



MINUTES OF THE 49TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SAIP HELD AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE, BLOEMFONTEIN ON 2 JULY 2004 AT 08H30

1 OPENING AND WELCOME

The President of the SAIP, Prof. E.C. Zingu chaired the meeting and welcomed all present. He stated that he was pleased to see so many present at the meeting.

2 ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Mr. G.F. De Vries. The meeting was attended by **99 members** and **33 non-members**.

3 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER GENERAL

15.1. Mission and Goals of the SAIP

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2003 (A48) were approved without correction.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

6 PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2003 – 2004

Prof. Moraal took over as chair and Prof. Zingu presented his report (attached) for the year 2003 – 2004.

Highlights of Report

Membership: Overall numbers are slightly up from 2003, despite 76 new members joining. This is due to memberships being deleted because of non-payment of fees. The high number of student members is encouraging.

Conference: The 2003 conference in Stellenbosch was very successful. There are indications that the number of delegates attending the conference is not dependent on the time of year the conference is held. The successful parallel event for school learners at the 2003 conference is being repeated this year. Appreciation was expressed to all sponsors of prizes awarded at the conference.

Specialist Groups: Guidelines have been drafted. Those guidelines that are appropriate for each group will be implemented.

Transformation: The recommendations of the Transformation Committee have resulted in the proposed changes to the constitution and by-laws (see §10). The SAIP now has a mission statement (see §15.1.).

Outreach: The President proposed that Physics Emasondosondo should become an official project of the SAIP.

Shaping the Future of Physics in South Africa: The international panel had a successful two-week visit, which resulted in a report containing about 35 specific recommendations. The challenge now is the implementation of these recommendations.

The FET Curriculum Statement: Thanks to Prof. D.J. Grayson and Prof. M.W.H. Braun for re-writing the curriculum statement before the deadline. The new curriculum will be implemented in 2006 at the Grade 10 level.

New Logo: The competition for a new logo for the SAIP had 39 entries, 6 from international entrants. The new logo would be unveiled at the banquet.

World Year of Physics: 2005 has now been declared the International Year of Physics (see §11).

The President expressed his thanks to all members of Council, especially the Secretary, for their support over the last year.

Comments on Report: The SAIP should not exclusively support *Physics Emasondosondo* but should look more broadly at what is going on in the way of outreach activities in South Africa and how these projects could also be supported.

There being no further comments, Prof. Moraal thanked Prof. Zingu for his leadership during the past year, especially regarding *Shaping the Future of Physics in South Africa*. Prof. Moraal then handed the chair back to Prof. Zingu.

7 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2003 – 2004

The Treasurer, Prof. Engelbrecht tabled the audited statements for the financial year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 (copy attached). He explained various aspects of the statements, especially large balance due to the last three conferences each having healthy profits. The financial statements were accepted with thanks to Prof. Engelbrecht.

8 BUDGET FOR 2004 – 2005

Prof. Engelbrecht presented the budget (attached) for the next financial year and reported that the Council had agreed to start a trust fund with R100 000 from the 32-day call account, as a first step to implementing the recommendation by the international panel for the SAIP to have a permanent Secretariat. Since the intention is to add R20 000 from the 2005-2006 budget to the trust fund, the treasurer proposed the following increase in membership fees.

Full Members - R240, Associate Members - R120, Retired/Student Members - R60, Institutional Members - R1800.

The meeting **approved** the proposed increases to membership fees for 2005.

Prof. Engelbrecht again appealed to members to inform him if membership fees have been deposited directly into the SAIP account so that he can track who has paid.

Comments on Budget: It was suggested that the money budgeted for SciFest be used constructively. There was a comment on the high amount budgeted for Council travel. The treasurer explained that in the past, all of the money budgeted for travel was not used as many members of Council paid their own way.

The budget was approved with thanks to the Treasurer.

9 SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PHYSICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Prof Zingu gave an update on the status of *Shaping the Future of Physics in South Africa*. The process has been managed by the Management and Policy Committee, which was appointed by the SAIP membership and stakeholders. For two weeks in March 2004, the international panel visited many institutions around the country and spoke to many physicists. The result was a 97-page report listing recommendations in three main categories.

One of the recommendations was for the MPC to continue in a monitoring capacity. Council felt that this was not feasible and that the process should be monitored by the SAIP. The sentiment of the meeting was that it would be politically unwise for SAIP to usurp the role of the MPC, however ineffective the MPC might be. One suggestion was that the SAIP would monitor the process subject to approval of the other two principal stakeholders (National Research Foundation, Department of Science and Technology).

Heads of Departments and Specialist Group Chairs have been requested to submit a report summarising their priorities and intentions to the implementation of the recommendations. The Theoretical Physics Specialist Group was to be commended for initiating discussion on the formation of a Theoretical Physics Institute, in line with one of the recommendations of the International Panel Report.

It was requested that the SAIP Council should give guidelines as to how the proposals should be written, e.g. that the experience of others should be shared.

