

## Minutes of the SEGH board meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### Agenda

- 1: Apologies
- 2: Minutes of last meeting
- 3: matters arising :
  - 3.1 Liaise with springer
  - 5.2. slide deck on website?
  - 5.3 Follow up ECR
  - 5.4 ECR Asia
- 4: Anniversary publication (Matters 2.2)
- 5: SEGH live
- 6: ECR group
- 7: Strategy and business plan
- 8: Finance
- 9: Future meetings (matters arising 8.0)
- 10: AOB

### In attendance:

Sanja Potgieter  
Maurizio Barbieri  
Xia Huo  
Munir Zia  
Michael Watts (president)  
Anthea Brown (membership secretary)  
Taicheng An  
Odipo Osano  
Keith Torrance  
Olivier Humphrey  
Dan Middleton  
Gillian Gibson (secretary)

### Apologies:

Ariadne Argyraki  
Kosei Yamaguchi  
Akinade Olatunji

Americas group: different time zone, separate meeting.

Bob Finkelman  
Mark Button  
Clay Prater  
Ofelia Morton.

The meeting was held virtually, and recorded. Recording was made available to all.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved, with the note that the initial issue had stated that Dan Middleton did not attend. This had been corrected on the final issue.

**Item 8** was taken next as AB had to leave at 09.00.

There is currently £4500 in the bank, which is healthy, although payments for Kenya 2020 are held on account until the postponed conference can be confirmed. There are no big bills anticipated. Membership money is trickling in, though membership currently stands at only 94: 60 have been lost since SEGH live, which underlines the need to continue to engage and be visible. Thanks to AB for financial report.

This took discussions to potential events. MW described a forthcoming Writing Workshop programme for Africa funded by the British Academy (£20k; Kenya and Nigeria, with French-Africa speaking nationals) which will engage ECRs in writing papers, reviewing papers, and writing blogs. It is hoped that this will bring in members – SEGH has initially invoiced the project for 35 memberships and the cost of a Zoom licence. 52 registrations for this course, with an opening meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> July, first task to write blogs for the SEGH website by 3<sup>rd</sup> September – condition of onward training events to March 2022 which may result in a reduction of overall numbers – potentially scope to cover the cost of the additional memberships. Ming Wong (EiC EGAH) and Mohamed Chehimi (EiC Chemistry Africa) will deliver lectures. The group should provide sufficient material for a special issue of EGAH, blogs for the website and volunteers for an SEGH Live event.. Anyone wishing to hold a virtual event may use this licence so that we don't need to depend on BGS or other institution accounts.

**Item 3.** The meeting returned to matters arising.

2.1 Email communication between A Hursthouse and Springer revealed that the previous contact for SEGH (Sher Seresthani) has now left Springer. SEGH were not made aware of this. However, AH has re-established contact with Springer and has asked for information regarding the special issue.

5.2 The slide deck has been available on the website since February.

5.4: ECR to be picked up in separate item.

**Item 4:** EGAH special issue. MB shared screen and showed that most of the papers which had been promised, at the beginning of the project, had been received, or were expected to be received imminently. There had been miscommunication between MBa, MBu MT and AH. This had now been resolved, and hopefully there should be a smooth process in getting all the papers reviewed and published. MW commented that the impact factor for the journal was now at 4.6.

**Item 5:** SEGH live or equivalent. SEGH Live2 went well with a shorter format, African ECRs assisting in chairing sessions for Michael and Olivier ~ 60-70 participants, 20 talks. There are templates for books abstracts, and a zoom licence available. SOMEONE needs to pick up and run an event. Americas have an SEGH Live event in August organised by Clay Prater with a couple of Canadian ECRs who presented in the first SEGH Live event. Bob Finkelman and Ofelia Morton-Bermea are working with a consortia of societies with much greater membership in the Americas to establish an online conference in the third quarter of 2021 – it seemed to becoming a bit unwieldy at one point, but seems to be coming together – SEGH

to host the web page for the event. A free event open to anyone, but good exposure for SEGH. The Americas seem to have gone from being moribund to active, although still more work to do and more board members in the region to share the load. Other regions need to follow suit! An on-line event would be easier to front than a face to face conference, with little cost. MW and OH happy to share expertise, templates for abstracts, schedules, book of abstracts etc, plus lessons learnt.

Munir Zia suggested that Asia could host an event in September – no confirmation from other members of Asia. Suggestion to Munir, get on and organise it and ask for help. Keep it simple for the first attempt.

**ACTION: PUT ON AN EVENT!!!!!!**

**Item 6:** ECR group. In anticipation of not being available AA had sent email. She has attempted to engage Marcello Di Bonito, without success. KT hopes to get something off the ground in September. MW reminded the group of the need to ensure that ECRs are kept engaged; this is where our income comes from. Meetings do not need to be long and fancy-short and focused is helpful. Asia region was asked what is happening there to ensure a good engagement. SP offered to link up with KT and AA. Taicheng and Xia to update on active WeChat activities. Comment from Michael – some confusion regarding Marcello for training, Ahad was going to support – probably easier to support from within the board membership to have accountability.

**ACTION: ECRs MUST be engaged. This can happen at individual university level, as well as with the wider activities – given ease of online format, easy to scale globally or regionally as is occurring in Africa.** Why should an ECR renew their membership if they are not engaged. The SEGH Live event in June 2020 was successful in getting members to renew memberships. The drop off in memberships in July 2021 is a result of many of those delegates not being reminded or having a reason to renew.

**Item 7.** Immediately after the last board meeting an online meeting was held to discuss and review the strategy and business plan. The strategy was still sound; the business plan was updated. This was circulated to the group within the following week, but nothing more has been done with it. GG has asked again. For someone to please take ownership of this.

**ACTION: Strategy group to re-engage.** Michael to review comments and finalise – circulate table to measure key performance indicators – e.g. relevancy to policy, business, SDGs etc. Refers to joint paper in 2019 from the board.

**Item 9:** Future meetings

MW reminded the group that in the absence of face to face conferences the virtual meetings become really important. It is impossible to foresee when a full conference will be possible again with conferences postponed to 2020 moved again to 2021, though there may be the potential for face to face meetings to occur within countries. This means that the regions are more important than ever, and engagement between board members to drive the regions (which is why we have regional representation!) is imperative. The regions need to become more proactive.

Americas are holding a meeting of SEGH within the Geological Society of America, who will host an SEGH page. Regions should investigate the possibility of following suit. If regions

have need of additional support there are still vacancies on the board, but CVs are required please for approval.

Akinade Olatunji is hosting an online meeting in August from Nigeria. He has offered to co-badge the meeting with SEGH.

**ACTION: regional meetings to be promoted; synergies explored with other groups.**

**Item 10** AOB. GG reminded the board that MW is due to stand down in November. A new Chair is required. We have not had the opportunity of a full board meeting for a while because of the pandemic, so we have not all met up recently. However, we need to consider who will take over from MW. As he has already served a second term he is not eligible to stand, under the agreement of the constitution. Neither should it fall to the one willing volunteer! Michael set a number of tasks for the board in September 2020 as a means of assessing potential candidates and giving them a chance to prove themselves. The board should think about how that has gone. Michael would like to have someone selected so that he can work with the new person towards the end 2021 for a handover.

**ACTION: Consider who should be standing for role of president in November** – but think carefully about level of commitment required

AOB

Michael added to the minutes owing to the website not being considered.

New content for the website – the only blogs from the board members have come from Kenya. **ACTION: Olivier to compile list of who hasn't provided one and a schedule to provide to each board member by which time a blog is expected. Content to improve traffic to the website, interaction with members is imperative.**