

**MINUTES OF THE SEGH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 21st JANUARY 2026 AT
12:00 (LONDON, UK) ON ZOOM**

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last Minutes
4. Report on ECR matters
5. Report on Fellows' Matters
6. Report on Membership and Finance
7. Report on Belfast 2025 Conference (Dan Middleton/Olivier Humphrey)
8. Updates on Ljubljana 2026
9. Reports from the Regions
10. Updates on the website/social media
11. Report on EGAH
12. AOB

Attendance:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. A Argyraki | 7. O Humphrey | 13. J Entwistle |
| 2. F Ajayi | 8. A Hursthouse | 14. C Monteiro |
| 3. X Huo | 9. M Hashmi | 15. J Olajide-Kayode |
| 4. M Gabersek | 10. M Abdou | |
| 5. M Barbieri | 11. M Watts | |
| 6. G Gibson | 12. D Purchase | |

The meeting commenced at 12:05 (London) with Ariadne welcoming all to the meeting. The meeting Agenda was uploaded for members to preview.

1. Apologies were received from:

- (i) Anna Augustsson

2. The Minutes of the last meeting had been sent to members earlier. It was agreed that the matters arising from the Minutes (**3**) should be taken together with substantive Agenda items. Ariadne noted that all the past minutes had now been uploaded to the website.

4. MA reported that there still had not been much activity on the ECR Group. AA however reported on the success of the ISCMGEH – South Asia edition held in November 2025. She added that it is likely that the next edition be held in Oceania and inquired if free one-year memberships should again be given to the students with good presentations. The Board agreed that it was a good idea. AA is to contact the organiser to get a list of the beneficiaries.

CM suggested that a bi-monthly Newsletter could be launched which would be a good way to promote activities, research projects and opportunities, especially for ECRs but also for all members in general. The Board agreed that it was a great suggestion.

Actions: (i) AA to get the list of beneficiaries of one-year free SEGH membership for ISCMGEH – South Asia (Status: Done), (ii) CM to work with MA on getting the Newsletter started (Status: Ongoing).

5. AH reported that the plea by GG soliciting for presentations from the Fellow's for 2026 has yielded some results, with some presentations scheduled. He however reiterated the need for more Fellows to contribute their quota, especially regarding the Live Talks.

6. Reporting on behalf of KT, JO stated that there were about 95 active members as at November 2025. There was no update on the finance. AA enjoined all to step up the membership drive.

On the issue of due renewal reminders, it was noted that despite the transfer of the database to Stripe, some members are still not captured in the new database; and hence, do not get reminders for due renewal. OH stated that any member who hasn't renewed their dues within the one-year period when the database was moved to Stripe, would not get automatic due renewal reminders. He added that when everyone has been moved into the Stripe database, automatic due renewal reminders would be received by all. DP added that one of the solutions could be to add the validity of membership on the dashboard of members' account pages. That way, once they log in to their accounts, they would know when their dues expire.

On reduced number of active members, MW opined that it is possible that the situation could be remedied via simple *housekeeping* e.g. check if all Board Members, Fellows and ECRs are signed up, revert to manual reminders until all members are on Stripe, etc.

7. No report from Dan Middleton.

Action: AA to remind Dan of the need to send in the formal Report and organiser-blog for the Belfast Conference (Status: Done).

8. MG reported that the second phase of Abstract submission had been opened (after the initial call for LMICs-only Abstracts), and with an initial deadline date of 10 March, 2026. He added that more work is being done on the workshops on *Microplastics in Geosphere, Radioactivity*, and on *Forensic Geology*; being the reason the registration is not opened yet. Two Keynote speakers (from Slovenia) had confirmed their availability, while three others were being worked on. Letters of Abstract acceptance and award of USD1,285 grant (from the 2025 IUGS grant) had been sent to 7 ECRs from LMICs. Other prospective LMIC participants whose Abstracts were accepted had also been issued acceptance letters. MG also reported that links to some accommodation options for delegates were already on the Conference website, while the list would be updated.

JE wondered if it was possible to ask members from a Region SEGH wants to grow in, to organise or be a Guest Speaker at a session during the conference, as this may help to grow the

interest of the Society in said Region. MG said that the proposal would be considered, and XH said she is interested in having a session.

Action: MG to (i) finalise Keynote speaker list for the Ljubljana 2026 conference (Status: Ongoing), (ii) MG and XH to work on modalities for XH having a session during the conference (Status: Ongoing).

