

Minutes of the meeting of the SEGH Board, Tuesday 22nd Feb 2022 08.00 GMT By zoom.

- 1: Apologies
- 2: Minutes of last meeting
- 3: Matters arising
- 4: Anniversary publication
- 5: SEGH Kenya
- 6: ECR group
- 7: Strategy and business plan
- 8: Finance
- 9: Future meetings (matters arising 8.0)
- 10: AOB

Present:

Akinade Olatunji (president)
Anthea Brown (Membership Secretary and Treasurer)
Olivier Humphrey (Webmaster)
Gillian Gibson (Secretary)
Michael Watts
Odipo Osani
Keith Torrance
Ariadne Argyraki
Ofelia Morton
Maurizio Barbieri
Munir Zia
Sanja Potgieter
Belinda Kaninga
Chaosheng Zheng

1. Apologies were received from:

Taicheng An
Huo Xia
Bob Finkelman
Paula Marinho

AOB: Before the main agenda was addressed a formal vote of thanks was registered to Michael Watts, who had served for two consecutive terms (four years) as President, taking the Society through some difficult patches. We are now in a much stronger position than was the case four years ago, with respect to an increasing membership, healthier bank balance and engagement building at a global level. It is hoped that the Society can build on this work for the future. Thank you, Michael.

2. The recirculated minutes of the last meeting (December) were approved, with alterations as inserted by MW.

3. Matters Arising. Some of these led on to later agenda items; reporting will be associated with agenda items where necessary.

Item 3.1: AA and SP have put together a workshop on home environment contamination and air quality. An advert has been placed on the web. It would be helpful if all members were notified of the event. The time has been chosen to accommodate as many time zones as possible, but the event will be available on the website as a recording. OH will be Zoom host for the event.

ACTION: AB to email members to advise that the event is taking place on 28th February, 4.00pm. Zoom invitation to be provided.

This led to directly to discussion from ITEM 6 from the agenda.

Although AA and KT are responsible for supporting the ECR group they currently do not have a list of the ECRs, or new student members.

ACTION: AB to identify ECRs and students and make this available to AA and KT.

OA suggested the need to ensure that there was communication with all new student members, otherwise they pay their money but do not see any need to remain as a member. With a new mailing list KT and AA can ensure that this happens.

AA had liaised with Prof Mike Ramsey, who will be delivering a workshop on research uncertainty. It will be delivered late afternoon to cross several time zones, but will also be recorded and made available on line.

AA suggested that she contact Christian Hartman for a presentation session. MW indicated that earlier presentations from CH had been made in French; there would be a need to translate into English. No action at present; continued discussion between interested parties.

There was a discussion regarding experienced members of SEGh (such as Fellows) being involved in delivering sessions to inspire students and ECRs. GG indicated that she had recently emailed Fellows to remind them of their obligations as Fellows, and for them to offer to create a new challenge now that the Special Issue had been completed. She had only received one reply. She would email again and ask for Fellows to agree to deliver a session to ECRs.

ACTION: GG to email Fellows to request engagement with delivery of ECR sessions.

OA indicated that Africa British Academy will be holding a writing workshop. There have already been four. The next one will be a writing camp, inviting people to Nigeria and Kenya for working camps.

KT pointed out that AA had organised a photographic competition last year. Although it had not received many entries it would be worth running it again. It is important to be able to take good photos in the field. Board agreed that it could be run after the next conference.

Item 5 on MA. Strategy. The strategy has been rewritten by MW and AO and was circulated in December. There had been no feedback from Board members. However, the Board agreed that it is a good document and reflects the aspirations of the organisation. GG indicated that there is no business plan to support it, with KPIs to evaluate progress. MW suggested that having two documents in the past had been a barrier to people engaging

with the strategy. It was agreed that the strategy was now fit to publish on the SEGH website.

ACTION: OH to place strategy on the website.

Item 7.0 on MA. MW had spoken to two members of the Board who had been inactive. They had immediately agreed to step down from the Board, but wished to continue to support SEGH.

Item 8.0 on MA. OH and AO have discussed material on the website. OA has indicated that if members struggle to access material we should let him know. What appears to be logical to him may not always be obvious to others.

All subsequent items on the MA have been completed and did not require further discussion, though it was noted that OM had written to Ricardo Godoi but had not received a response.

The main agenda was now followed.

4. Anniversary Special Issue. This is almost ready to go. MB indicated that the publication can only occur once corrections and proofs have been approved for all eleven papers. Currently approval is awaited for one paper. Hopefully publication will occur in the next month.

5. SEGH Kenya. It is intended that the conference will occur in Kenya in 2nd week of October, potentially 10th-14th October. Political issues locally make it difficult to pin down the dates. It is intended that it will be a hybrid meeting, with some people present in Africa, and others joining from hubs. It is important to get details of the meeting published on the website so that people are aware of it and get dates in diaries.

ACTION: Create notification for the website and to email to members to 'hold the date' with details to follow.

