

Meeting Minutes
Visiting Geologist Program Committee
May 12, 2003 – 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Salt Lake City, Utah

1. Call to Order
VG Chair Pat Gratton called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.
2. Introductions/Recognition

Committee Members/VGs Present:

Edith Allison	Don Lewis
Chuck Caughey	Peter Lloyd
Rebecca Dodge	Mike Party
Lee Gerhard	Doug Patchen
Will Green	Rima Petrossian
Jean Hamilton	Dan Smith
Jeanne Harris	Steve Sonnenberg
Ed Heath	Dan Tearpock
Gerry Kuecher	Larry Wickstrom
Susan Landon	Edith Wilson
David Larue	Doug Wyatt

Also Present:

Pat Gratton, VG Chair
Bob Cowdery, VG Vice Chair
Rich Green, VG Vice Chair
John Hogg, VG Vice Chair
Ron Denton, Barbara Davis, Cammy McKnight, AAPG Staff

Recognition of 2002/03 Visits/Visitors

Pat thanked the VGs present for their participation in the Visiting Geologist Program.

3. Chair's Report

Pat reviewed the handout, which was a report of 2002-03 VGP visits. He informed the group that visits are down about 50% from the previous year (approximately 40% domestic, 60% international), partially due to the war in Iraq and SARS. Also, the economic recession is causing companies to cut expenditures, resulting in cancelled and fewer visits. The lower number of visits is also a result of a fairly passive program (requests received and filled through Headquarters), with only a few VGs soliciting universities for an invitation to give a VGP talk.

List of items for committee consideration:

- All student-focused activities deserve ACTIVE staff coordination and promotion, and require EC support to function effectively (Bob Cowdery's ad hoc committee has investigated the student/education issue in depth).

Bob Cowdery passed around copies of his report. Pat informed the group that there is approximately \$250,000 allotted for the Distinguished Lecture Program and VGP combined, and that the VGP only spends \$35,000.

- International visits would benefit from development of a preferential list based upon study done by several of our more active international visitors.

Pat asked for help in putting together a list of international schools. He also said he would be calling on the AAPG leadership to make more of an effort to visit schools while out on other international business.

- Rebecca Dodge asked about the international regions, and how they are currently being promoted. Chuck Caughey responded that we have university contacts in some of the international regions. The problem is that we need people in those areas to actually make the visits.
- Future relaxation of “academic restrictions” could generate several more very effective visitors who know both industry and academia.

However, the “minimum of one visit every two years” policy will be firmly adhered to.

Pat pointed out that, contrary to what some might believe, you don't have to be an expert in any specialized area in order to be a good visitor.

4. Geoskill Priorities

Pat informed the group that Chris Heath's Geoskills report had been mailed out to all university departments. Cammy was asked if response had been received. To this date, there has been no response regarding the report from departments that received it. (Expect publication of some of Heath's work in a forthcoming AAPG Bulletin.)

It was suggested that VGs go to GSA and “work the crowd” with Chris Heath's report and the VGP brochure.

John Hogg said that the faculty needs training as much as the students. This is due to the changes in what students need today and what they needed 20 years ago. Most don't realize how integrated geology and geophysics are today.

5. Programs and Initiatives

John Kaldi suggested that VGs be given a “cheat sheet” on what they should hand out during a visit. Pat will check into this.

Dan Smith pointed out how important GSA is, and that they are very receptive to AAPG and asked what AAPG can do to help out GSA.

Dan Tearpock said he was the petroleum industry representative a couple of years ago at the AGI annual conference. All the major oil companies were represented as well. They defined what their interests were: very basic, fundamental skills in addition to computer skills in a very general way. We're losing the classic fundamentals of geological education.

Steve Sonnenberg agreed, adding that a Princeton graduate has not received classical, old-style training. We need to know what the industry wants.

Rich Green said basic talks are applicable anywhere (this year he's given one at the Desk & Derrick and SPE).

Peter Lloyd suggested that everyone who has a VGP presentation e-mail them to Cammy at Headquarters. She can then add them to the URL that contains the John Armentrout slides.

Mike Party suggested that VGs ask smaller companies that do not currently offer internships to do so.

Jeanne Harris said her company hires interns. They get a broader experience with smaller companies since they offer more diversified duties. Also, it lowers the cost and brings back energy to the company.

Rich Green added that the students need to be encouraged to join AAPG. Tell them to expect to be fired or laid off, so they need to network. That's why AAPG is so important. The mission is to find common ground where AAPG membership overlaps with university goals.

Will Green suggested that VGs make more efforts to determine whether community colleges in their area teach geology. This could be a source of an "easy" visit.

Lee Gerhard suggested that a pocket card with information be provided to VGs.

Ron Denton mentioned the free CD available at the AAPG Bookstore on how to put together a PowerPoint presentation.

Rich Green suggested that VGs take a sample of crude oil on visits, since many grad students have never actually seen crude oil.

Jean Hamilton suggested a clearinghouse of society scholarships available.

6. Coordination With Other AAPG Committees

Pat pointed out that there is information regarding other AAPG programs (e.g. student expo, student chapter status, grants-in-aid) provided in the VG packets sent by headquarters before each visit.

It was suggested that VGs gain information from the Student Expos (target schools from which the most resumes are submitted).

7. Other/New Business (None)

8. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.