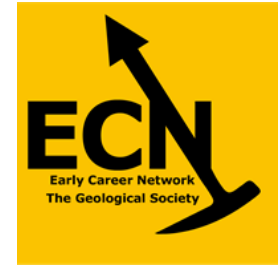


EARLY CAREER NETWORK

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES



Date: Monday 22nd February 2021 (14:00)

Location: via Zoom

Present: Matt Sharp (Chair), Alex Christopher (Secretary), Deborah Thomas (Treasurer), Dan Hope (Regional Specialist Group Liaison), Joshua Hughes, Huw Richards, Matt Webster, Simon Groom, Serdar Aldanmazlar

Apologies: Thomas Skiggs

1) MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

No correction required.

- **TS** continues to develop machine-learning course. This was discussed briefly in his absence. The Committee remains in agreement that this course looks to be a good one and should go ahead after the removal of COVID-19 restrictions (Summer/Autumn 2021?). Sponsorship would be ideal.
- **DH** has been in contact with regional groups re collaboration in the degree to fellowship space within the GSL. Awaiting more responses. Keen to press ahead with this and organise a conference.
- Social media integration still needs to be looked into; Hootsuite seems like the best option (**AC**).
- Further ideas re events have been developed.

2) FINANCE

- a) **DT** discusses the financial struggles that were made public last month regarding the Geological Society of London (GSL) and the possibility that the society may lose Burlington House as its base. This of course will have an effect on the finance the ECN receives.

After a review by the GSL, the ECN will receive £1,000 to spend each year from now on. This can be used for expenses, events and other society activities.

3) FUTURE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- a) Early Career Award

MS opens a discussion on the potential role of the ECN in the GSL Early Career Award which is facing cancellation this year. The Committee has decided to seek further

information as to the number of regional candidates that currently exist. If sufficient numbers exist, the event will be carried out in May 2021. Once this is established the Committee will decide its next steps for this year.

The Committee agrees that the ECN should take a larger role in the Early Career Award in future years, possibly in a different format to the current set-up.

ACTIONS:

- **MS, DH** to liaise further with regional groups and increase contact list for future groups.

b) Machine-Learning Course

The Committee remains committed to holding this event, suggested by **TS** in previous meetings, but maintains this should occur after COVID-19 restrictions have lifted later in 2021 or beyond. A brief update was provided to the Committee by **MS**.

ACTIONS:

- **TS** to continue to develop this event for later in the year or beyond.

c) ECN Collaboration Meeting

DH has been in contact with several regional groups, however, many are yet to reply. Efforts will be doubled, and other avenues pursued to get the information we need to move forward on this. For an event to go ahead the Committee agrees that there should be at least 5-6 regional groups interested in the event to go ahead.

d) Other future events

- **DT, MS, JH** propose a Lecture Series Programme for 2021. Initial proposal is a monthly or bimonthly lecture series with differing themes to cover the spectrum of geological fields we aim to represent. Proposed start date is April with an AGM incorporated. The Lectures themselves proposed to start in June?

Talks discussed were Sean Richardson on Chartership? (**MS**), Becky Goddard on CPD? (**MS**), Jessica Smith (**MS**), Joint talk with the Royal Astronomical Society (**SG**), Early Career Talks (**ALL**), Archaeology Talk with James Sidwell (**SG**).

SA 'Geology in building Environments' event proposed in a previous meeting has the support of the Committee to be one of the earlier talks or incorporated into early ECN intro/AGM Meeting in April. All members are asked to think about other ideas and bring these to the next meeting.

- **AC & DT**, stress the point that we need to start looking deeply into field work orientated events as current students and recent graduates will be lacking field experience due to the COVID restrictions. A Charnwood Forest Trip suggest an option. **DT** points out this may be best run via regional groups.
- “Speed dating” interview event held in the past should be repeated however **HR** points out (and the Committee agrees) this is best carried out in person, so this is also an event to plan for a time after COVID restrictions have ended.
- The Committee is required to hold an AGM, approving budgets etc. **MS** will check ‘Terms of Reference’ to make sure we are compliant with by-laws if we were to hold this virtually.
- **JH** to look into re-running the – DeBeers Institute of Diamonds ‘Diamond Foundation Course’ which was a resounding success in 2020.
- More collaborative events with the Society of Economic Geologists? (**HR**)

ACTIONS:

- **ALL** propose/develop ideas for future events for further discussion at the next meeting.
- **MS + DH** to confirm the current number of entrants for the Early Career Award from Regional Groups. Proposed final event to be held in May.
- **SA** to develop ‘Geology in building Environments’ for discussion at the next meeting.

4) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) SOCIAL MEDIA/WEB DESIGN

- **SG** calls for more direct interaction online with our members and the public. The Committee agrees that this is a good thing, but concerns were raised about the issues with doing this via media like Facebook. It was agreed that the Committee needs to re-introduce itself and should unify its social media posts using Hootsuite or other cross-social media platform if possible.

It is also agreed that we wish to continue to post on Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. **HR** proposes we also begin to post on Instagram.

- The Committee was contacted by a society at the University of Durham about future collaboration. **SG** points out the great potential of such a move, as Durham is an excellent base for geoscience and has an abundance of connections in academia and industry. The Committee agrees; however,

believes we should consider further what shape this relationship should take. **AC** stresses point that the Committee is a UK-wide organisation for Early Career Professionals, while he agrees we likely should be involved with late-degree students there is a risk the ECN could encroach on the regional group remit and other established groups remits etc.

- The Committee agrees the ECN webpage needs an update. **MS** to look into this with the GSL further with the aim of securing control of the page directly.

ACTIONS:

- **MS** to contact GSL and request log-in details to gain control of the ECN webpage.
- **AC** to look into Hootsuite and other platforms for simultaneous posting across social media.
- **HR/AC** to look into Instagram account possibilities and paid account possibilities.

5) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING – **FRIDAY 19TH MARCH 2021** via Zoom.