

## Software Underground

# Board Meeting

25 June 2020

## Homework for the board

- Please read all of this document if you have not already read it:  
<https://www.change.org/p/geoscientists-call-for-a-robust-anti-racism-plan-for-the-geosciences>
- Please review Code of Conduct changes, which I proposed on Slack and would like to adopt ASAP. The changes are listed in the commit; the main one is adding explicitly anti-racist language, per the document above:  
<https://github.com/softwareunderground/code-of-conduct/blob/master/v2020.01.md>
- We need 2 or 4 new board members already. Please think about people from ethnic minorities and other under-represented groups who are in the Swung community already, and who might like to volunteer on the board with us. In addition, please review this list of geoscientists of colour, perhaps there are people here with an interest in digital geoscience:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RQH8G1qkugdbV02\\_FnUkn27W7dzKlTK33F-Rc5st54w/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RQH8G1qkugdbV02_FnUkn27W7dzKlTK33F-Rc5st54w/edit#gid=0)

## Agenda

**We will start at 15.30 UTC on Thursday 25 June.**

**We will post the Zoom meeting link in #swung-org channel in Slack after the *in camera* session.**

**Present: Jo, Steve, Dieter, Brendon, Matt, Chance, Filippo**

## In camera

- Board only discussion.
- Shared in a separate document.

### *Plan for regular board meetings*

- Proposal: every month, last Thursday for now. 90 minutes each.
- Accepted, next 3 meeting invites sent out.

### *Anti-racism policy and action, including a workshop*

- Read-through of the petition document.
- We only got through 4-ish points (touched on points 4 and 5)
- When we get the new wording of the CoC up on 26 June, we will have done something towards point 1.
- We started working on point 2 in #ShutDownSTEM but this work must continue, and is continuing in the #EDI channel.
- We talked about point 3, focusing on the inaccessibility of many previous events, and the new levels of inclusivity possible with online/virtual meetings.
- Related to this, Steve pointed out that we should strive to be as welcoming as possible to new people, and he and Chance will draft a welcome document that will be automatically shared with new people entering the Slack.
- Related to this: we should strive to keep Swung's view wide, focused on the future of geoscience, and certainly not just oil and gas (so geothermal, mining, water, planetary, etc).
- We should also be mindful of the age diversity we apparently have now with Artash's involvement in the hackathon and Transform.
- We committed to discuss points 5 and beyond at the next meeting, and/or as issues arise in Slack.

### *Update to Code of Conduct*

- Accept or counter-propose.
- Accepted, with addition of names and email addresses for Matt and Chance. New proposal is on GitHub and awaiting final approval, before 26 June.
- There was some discussion around continuing to update the CoC, to better reflect our community and the meetings it has.
- We also need to address not just quality, but equity and justice (redress). The CoC may be able to reflect some of that, but so should our other actions.

### *Finding new board members.*

- Waiting on response from one person Matt has approached.

- Board members will look at their networks and bring proposals for new board members. This should happen ASAP, no need to wait for the next meeting to report back.

### *Update on Transform, headlines only:*

- Success! Lots of positive feedback. Lots of lessons learned.
- 500 to 600 participants, with max 200 concurrents.
- Order of magnitude more accessible and inclusive than live events.
- Thousands of hours of watch time on YouTube videos; 500 subs.
- Regarding the budget, Jo volunteered to act as a second set of eyes on budgetary things. Matt committed to having something resembling a budget at the next board meeting, now that Swung has a bank account.

### *Future meetings*

- Field Camp will likely not be able to happen as a live event, and maybe virtual events are better anyway.
- I've a proposal to hold a 'research meeting' in November or December; this will require finding 3 volunteers to lead that effort. Suggestions?
- We only briefly discussed TRANSFORM 2021 and will propose both a date and an organizing committee at the next board meeting. [To be clear, the organizing committee needs to grow, so I'd anticipate that -- if they're willing -- we'll keep several of this year's organizers on the committee, and add 2 to 3 new people.]

### *Any other business*

- Will Swung host (Relevant? Member? Cross-project?) projects on its GitHub? See <https://swung.slack.com/archives/C0138FEJRUZ/p1593084021109700> — see below.
- Related to above: Quick discussion on bringing in other projects as 'channel' into Swung. E.g., have a channel 'Fatiando' in Swung, and a channel Simpeg, etc (GemPy, Segyio, welly, and devito already exist). See [https://swung.slack.com/archives/C0138FEJRUZ/p1592419184093800?thread\\_ts=1592412786.089000&cid=C0138FEJRUZ](https://swung.slack.com/archives/C0138FEJRUZ/p1592419184093800?thread_ts=1592412786.089000&cid=C0138FEJRUZ) — see below.
- A brief conversation with a member indicated there might be some interest in a 'certification' program around the concept of a "digital geoscientist". The first step of such a thing might be as simple as a 'skills passport'. Please think about this for next time — see below.

## Parking lot / next meeting

- What is a member?
- Future meetings: Field Camp and Research Meeting — see above.
- Member projects on GitHub — see above - Dieter will discuss.
- Project channels in Slack — see above - Dieter will discuss.
- Certification — see above.

These items will go into the next board meeting, along with those things we committed to revisit, such as the anti-racism list.