

**MINUTES OF THE SEGH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20th NOVEMBER 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. Report on preparations for ISCMGEH- Europe Edition and ECR matters
5. Reports on Fellows' Matters
6. Report on Membership and Finance
7. 2025 Board Elections
8. Reports from the Regions
9. Updates on 2025 Conference in Northern Ireland (Dan Middleton)
10. Updates on the website/social media
11. Report on EGAH
12. AOB

Attendance:

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| 1. A Argyraki | 7. O Humphrey | 13. J Kumar Biswas |
| 2. O Morton-Bermea | 8. A Hursthouse | 14. C Prater |
| 3. F Onyangore | 9. C Monteiro | 15. O Osano |
| 4. M Gabersek | 10. M Abdou | 16. K Torrance |
| 5. S Potgieter | 11. D Purchase | 17. D Middleton |
| 6. G Gibson | 12. M Watts | 18. J Olajide-Kayode |

The meeting commenced at 12:01 (London) and the Agenda for the day was shared for members to preview.

1. Apologies were received from:

- (i) Felicia Ajayi (ii) Akinade Olatunji

2. The Minutes of the last meeting had earlier been circulated and matters that arose from it (3) were:

- (a) SEGH 2024 conference finance document: JO gave an update on the conference financial document on behalf of AO, adding that a Table detailing the local income (Registration, Sponsorship) and expenditure would be sent to KT. He added that all registration fees paid by foreign attendees (GBP2,700) were in the SEGH account.

Actions:

- (i) **JO to send list of SEGH 2024 African Delegates to KT (Status: Done).**
- (ii) **AO to send Table of local income/expenditure to KT.**

(b) Updates on Belfast 2025: DM reiterated that the Conference website went live in October, and the next immediate task was to get the payment platform working after setting up a dedicated Conference account at the University. This would be linked to an online store on the SEGH website - i.e. the registrations would be through the SEGH website but the payments would go to the University Conference account. Some affordable, on-campus rooms had been made available by the University for delegates. He added that few rooms could also be reserved/booked at some Hotels in town, but he advised that delegates should take quick advantage of this as most Hotels had been booked up due to the *Golf Open* happening at the same time as the Conference. The online store is expected to be set up by first week in December, so intending delegates can register early and also submit Abstracts. Tentative responses had been received from potential sponsors, and more definitive responses were expected from them (e.g. Agilent, CEM). QMX Laboratories had supported the conference with GBP750 (Bronze sponsorship). Furthermore, he stated that the draft programme was being fine-tuned, and potential keynote speakers were being identified (*suggestions welcome*). On approximate registration fee, DM said based on all the associated costs (event management, catering, etc), GBP350 would be the standard fee (with tiered rates for LMICs delegates and students). The dinner and field excursion would be by additional subscription.

Actions: (i) DM to send reminders to contacted potential sponsors (Status: Ongoing), (ii) DM to share list of contacted sponsors, so that others can be suggested/contacted.

4. In his report, CM stated that all was almost set for the Conference: the evaluation/review of the 40 Abstracts had been done, the schedule of activities/presentations had been released, the workshops had been set up, the Zoom links had been tested, and the preparation of the Book of Abstract layout was underway (to be ready before conference commencement). Chairs of the Sessions had been requested to evaluate each presentation and though no response had yet been received from Springer about the presentation prizes, he hoped it would be settled before the conference commenced. He added that the Conference website and SEGH Social Media pages were being updated periodically.

On whether most of the 3rd Edition should be recorded, the Board agreed it was a good idea as long as participants are made aware they are being recorded and everything complies with GDPR requirements. The recordings would be uploaded to YouTube later.

5. GG reiterated that the Fellows had a fruitful online deliberation the week before. A summary of deliberations at that meeting had been sent out to members prior to the Board Meeting. The issue of requirements for remaining as Fellows was again stressed i.e. active engagement with the Society. It had been agreed at the Athens conference that some Fellows should be removed due to inactivity and non-engagement with the Society. This generated some responses, especially from senior Fellows who believed they should be kept on despite inactivity and non-engagement. This stemmed from either their age or their roles at the Society's inception. As a result of this, an additional tier of Fellowship - *Honorary Fellow*, was proposed at the Fellows'

meeting. This new tier would be just in recognition of their contributions to SEGH in the past. Another tier that was proposed was *Associate/Junior Fellow*. This tier would be for the up-and-coming, dedicated/progressive members of the Society who had *not quite reached* Fellow status yet but *were on their way* to becoming Fellows. This would encourage their continued contribution to SEGH and prepare them for *full Fellow status*, as it were.