OA will email people who were early joiners for the original meeting in 2020, and personally invite them to commit to the forthcoming meeting.

There is some priming finance in place; £4,000 is available from The Royal Society. It is important to start contacting sponsors urgently- they allocate their sponsorship early in the year. Agilent have been consistent in supporting the conferences.

AB pointed out that it is vital to ensure that the conference fee charged to delegates included in the membership fee, as this is a vital source of income for the Society. There have been conferences where there has been confusion regarding this part of a delegate fee, which has led to loss of income.

(Items 6 and 7 already covered- see above)

8. AB presented the information regarding the finances of the Society. They are currently healthier than they have been for some time, at £5000+, with all recurring bills for websites and web hosting and zoom licences all having been paid.

Membership stands at 180, being split approximately 50/50 between full members and students. The global profile is for Africa, 68; Europe, 70; Asia, 15; Americas 24.

An appendix is added to these minutes which provides details.

AB was thanked for her continuing work.

9. Future meetings. Meetings are needed at regional levels to maintain interest between conferences. These do not need to be extravagant. A couple of hours with short presentations would be sufficient. They can be recorded and made available as a resource for everyone to access. This is one of the main functions of the board members. It would be good to see some activity taking place.

ACTION: Regional board members to facilitate regional meetings.

AOB: there were several items of AOB.

AOB1: AO stated that there were diary dates for board meetings for the rest of the year. These were sent out with the invitation to today's meeting, but will be recirculated with the minutes. AO will liaise with the Americas to determine the best time for them to be able to attend. Early morning had been a good time to engage Asia, but they had not been on. Calls recently. It would be good to have a time when Americas could participate. However MW pointed out that later in the day UK time would not work for America west coast. It may be that AO needs to continue the practice of two separate meetings, but this would be unfortunate.

AOB2: GG and AO had received an email regarding SEGH affiliation to ISEG. AO suggested that SEGH should, in addition, be affiliated to IUGS.

The email indicated that the SEGH /ISEG affiliation should mean that members are informed when an ISEG meeting is to be held. Recent emails from ISEG informed members that there will be a meeting in Moscow in September 2022. The query was that this was the first that had been heard of the meeting. CZ explained that four societies support ISEG. There is no financial transaction, simply an agreement to co-badge events. The four societies are:

Association of Applied Geochemists (AAG, www.appliedgeochemists.org)

International Association of GeoChemistry (IAGC, www.iagc-society.org)

International Medical Geology Association (IMGA, www.medicalgeology.org)

Society for Environmental Geochemistry and Health (SEGH, www.segh.net)

GG explained that SEGH had set up a working group in the past to explore co-operation and agreement between the two societies. There was no knowledge of this at the Board. It was suggested that there should be an MoU set up.

Action: AO to investigate MoU between SEGH and both ISEG and IUGS.

AOB3: AO has instigated a programme of work to identify all the past presidents, and to enable a profile of them to be placed on the website. This work is underway. Andrew Hursthouse has agreed to co-ordinate this. It is intended that having these profiles will stimulate external interest, but more importantly will give students and ECRs an idea of the

type of work undertaken by people within the Society, and provide something to which they can aspire. Some of the past presidents have died, but tying in with an earlier item, it is intended that past presidents will be asked to create a series of short, high profile presentations which again will attract ECRs. This work is ongoing and the board will be updated.

AOB4: The board had received three nominations for Board members. Unfortunately one set of papers had been received too late to be circulated in a timely manner and for due consideration. This nomination will come forward again for the next meeting in May. The remaining two were approved unanimously. Approval by email was given in anticipation by members who had offered apologies for the meeting. Muhammad Zaffar Hashmi and Paulina Pizzorno are considered to be duly elected.

AOB5: MB made a proposal for all papers being published in EGAH to be recorded against value to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. He has offered to co-ordinate this. This was met with enthusiasm by the Board. It may be that this requires assistance: this is a project in infancy but which the Board supports.

The meeting closed at 09.15

Dates for meetings for 2022:

Thursday 19th May

Tuesday 23rd August

Tuesday 22nd November

Actions arising from meeting 22nd Feb 2022

Item	Action	Owner	Due date	Completion
3.1a	AB to email members re event 28 th Feb	AB	asap	
6.1	AB to create mailing list of all new ECRs for use by AA and KT	AB	asap	
6.2	GG to email Fellows to request engagement with delivery of ECR sessions	GG	asap	
5.0	Create notification for the website and to email to members to 'hold the date' with details to follow	OA	asap	
7.0	OH to place strategy on the website	OH	asap.	
9.0	Regional board members to facilitate regional meetings.	ALL	ASAP and ongoing	

AOB2	AO to investigate MoU between SEGH and both ISEG and IUGS.	AO	ASAP	
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Matters arising from December 2021, as addressed.

