



# 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the South African Institute of Physics

## Student Meeting

University of KwaZulu Natal, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

Minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July at the University of KwaZulu Natal, Westville Campus at 18:00

Chairman: Mr. G.W. Bosman (GWB)

Co-opted Secretary: Mr. P.H. Neethling

1. The chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting. No apologies were offered.
2. An attendance list was circulated. 38 delegates signed the list (20 members, 18 non-members).
3. The following items were added to the agenda under general:
  - a. The issue of format of conference presentations (OpenOffice, pdf, Mac) was raised
4. The minutes of the 2008 meeting was ratified without correction (Proposed: Nicolas Erasmus, Second: Jacobus Diener).
5. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2008 meeting.
6. Physics Graduate Database Project (PGDP)
  - a. GWB gives an overview of the project and its aims. As part of the overview an presentation on the PGDP was shown
7. Physics Education Specialist Group
  - a. The Physics Education Specialist Group of the SAIP is dwindling
  - b. Not a very active group
  - c. SAIP Council wants to get student involved in this group
  - d. This should occur through interactive presentations by students
  - e. Funding will be made available for this in the form of prizes for the best presentations
  - f. Majority of Student members (~80% of those at meeting) believe this is a good idea
  - g. A question on the format of the competition was raised
    - i. GWB answers that the presentations should be demonstrations and should preferably address issues in the current curriculum
  - h. A question on the origin of the funding was raised
    - i. R Botha (marketing: SAIP) indicates that Council must solicit funds for the prizes
8. SAIP outreach Activities: Presentation by R Botha, Marketing and outreach, SAIP
  - a. Gave an overview of the SAIP outreach activities in the form of a presentation
  - b. Listed the objectives of the SAIP outreach and marketing office
  - c. Presented a list of outreach activities
  - d. SAIP requires involvement from students and student societies at Universities
  - e. SAIP marketing office can supply tools and marketing material that can be used for outreach projects
  - f. In the process of establishing an organized procedural system for co-ordinating outreach activities
  - g. There was a general consensus from the meeting that idea of centralizing outreach activities is a good idea
  - h. Majority of attendees were interested in getting involved

- i. There was a suggestion that the administration of such outreach activities should occur centrally, at the SAIP office
  - j. Attendees would prefer the outreach projects be termed Physics rather than Science – these outreach projects can collaborate with other disciplines
  - k. Focus should be to start outreach directed at schools
  - l. A suggestion was made that student societies should obtain their own funding from international organisations (OSA, SPIE, etc.) as societies will then take ownership of these activities which will ensure the longevity of such projects. SAIP should only co-ordinate the activities to maximize reach and exposure.
9. Conference evaluation
- a. Result of the SAIP 2008 Student business meeting.
  - b. Form to complain or to praise the years conference
  - c. Results will be summarized and presented at the SAIP AGM the next day
  - d. A question on the feedback from the evaluation forms was raised
    - i. Point was raised that students should attend the AGM to ensure their voices are heard
10. General: Format of presentations
- a. Agreed that it is unacceptable that presentations can only be made in specific file format
  - b. This however is part of the conference organization
  - c. Hopefully this aspect will also be addressed by the centralization of the conference organization.
11. GWB thanks everyone present and closed the meeting at 18:45.