

Minutes of the meeting held by Skype 17th June 2019 16.00 UK time.

In attendance:

Michael Watts, President

Gillian Gibson Secretary

Anthea Brown Membership Secretary and Treasurer

Andrew Hursthouse advisor to Asia and Conferences

Olivier Humphreys ECR

Akinade Olatunji Nigeria

Paula Marinho Reis

Ariadne Argyrake

Ofelia Morton

Robert Finkelman

Sanja Potgieter

Mark Button

Emmanuel Ahin

Dan Middleton

Keith Torrance

Adipo

1: Apologies

Munir Zia

Alex Stewart

Jane Entwistle

Taicheng An

A round table introduction was held, as there are many new members. GG apologised for the incomplete mailing list. Some people received late notification of the meeting.

2. SP talked about the forthcoming conference in Manchester. Currently 119 people registered, including organisers and speakers. Registration is now closed, though personal email will enable a few latecomers to be signed up. There have been one or two people drop out; SP has asked that someone else is sent instead, rather than refund the fees.

All the trips have been finalised. Field trip on Friday is to Jodrell Bank Telescope.

There was a request to have the poster evaluations on Tuesday and Wednesday, and make a presentation at the dinner on Wed evening. However, as Springer provide four prizes, this was rejected, as it would exclude posters and presentations from Thursday's sessions. It will remain on Thursday.

Thursday's session will end at approximately 5.30. The Board meeting will be held then.

ECR lunch was scheduled for Thursday. This has been relocated to Wednesday. OH and DM are putting together a scheme to involve the ECRs more actively.

They intend to have launched this in advance of the conference. The intention is to have a perspective on ECR activities, which ECRs writing a piece of 400-500 words, with three discrete sections; importance of the chosen topic, what is required, and how SEGH can help.

Some people on the call were not clear on the ECR scheme. **ACTION:** GG to recirculate.

The poster and presentations need to be evaluated. Prizewinners to reminded that they should (must?) submit an article to the website.

ACTION People to volunteer with the marking- please email GG.

ACTION GG to recirculate the mark sheet, and people please read it!

SP referred to the potential for a special edition of EG&H for the conference. Springer have agreed to this. MW also referenced the anniversary of SEGH this year, but considered next year for the 50th anniversary of EG&H to be a better focus. AS has already engaged with Springer for this. We can discuss this further at the board meeting in Manchester. Suggestion that the people marking the posters and papers should write a review.

4: OM struggling to get a conference in place for 2021. Would like to delay to 2021. We need one for 2020. Agilent happy to support in Kenya. Do we go back to Africa, or to Paula, who is keen to support one in Portugal- though she would also prefer 2021, ideally.

ACTION GG to circulate request for proposals.

MW again reiterated the need for local meetings, in order to maintain momentum for the meetings. AH is currently trying to set something up in China. Potential for a smaller meeting in Zambia, using the SEGH banner. MW suggested that enthusiasm and energy are required, then SEGH can help with support.

Sponsors are keen to support us, but the relationship needs to be nurtured.

5: The issue of the tenure of the current president was discussed. GG had emailed the board in May to remind people that MW ceases to be president in November. The constitution requires that the president is nominated from the members of the board, and elected from those nominations, and ratified by the membership. In order to ensure that we are in a position to have the ratification at the AGM at the conference, GG had proposed that MW be re-elected. There were several people who were willing to second this. There were no proposals for anyone to stand as an alternative to MW. At this afternoon's meeting, GG explained this to the board members on line. There was agreement that the members should be asked to approve MW should stand for another two years.

The issue of elections was referred to, but deferred to the next board meeting.

6:AOB

- a) RF unable to contact Andrew Hunt. MW reminded us that SEGH is international, not American. Having a conference in America would be helpful to try to bridge the divide which has sprung up. RF suggested liaison with USA GSA, to which SEGH is already affiliated, and which will be holding a meeting in September. He will look into the possibility of having the SEGH banner /slide pack incorporated into the meeting.
ACTION RF to investigate the potential to hold a joint meeting between SEGH/ USA GSA
- b) There is an SEGH Facebook page for America. This needs to be incorporated back into the main SEGH home. RF will attempt again to contact Andrew hunt to try to resolve this.
- c) AA proposed thanks to AH for attending and speaking at the conference in Greece. AA has agreed to write an article for the website from this activity.
ACTION AA to provide article.
AH confirmed that it had been a good meeting, and that the newly prepared slide deck had worked well.
- d) MW informed us that OH is currently investigating the opportunity to host a free website. It is hoped that this will provide us with a website which is easier to load material.

The meeting closed at 17.10

The next meeting will take place at the conference. Agenda to be circulated.