

# **IAMG 2022 Hybrid General Assembly Meeting**

## **Meeting Time/Location**

Date/Time: September 1, 2022 (Thursday) @ 17:15 (GMT+02:00)

## **Agenda**

### Welcome

- Introduction from the President (Peter Dowd)
- Meeting protocols
- Approval of agenda (motion required)

### Awards/Honours (Peter Down)

- Presentation of journal-related awards
- Awards that were given out in other sessions and from 2021

### Proposed bylaws amendment(s)

### Reports by President and Council

- A short summary of activities
- State of finances
- Association's Journals (Jaime Gomez-Hernandez)
- Plans for future IAMG meetings (Regina/Karl Gerald van den Boogaart)
  - IAMG2023 Trondheim
  - IGC 2024 South Korea
  - Call for Proposals 2025

### 0:40 – 0:50 Action items/highlights from the Council Meeting

- Seeking membership's inputs on the Outreach and Curriculum Quality Committees

### 0:50 – 0:55 New business

### 0:55 – 1:00 Adjournment (motion required)

## **Welcome**

- Peter Dowd started the meeting at 17:23.
- Motion to approve the agenda: approved.

## **Award Presentations**

- Peter presented the following awards:
  - Founders scholarship 2020: Benham Sadeghi.
  - Founders scholarship 2022: Zhe Wang (not present – certificate to be posted).
  - Distinguished Lecturer 2021: Jaime Gómez-Hernández.
  - Krumbein Medallist 2020: Jaime Gómez-Hernández.
  - *Computers and Geosciences* Research Scholarship: Daniele Secci.
  - *Mathematical Geosciences* Student Award: Sultan Abulkhair.
  - Distinguished Lecturer 2023: Jennifer McKinley.
- Jenny McKinley (2023 DL) encouraged members to “spread the word” and connect with her to schedule talks from her DL series. She noted that the DL series intends to increase awareness and visibility of IAMG. The lectures will cover the following topics
  - Environmental Geochemistry and Compositional Data Analysis.
  - Exploring the effects of environmental factors on health.
  - Forensic geoscience and Spatial Data Analysis.

## **Reports by President and Council**

- Peter delivered a summary of IAMG activities (details are in the President’s report). He mainly highlights included the new website and the statement on Ukraine:
  - The new website.
  - Suggestion to add a page to the website for advertising positions at members’ institutions.
  - Statement on Ukraine
- Peter provided a quick update on the finances. Overall, the cash account is up and investments are down. The current balance is ~USD1.2 million. A more detailed account will be available in a few weeks time.
- Jaime Gomez-Hernandez (Chair of the Publications Committee) provided a quick update on the status of IAMG publications (4 journals plus a newsletter). He encouraged our continual support of *Mathematical Geosciences* – the journal that IAMG owns. A *Mathematical Geosciences* IAMG2022 Special Issue is planned with papers from the 21<sup>st</sup> IAMG Conference.

## **Future Meetings**

- Pauline and the organizers of IAMG 2023 raised some points about the format of future IAMG meetings: remote, in-person, or hybrid. They noted much burden/work on the organizers for hybrid management and supporting remote participation. Professional platforms and services should be procured, and the extra costs could be significant.
- Guillaume noted that this should be left to the organizers to decide, as it is not, strictly speaking, an operational issue for IAMG.
- There are some advantages to the online/hybrid version:

- The pandemic will not go away soon, and the remote/hybrid version has increased the overall accessibility of the conference.
- We are cognizant of the environmental footprint of in-person meetings (Jenny raised the sustainability issue).
- Other members offered some suggestions:
  - Replacing some aspects of the conference, such as offering various lecture series (e.g., DL) and short courses remotely.
  - Alternating between in-person and online annual meetings (e.g., IAMG 2026 being 100% online). There were some concerns about having in-person meetings only every few years because students need these meetings for networking.
  - Some members like the remote format (pre-recorded video + live Q/A), which has been adopted by many conferences.
- Guillaume asked what we should do with all the pre-recorded videos. Hosting them in an online depository where IAMG can share more digital content was suggested.

**Action Item:** The General Assembly gives a mandate to the Meetings Committee and the Council to discuss and decide on the future IAMG conference formats.

### **Curriculum Quality Committee**

- Peter provided a summary of the background and issues.
- Julian Ortiz (Chair of the Curriculum Quality Committee) noted that the committee aimed to check the quality of short courses offered by IAMG. However, two challenges were faced over the years: (1) instructors did not have the course materials ready ahead of time and (2) they did not want to share the materials. Therefore, he does not see the purpose of continuing the committee.
- Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn (past IAMG president) noted that the original intent was to give some support to the development of short courses – members can seek feedback and submit their proposals to their universities or to IAMG. She agreed that the committee could be dissolved if that was not useful.
- Some discussed creating an online platform where IAMG would post pre-recorded digital content (e.g., short courses and presentations). Access fees could be charged.
- Guillaume suggested that the committee be rebranded and responsible for hosting a page (on the IAMG website) with links to all online materials or courses offered/created by our members. The content should be vetted and approved by the committee. Pauline suggested that the keynote talks, which IAMG already approves (as they are delivered by invited speakers and award recipients), can be used for this purpose. This could help improve IAMG's visibility.

### **Outreach Committee**

- Different suggestions were made: (1) merging the outreach and curriculum committees into a new committee, (2) dissolving the committee, and (3) rebranding or reinvigorating the committee.
- Jenny explained what it has achieved in recent years: Eric Grunsky (former Secretary General) has set up numerous MOUs with different organizations, increasing the visibility of IAMG among those organizations.

- Peter noted that Eric's recommendation was not to dissolve the committee but to seek input on improving the exchange of information and interactions with other affiliations. An ideal outcome of these interactions is that members of other affiliations would join IAMG. A key element of any outreach effort is growing the association.
- Jenny suggested that IAMG continue sponsoring sessions at other conferences.
- Questions were raised about whether or not we need a specific committee to handle this issue. Suppose a member sees an opportunity to engage IAMG with other affiliations (e.g., hosting a session or booth at other conferences), that member should approach the Council directly. The Council will assess the request and decide on the appropriate assistance; for example, the Council may help solicit volunteers and provide financial support.
- It was suggested that IAMG should promote our members' work in big societal challenges, including climate change and energy transition, regardless of the committee formats, outreach channels, or other platforms.
- Some members suggested dissolving both committees and sending the corresponding responsibilities back to the Council. Members could approach the Council directly with their requests for short courses and outreach requests or support. If the duties become too onerous for the Council to handle, these two committees can be re-established to assist with those requests.

**Action Item:** The General Assembly gives a mandate to the Council to discuss and make a decision on the dissolution or reconstitution of these committees.

#### **Other Items**

- New Council to be elected in 2 years. Nominating Committee should work on that soon.

#### **Adjournment**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting: approved.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm