

## Software Underground

# Board Meeting

24 June 2021

Minutes are recorded in green.

## Agenda

**We will start at 16.00 UTC on Thursday 24 June. Quorum is 5.**

**Regrets: Filippo, Olawale (or late), Leiaka (or late), Chance**

**Present: Matt, Steve (first part), Luisa, Jo, Dieter**

**Visiting: Sean Walker**

## Previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting are on GDocs here >

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ac80Gu4ZL5GyMxI2QhYrv2nNiitxWJ0xx1CeyUOna2U/edit>

...and on GitHub here >

<https://github.com/softwareunderground/swung-org/tree/master/board>

**Remarks: None.**

## Curvenote

We deferred this item from May because Steve wasn't in the meeting.

The proposal was (January 2021) that Swung should sign up as a Curvenote subscriber. We don't have a separate Technology Working Group yet, so it's up again for the board's consideration.

**Remarks:**

**Steve: Curvenote is a collaborative platform for reproducible research. Core features: Jupyter integration, comments, document export incl LaTeX. Moving to freemium model next month, Teams are part of paid tier, allowing centralization of payments.**

Jo: There's been some discussion of a Swung journal, could this support that?

Steve: Yes, could be, depends how that group wants to handle review, for example. Could support that.

Matt: current practice (eg LaTeX template, PDF export etc) is just a workaround for a pseudo-digital journal publishing.

Steve: right - Frontiers is a fully digital platform, all digital first, all custom built.

Matt: how does premium access work?

Steve: members of team have premium access to the Team projects. (Can also have premium access for their own stuff, separately.) Swung has a Team currently, mixture of active and inactive participation.

Pricing: standard team USD15/user/mo. Non-profit proposal was 85% discount. (about USD27/user/year.)

Matt: Is there a concept of user activity (to control pricing), eg 'active users' like Slack. Concerned about monthly bill growing unboundedly.

Steve: we could sort some things out — subscribing would justify spending dev time on this sort of question.

Jo: Good overview, can see it being useful for members, not sure about committing dollars. Generally pro, should take the decision back to Slack.

Dieter: interested in the business model around FOSS, so this is interesting from that point of view. Also though for Swung, general Q: when does Swung sign up for a service? How can a member propose new services, new tech? How do we make a fair process?

Matt: there's no review process for any of the tech we use, and probably should. For Curvenote, members will probably know how they feel about Curvenote already, we should ask. If Team is going away, as it sounds, members will / should speak up.

Action: do a survey in Slack and act on the basis of that.

## Race issues

It's a year since we looked closely at race issues. We proposed to review how we are doing.

This document was part of our thinking in June 2020:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DKmKoEl5Q1Trp7TncryqtEpbPRdOQKh3/view>

Sean Walker [offered this](#) in the #swung-org channel:

I took part in the URGE (Unlearn Racism in Geoscience) project <https://urgeoscience.org/> and as part of it our pod put together a bunch of deliverables aimed at tackling various aspects of racism in geoscience organizations. The primary focus of urge was academia but our pods was a mix of people working in various types of organizations so we took a more general approach with the plan to apply the general guidelines to our organizations. The organizations I had in mind were the SEG and my hill running club. I thought of swung but to be honest it is further ahead than most.

If the board is interested I would be happy to present a short (5-10 min) overview of what we did at URGE. This might be a good start point for what SWUNG can do in the coming year.

All the info is on the URGE site but our pod's deliverables can be found here <https://urgeoscience.org/pods/bushkill-bunch/>

Sean also shared this PDF:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/f906py4il0vzrxt/swung\\_Urge.pdf?raw=1](https://www.dropbox.com/s/f906py4il0vzrxt/swung_Urge.pdf?raw=1)

# **A short summary of my experience taking part in the URGE project + Some ideas for SWUNG**

Presented by: Sean Walker

So we'll today's time on this point to hear from Sean and hope that it provokes some discussion.

Remarks / discussion: I did not transcribe everything, but you can see the presentation and discussion here >

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgEM6Iwj2ig&t=2025s> (I will take this unlisted video down in a couple of months, per our discussion.)

## Any other business

Please raise it.

- 8x8 for Jitsi?
  - Filippo: was there any comment regarding the idea of asking 8x8 for the Jitsi as a service pricing?
  - Matt: this seems to fall under the same umbrella as the Q about Curvenote. How does a person propose tech, and how does Swung review it?

## Next meeting

**You should have received an invitation for July.**

Remarks:

## Parking lot / next meeting

These items will go into the next board meeting(s):