GG reported that KT commented that there is nothing in the SEGH Constitution about Fellows. The Constitution would need to be amended to accommodate Fellows, and then for the new Fellowship tiers being proposed. JO stated however, that a constitutional amendment would require a majority vote by members in an Annual General Meeting at a conference.

Action: AA to bring up issue of Constitution amendment at the AGM in Belfast 2025.

6. KT reiterated that there are four membership categories defined in the Constitution. Due to the revised membership/fee structure, there were currently three categories (as some had been lumped together). He opined that there should be an *Honorary Membership* category as well. This would be for a few retired members who had made significant contributions to the Society, and who would not need to pay membership fees. This had the support of the Board.

On the issue of expired memberships, AA prepared a message on subscription renewal, encouraging members with expired subscriptions to renew so as not to be delisted. The Board agreed that the message should be sent to members with expired memberships. It was also reiterated that members who renewed using the new Stripe system would be automatically reminded when their subscriptions expire. Those who join the Society at conferences will have their details entered into the system manually after the conference, and onwards they would receive automatic reminders about their subscriptions. This would also apply to those who subscribe via PayPal.

Forthwith, messages on SEGH activities/events/updates would be sent only to members with active subscriptions.

Actions: (i) KT and GG to work on determining who would fit into the *Honorary Member*, *Honorary Fellow* and *Associate/Junior Fellow* categories, and revert to AA and JO. JO to present the list to Board Members (Status: Ongoing), (ii) JO to send the membership renewal message to members whose subscriptions had expired (Status: Done).

7. The Board Election Call had been circulated to members for their opinions on it. The Board adopted the message and timelines therein. It was agreed that the message should be sent to all members. AA encouraged current Board members who wished to continue in their roles to re-apply.

Action: (i) JO to send Board Election Call to all members (Status: Done).

8. On the non-engagement of members from China, AA spoke with Taicheng An (Board member representing China), who stated that due to a busy schedule, he couldn't engage with SEGH. AA suggested that he should recommend a colleague who might be interested in being on

the SEGH Board. AA also hoped that going forward, more Board members would be more committed.

From the Americas, OM and CP reported that they are planning to start live seminars in February 2025. Two speakers had been invited and more would be added.

CM reported that he is organising a final meeting to wrap up an exploratory project funded by the Portuguese National Science Foundation on Platinum Group Elements. He proposed a live event on 22 January, 2025 which would involve SEGH, in which there will be talks around *Speciation and Biogeochemistry of Platinum Group Elements*.

Actions: (i) OM and CP to send a schedule of Americas seminars to AA, and then for onward publication on the SEGH website (Status: Ongoing), (ii) CM to send a document on the PGE live event to JO for dissemination to the Board (Status: Ongoing).

9. This had been taken under Matters Arising from the last Minutes (3).

10. For the period since the last Board meeting, OH reported that there was a reduction in active users, while the global spread demographic and gender balance remained the same. Most visitors to the website were still in the 18-34 age group, due to the continued promotion of ECR events/activities. The top pages were *ISCMGEH - Europe*, *Home Page*, *SEGH 2025* and the *Blogs*. 7 new blogs had been uploaded in the period reviewed and OH suggested that members should be updated about new blogs/materials on the website. He added that though the Constitution on the website was the most recent version (but saved with a wrong name), it had yet to be ratified by a General Meeting.

Action: (i) JO to update members on new blogs on the website (Status: Done), (ii) Ratification of SEGH Constitution at the AGM in Belfast.

11. DP updated the Board that three Associate Editors left the journal (due to retirement) while it welcomed three new ones. There was a significant increase in manuscripts submitted (>2,000), with 314 accepted. She added that the turnaround time had greatly reduced, and appreciated the hard work put in by the Associate Editors: 10 days to first rejection, 17 days to first decision, and 91 days to acceptance. A number of new Special Issues had also been proposed and accepted for 2025. AH suggested that EGAH Editorial Board members should be encouraged to join SEGH. DP stated that it would be raised at the next EGAH Board Meeting. About free Springer access for LMIC, LIC and LDC institutions, DP said she will again inquire.

Actions: (i) DP to encourage EGAH Editorial Board members to join SEGH, (ii) DP to again inquire about free Springer access for LMIC, LIC and LDC Institutions.

12. There was no other business for discussion and AA thanked all for their time and contributions. The meeting was unanimously adjourned and ended at 13:25pm (London).