and disbursements and other financial transactions of the division.

7. *Student Representatives, Ex-Officio.* The Division may elect, or the Management Board may nominate and appoint, two student representatives as ex-officio non-voting members of the Division Management Board. The students can be undergraduate or graduate students. The student representatives shall advise on matters concerning GSA student and early career issues, as well as Division outreach.

8. *Diversity and Outreach Coordinator.* The Division may elect, or the Management Board may nominate and appoint, a Diversity and Outreach Coordinator. The Diversity and Outreach Coordinator shall pursue opportunities to improve diversity and inclusion among members of the Geochronology Division.

9. *Historian.* The Historian provides continuity and institutional memory to the Division, particularly to the present Management Board, by recounting past Division policies and procedures, receiving and archiving information about the Division and its members, and authoring or editing documents that outline or comment on various aspects of the history of the Division. The Historian is an at-large board member appointed to a 2-year term by the Chair in consultation with the Management Board, with the expectation of serving multiple terms. The Historian must have previously served as an officer of the Division.

8. *Board Vacancies.* Any vacancy occurring during the term of any elected officer of the division other than the chair shall be filled by appointment of the management board, and such appointee shall serve until the next business meeting of the division. Vacancy of the chair shall be filled in accordance with Article VI-3.

9. *Communications Manager.* The management board may, at its discretion, appoint a division web manager to maintain the division website. If the management board

appoints a web manager, the web manager shall serve at the discretion of the management board.

10. *Removal of a Management Board Officer, Impeachment.* Any officer of the division who fails to perform the duties prescribed in the bylaws, or who is convicted of a felony, or who brings discredit to the GSA or the Division in any way, may be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the other members of the management board of the division. Any officer of the division may make a motion for the impeachment of any other officer of the division. The officer who is the subject of an impeachment must be provided an opportunity to present arguments against the impeachment prior to any vote on the motion.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### ***Meetings***

1. *Annual Business Meeting.* The annual business meeting of the division shall be held during the annual meeting of the Society.

2. *Management Board Meetings.* The management board shall meet prior to the annual business meeting. Special meetings of the management board may be called at any time by the chair, with the consent of a majority of the management board. Decisions may also be made by email vote.

3. *Technical Sessions.* Technical sessions of the division shall be held during the annual meeting of the Society. Interim technical sessions, cooperative meetings with other societies, or other special programs may be held at any time, subject to the approval of the management board and the Council of the Geological Society of America.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### ***Division Awards***

1. The Geochronology Division Early Career Researcher Award is given to an individual near the beginning of their professional career who has made novel contributions toward the development or application of geochronology. Nominees for the Geochronology Division Early Career Researcher Award must be within ten years of receiving their final degree. Nominations should comprise: a) a one-page nomination letter introducing the nominee's contributions and qualifications for the award, including the date the nominee received their final degree; b) a bibliography of 10 titles or fewer documenting the nominee's contributions to geochronology; and c) two additional supporting letters from scientists that discuss the nominee's qualifications for the award.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ***Rules and Amendment of the Bylaws***

1. Bylaws of the division may be adopted, rescinded, or amended according to the following process: (1) approval by the management board, followed by (2) approval by majority of those division members who voted, and then concluded with (3) submitted to Council for ratification. Voting for step 2 may take place either in person at the division's annual business meeting or by using the GSA online voting platform.

2. A ballot vote proposing a change of the bylaws shall be held if favored by a majority of the management board or if petitioned by ten percent of the voting affiliates of the division.