

Minutes of a meeting of physics students

5 July 2005, IT (Ed-Law) 2-23, University of Pretoria, 17:10

1. Opening and welcome

Dr. N. Chetty opened the meeting and introduced Dr. G. Arendse as the acting chair of the meeting. Dr. Arendse welcomed all attendees.

2. Attendance

W. Koen	wsk@sun.ac.za
A. du Plessis	adpless@sun.ac.za
S. Ombinda-Lenbouna	ombinda@sun.ac.za
S. Ngcobo	sandile@sun.ac.za
R. Botha	roelf@hartrao.ac.za
K. Govender	kg@necsa.co.za
A. Combrink (acting secretary)	attie@hartrao.ac.za
N. Naidu	203507365@ukzn.ac.za

3. Items for the Agenda under General

A number of items were added to the agenda, as indicated below.

4. Conferences (for information only)

4.1. First “African Conference for Physics Students 2005”

The web address <http://www.ibe.tu-berlin.de/ACPS/> was given as reference.

4.2. SAIP 2006

Students were reminded of the 2006 conference of SAIP at UWC et al.

5. General

5.1. Role of student representative

Suggestions were made that the following tasks be performed by the student representative on Council:

- Facilitate communication (e.g. via a web-forum)
- Ensure students be exposed to opportunities (job, study, post-doc, etc.)
- Organise student activities other than the annual SAIP conference

5.2. Student council

The student representative is to organise a transparent election (nominations and election via e-mail, as is the current convention) of a student council, consisting of one member per specialist group. This council should assist the student representative in his/her tasks.

5.3. Conference matters

Suggestions were made that the student representative should be consulted during the annual conference programme planning to ensure that:

- informal/social activities, exclusive to the student members, be hosted.
- provision is made for students to have interaction with guests of honour (e.g. Nobel laureates, guest speakers, etc.)
- some time be allocated for visits to the research facilities in the vicinity of the conference centre.

5.4. Duration of funding

A request was made that the SAIP would take up with NRF the issue of the duration of funding for M.Sc.s and Ph.D.s in physics – it seems that the current durations of funding for these courses are not sufficient and should be adjusted (i.e. not the same as for other disciplines and/or fields of study).

6. Closing

The chairperson closed the meeting. No date has been set for the next meeting.