

MINUTES OF THE SEGH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 21st AUGUST 2024 AT 12:00 (LONDON, UK) ON ZOOM

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last Minutes
4. SEGH 2024 Post-conference Report
5. Report on preparations for ISCMGEH- Europe Edition Virtual Event and ECR matters
6. Updates on 2025 Conference in Northern Ireland (Dan Middleton)
7. Reports from the Regions
8. Report on Membership and Finance
9. Updates on the website/social media
10. Reports on Fellows' Matters
11. Report on EGAH
12. AOB

Attendance:

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| 1. A Argyraki | 7. O Humphrey |
| 2. O Morton-Bermea | 8. F Ajayi |
| 3. F Onyangore | 9. C Monteiro |
| 4. M Gabersek | 10. M Abdou |
| 5. S Potgieter | 11. J Olajide-Kayode |
| 6. G Gibson | |

The meeting commenced at 12:05 (London) and the Agenda for the day was shared for members to preview.

1. Apologies were received from:

(i) Andrew Hursthouse (ii) Diane Purchase (iii) Michael Watts (iv) Keith Torrance (v) Temitope Laniyan (vi) Akinade Olatunji

2. The Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated to members before the meeting and the matters that arose from it **(3)** were taken as substantive Agenda items.

4. JO presented a summarised account of the 2024 Conference; the full report had earlier been circulated to Board Members. He stated that the Organising Team had received a blog on Participant's experience at the Conference and was waiting to receive the last of three blogs of Presentation winners. He added that the list of new members to be added to SEGH had been sent to the Treasurer and that the Conference finances will be finalised with the Treasurer in the

coming days. Advertisement of the SEGH “Belfast 2025” Conference was done during the Abuja Conference.

Action:

AO and JO to finalise 2024 Conference finances with KT (Status: Ongoing).

5. CM reported that though preparations were on track for the *ISCMGEH- Europe Edition* virtual conference, there were still no Abstracts submitted yet. He stated that more aggressive advert campaigns (emails, social media, etc) for the Conference will resume after vacation. CM advertised the Conference at Valencia in July and AA added that the Conference was also advertised at the Galway Conference. She enjoined all members with students working in Europe to encourage them to submit Abstracts.

6. AA to send Dan Middleton an email requesting for updates, as he couldn’t attend the meeting.

Action:

AA to mail Dan Middleton for updates on “Belfast 2025” (Status: Ongoing).

7. OM is putting together a schedule for student seminars for the Americas, to be ready by end of September 2024. AA stated that some progress was made with India, with an SEGHLive India event held in July. This was based on the paper collections published on Coal, with Dr. Gopinathan. The seminar had a reasonable number of participants despite the very short notice, and the recorded video had received many views on YouTube.

AA also reported that she met Taicheng An in Galway. On why he hadn’t attended meetings for a long time and hadn’t responded to emails sent to check on him, he stated that he receives very many emails per day and that the best way to reach him was via WeChat. AA is trying to open a WeChat account in order to connect with Taicheng, who she said was keen to re-engaged with SEGH and her members in China. Taicheng was also reported to have stated that there is an SEGH Group on WeChat with about 500 members. AA hopes that those on that group can be encouraged to re-engage with SEGH.

JO reported that the main challenge that current and prospective SEGH members from Nigeria have was with due payment, as a result of some financial restrictions on foreign payments. He however added that efforts would continue in finding other ways to help members pay.

Actions:

(i) OM to draw up a schedule for the Americas seminars (Status: Ongoing).

(ii) JO to check if Dr. Gopinathan is a member of SEGH (Status: Done).

(iii) AA to try to connect with Taicheng An and the SEGH Group via WeChat (Status: Ongoing).

8. (a) There was no update on Finance.

(b) OH to commence the migration of the database from GoDaddy to Stripe the following day. Once done, a *familiarization* meeting to be held by OH with AA, KT and JO.

Actions:

- (i) OH to commence Membership database migration to Stripe (Status: Done).**
- (ii) JO to continue sending reminders manually once a month (Status: Ongoing).**
- (iii) OH to hold *familiarization* meeting with AA, KT and JO after database migration to Stripe (Status: Done).**
- (iv) MW to inquire again about process of Springer's free access for Institutions in LMICs, LICs and LDCs (Status: Pending).**

9. For the period 11 June – 20 August 2024, OH reported that there were 1300 users, an increased average engagement time of 4 mins 31 secs, and top visitors by country were US, Nigeria, Greece, India, UK, Italy and China. Most visitors to the website were still in the 18-34 age group. The top pages were *Home Page*, *ISCMGEH - Europe*, *SEGH 2024* and the *Join SEGH* page. OH added that the Participants experience blog from the 2024 Conference had been received, and that a Conference summary blog from Akinade and prize winners' blogs were being expected.

10. GG reported that some responses had been received to her plea to Fellows to schedule talks for the webinars. She stated that she was waiting for more responses before finalizing the schedule of presentations. She enjoined Fellows to engage more with the Society, especially in giving seminars that will help the ECRs, as this is one of the duties of Fellows.

As Akinade was the only Fellow at the Nigeria Conference, the Fellows' meeting could not hold. JO suggested that a virtual Fellows' meeting be held to make up for the missed one at the Nigeria Conference.

To Andrew Hursthouse's inquiry at the last meeting on the impact of the public access to SEGH Fellows videos on YouTube, OH responded that most Fellows' webinar videos have 40+ views, the SEGHLive India video had 41 views while the BA Writing Workshop videos have 93 views. He advised better, early promotion of the Fellows' Talks, especially by the Speaker to a wider audience (even beyond SEGH members).

GG stated that she hoped the interest in the Fellows' webinars transcends academia into the business sector. AA suggested that the possibility of reaching a wider audience via the YouTube videos should be stated to the Fellows.

Actions:

- (i) GG to schedule a virtual Fellows' meeting (Status: Ongoing).**

11. AA reported on behalf of MW that there was a request for an SI by Rakish Kumar – a PostDoc in USA, who also gave good ideas on promoting SEGH particularly in India. AA also informed the Board about the request from MDPI to collaborate and transfer EGAH to her Open Access platform. Other members shared the skepticism of AA about moving EGAH to MDPI, especially in light of recent *controversial* events with MDPI.

12. AA stated that while attending the IGC Conference in Busan, she would advertise SEGH by including a slide in her presentation. As there was no other business for discussion, AA thanked all for their time. The meeting was unanimously adjourned and ended at 12:55pm (London).