Item	Action	owner	Due date	Completion
3.1	AA and SP to liaise to create ECR event for Feb.	AA/SP	Feb	Complete
3.2	Maintain connection with the new ECRs drawn in through the enterprise	ALL	ongoing	Ongoing
5.0	MW to circulate strategy, ALL to consider and engage with it.	ALL	immediate	End Feb
7.0	All board members to consider the value they have brought to the board, and how they can improve.	ALL	immediate	
8.0	OH and AO to liaise over website	OH/AO	ASAP	Ongoing
10.0	AA and KT to step up activities on ECR – rest of board to offer help. Email Fellows to ask for their input.	AA/KT		
11	MZ to be informed that he has been successful, and asked for short biography and photo for website	GG	Complete	5 th Feb 2022
A.1	Olivier to send recordings for EiC PPT for How to write a paper from Mohamed Chehimi for Chemistry Africa and Ming Wong EGAH, both ~60-70 mins	OH	asap	
A.2	Clay will email the recordings to the Americas ECRs and use that as a vehicle to gain local interests for further engagement	CP	asap	
A.3	Bob – to email a Uruguayan scientist involved in the student Latin America conference about joining the board and Ofelia to email Ricardo Godoi in Brazil.	RF/ OB	asap	
A.4	Bob – will email the PDF book of abstracts to Olivier for the student conference to post on the SEGH website	RF	asap	
A.5	Clay and Mark to engage with Canadian ECRs (Alistair Kierulf and Hailey McLeod) who previously assisted in helping to run meetings about future activities and closer involvement in SEGH Americas special role/tasks – succession management.	CP/MBu	asap	

A.6	All – to return comments on the Strategy document	ALL	URGENT	
A.7	All – to reply Yes/No for election of new President by 15 th January	ALL	15 th Jan	Complete

APPENDIX: Report from Finance and Membership Secretary.

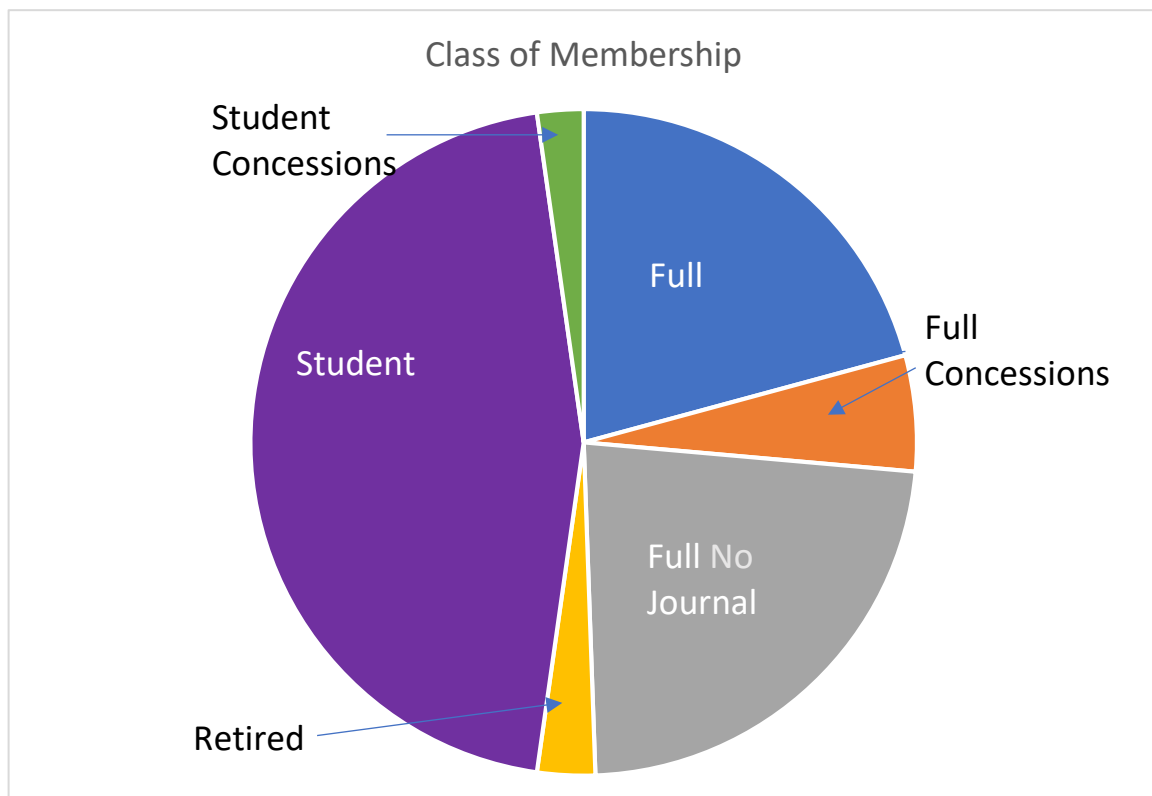
SEGH Report for Board Meeting 22.2.22

Finance

Bank Account Balance £5256

Membership

180 members



Regional Membership

