

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

2024-2025 REPORT

Committee chair: Jeffrey Shragge

Committee members: Julie Aitken, Heather Bedle, Antoine Guitton, Umair Bin Waheed, Bradley Wallet, Gang Yu, Yingcai Zheng

Board liaison: Kyle Spikes

Staff liaison: Jennifer Cobb

Alternate staff liaison: Jeno Mavzer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024-2025, the SEG Publications Committee continued its role in advising on and recommending policy for SEG's publishing activities, focusing on strategic, ethical, and procedural matters that span across SEG's publication portfolio. This year, the committee reviewed SEG's *Competing Interests Policy* to identify opportunities for strengthening transparency and integrity in publishing.

Significant structural changes to SEG's publications oversight occurred in 2025 with the establishment of a Board-level Publications Oversight Committee. While the Publications Committee met once with this new body to discuss the transition of SEG Publications activities to GeoScienceWorld, no further meetings were convened during the year. This was due to the shift of policy authority to the Board-level committee, which reduced the standing committee's scope of engagement for this period.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

The SEG Publications Committee addresses publications-related policy matters that fall outside the jurisdiction of other SEG boards or committees, or that involve multiple committees. Its scope includes strategic and marketplace issues such as:

- Publications access and member benefits
- Pricing and financial structure of the publications portfolio
- Ethics, peer review, and author requirements
- Infrastructure and best practices
- Portfolio development and changes (e.g., new journals)
- Intellectual property rights and publishing partnerships
- Intersociety collaborations
- Commercialism and conflicts of interest in SEG publications

The committee establishes policy, acts on matters delegated to it, and provides recommendations to the SEG Board of Directors on issues requiring higher-level approval.

Focus Areas for 2024 -2025

During the 2024-2025 term, the committee discussed SEG's *Competing Interests Policy* with the goal of proposing updates to enhance transparency and strengthen the Society's commitment to ethical publishing standards.

Publications Oversight and Portfolio Transition

In 2025, SEG implemented significant changes to its publications governance structure with the formation of a Board-level Publications Oversight Committee, established under the direction of the SEG President. This new body assumed responsibility for managing major policy and structural decisions related to SEG's publications portfolio.

The Publications Committee met once with a representative of the Board-level committee to review progress on the planned transition of SEG Publications activities to GeoScienceWorld. Following that meeting, no additional meetings of the standing committee were held in 2024-2025, as publication policy oversight had been elevated to the Board level. Consequently, the standing committee's role was temporarily reduced due to limited consultation opportunities and the reassignment of policy-related responsibilities.