9. XH said she would contact her colleagues to see whether they would be interested in taking part in the session to be planned for the Ljubljana conference. AA also stated that she is organising a training on sampling for students in Athens. JE opined that the training would be a great item for the proposed Newsletter.

Action: XH to contact her colleagues on whether they would be interested in taking part in the session at Ljubljana (Status: Ongoing).

10. OH reported that since 19 November 2025, there were 140 active users with 103 of them being new users. Average engagement time was 1 min. 08 secs., and most active countries were UK, India, Greece, Nigeria and US. Good gender balance was maintained and most visitors were still in the 18-34 age group. The most visited pages were *SEGH2026*, *Home Page*, *ISCMGEH-Asia*, *Join SEGH and ISCMGEH-Europe*. OH added that one new blog had been received from AA during the reviewed period, while he hoped to receive blogs from JE, and Dan Middleton about the Belfast conference.

AA added that the organisers of the ISCMGEH – South Asia wanted to get videos of the Keynotes on the website. OH responded that the videos should be edited, after which they would be uploaded. He added that there are 172 members on the SEGH ECR LinkedIn group, and that it would be beneficial if, at least, some of them could be converted to active SEGH members.

Action: AA to inform ISCMGEH - South Asia organisers that their edited Keynote Talk videos can be uploaded on the SEGH website (Status: Done).

11. According to MW, 3200 manuscripts were received in 2025, representing a growth in submissions from previous years. 607 of them were accepted with a 115-day TAT. Some of the challenges he expressed include volume of submissions and quality of manuscripts, especially regarding transparency and quality of methodology. Hence, about 50% of papers are rejected before being sent to the Handling editors. Another 16% rejection is from Handling editors or at peer review stage. He added that the names of the three *super* Associate Editors had been sent to Springer, and it is hoped that Springer would expand the list. An assessment is also to be done to check which Editors should be off-boarded. MW reckons that the increase in number of submissions and published papers, the reduced TAT (from 125 to 115; and projected to be <100 days in 2026), would help improve the impact factor of the journal.

GG suggested that the SNAPP algorithm needs to be better improved, to search for and suggest reviewers based on manuscript topic, and not by names or location. In her experience, this may have denied some papers the opportunity to move along in the review process, as suitable reviewers were not suggested by the system. MW replied that GG should send him a mail regarding this, so he can forward to Springer and it can be logged in at their end.

AA also asked if there was a way to find out if the EGAH Editors had joined SEGH. OH suggested that none had, and another email could be sent to them.

MW added that EGAH hadn't had an SI since the 2023 Athens conference, and suggested that MG should make plans for an SI for Ljubljana 2026. He stated that this could be an attractive prospect for the Ljubljana conference delegates, and added that with ad-hoc publishing, the papers in SIs are released faster. MG agreed and said the matter would be discussed with the organising committee.

Action: (i) GG to send MW a mail regarding improvement to the SNAPP system, for forwarding to Springer (Status: Ongoing), (ii) MW to send the SI template to MG (Status: Ongoing).

12. (i) As the meeting marked the end of AA's tenure, she handed over to JE. AA thanked all Board members for their support during her two-year term. She expressed her joy that the African and Belfast conferences were successful, that the Fellows' Talks progressed nicely; with GG navigating all the challenges. She added that the student conferences were also successful, and she was hopeful that JE would keep the Society moving forward. GG thanked AA for her service during her tenure. While appreciating AA's work over the last two years, JE stated that she would continue to engage broadly across the Board and membership of the Society to keep the progress going.

(ii) [a] On the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, JE wondered if a *World Café* could be introduced during the next conference – where people in groups (of say, 8) engage in roundtable talks on how best to engage the Regions, how best to support ECRs, more suggestions for online activities, etc. In essence, very specific topics would be set for each table to discuss, with discussants periodically rotated around the tables. The feedback would be collected and reflected upon, to help improve the Strategic Plan. MG agreed that an hour could be scheduled for the *World Café* in the Conference, and JE said she would prepare the template and discussion points.

[b] JE hopes to meet with the Regional Chairs to discuss ways for further advancing the Society at the Regional levels.

(iii) ISCMGEH: The discussions continue on where the next Edition would be centred on.

(iv) Dates for 2026 Board Meetings: 22 April, 17 June, 9 September and 18 November.

Actions: (i) JE to prepare and share the template for the *World Café* to be held during the Ljubljana conference with the Board and MG (Status: Ongoing), (ii) JE to engage with the Regions in the coming months.

JE thanked all for their time and contributions. The meeting was unanimously adjourned and ended at 13:30pm (London).