10 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Proposed changes to the Constitution and By-laws, following from recommendations of the Transformation Committee, were considered. Members made suggestions for amendments. The changes will be submitted to all voting members for a postal vote.

11 WORLD YEAR OF PHYSICS 2005

Prof. Moraal gave a brief description of preparations for activities in 2005 to celebrate the recently declared International Year of Physics (upgraded by the UN from the World Year of Physics). A South African steering committee had been formed and a list of planned activities is available on the SAIP web site. He also described the planned special issue of the S.A. Journal of Science to commemorate the SAIP's 50th Anniversary and the IYP2005 and called for support of the members in submitting papers.

12 REPORTS FROM SPECIALIST GROUPS

12.1 Applied and Industrial Physics

The acting Chairperson Prof. J.A.A. Engelbrecht reported that at the previous AGM, Prof D Raubenheimer indicated that the group was "in dire straits and required assistance from the AGM and Council". Prof Raubenheimer subsequently resigned in February 2004. Realizing that another conference may pass without student awards, Prof Engelbrecht, chair of the CMPMS, offered assistance to ensure awards would be made. Two more sponsorships were obtained at the conference in Bloemfontein, and thus 4 awards could be made.

A new committee for the Applied and Industrial Physics specialist group was elected in Bloemfontein. The acting chair is confident that the new committee will ensure the development of a vibrant specialist group for this important section of the physics community. The new chairman, Dr. Meyer reported that Group's AGM was attended by 19 members who elected the following committee: K.A. Meyer (Chair), Mmantsae Diale (JP), Freddie Vorster (PE Tech), Prof. Trevor Derry (Wits).

12.2 Astrophysics and Space Science

The new co-chairs for the group, Dr. F. Frescura and Dr. S. Goedhart gave a short summary of the status of the group.

12.3 Physics Education

The chairman, Mr. Rijsdijk, gave a short report on the group's activities over the past year. The Education Specialist Group (ESG) wished to thank Profs. D. Grayson and M. Braun for the revision of the FET Physics curriculum, and whilst improvements could still be made, it was a considerable improvement on the original DoE curriculum.

Prof. Grayson was also thanked for initiating and organizing the ICPE Conference in Durban this month and for her continued work in the SA Association of Research into Maths and Science Education (SAARMSE). Once again the SAIP has hosted a teacher/learner workshop as part of the annual conference and Kevin Govender has been instrumental in sustaining these workshops.

As a result of the "Shaping of the Future of Physics in SA" review, the World Year of Physics (WYP) and the report on the chairman's visit to the 33rd IPhO in Bali in 2002 (see SAIP website), it appears that the SA Physics Olympiad may well be launched next year. The chairman has been working closely with SAASTA and several other bodies that could impact or contribute to the success of this.

The ESG is already, and will continue to be, involved with the WYP and activities will be made known as and when finality on these has been reached.

Committee 2004-2005: D. Grayson (UNISA), K. Govender (NECSA, Student representative), A. Tsipa (Unizul Science Centre), S. Ramaila (WITS Technikon), M. Hoffman (UFS – to be confirmed), C. Rijsdijk (Chairperson till 2005)

12.4 Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy

The Chair of the group, Dr. E. Rohwer, reported that the 2004 conference had once again been a success for the group. The SAIP conference has now also become the regular home for the NLC user group report back meeting on the Monday before the conference. We believe the NLC has generally done much to reviving the activities within the group. Another initiative that needs mentioning is that towards the end of 2003 the ALC was launched as a NEPAD initiative. Next Monday delegates from Africa meet in Pretoria to finally constitute the ALC. One of the bigger projects that is being discussed in the laser community is a high power fs laser project, which should be of interest to a broad spectrum of the physics community. During the next months inputs from researchers from other disciplines will be requested, and we appeal for your support in this process to determine the level of interest.

12.5 Nuclear, Particle and Radiation Physics

SAIP Conference: During the conference there were 20 oral and 5 poster presentations. Although this is down from last year's all time high of 29 oral and 4 poster presentations, the actual attendance during the sessions was very encouraging (~70 delegates). We are pleased to also report on the active participation by (mostly young) members from NECSA and NNR – this, it is hoped is indicative of interest that industry is beginning to show in SAIP. Three prizes will be awarded (best MSc, best PhD and best poster presentation). Oscar Redivo from *BioTeknik* is the corporate sponsor – special mention needs to be made in this regard because Mr. Redivo has always responded very generously throughout the years.

Summer Schools: The Universities of Zululand and the Witwatersrand organised a highly successful Millennium School held at Ithala (KZN) in January. The organisers have reported a balanced budget. It is clear that the summer schools are now a permanent feature of the Nuclear/Particle Physics community. The next school is scheduled to take place at the Inaca Island (Mozambique) and will be organised by the Eduardo Mondlane University. They will, however be drawing on the expertise of the Wits Group. More information will be posted on the web page.

Web Page: The specialist group will soon flight its pilot web page.

Committee for 2004-2006: Chair–ZZ Vilakazi (UCT), Vice-Chair – J. Keshaw (NECSA), Secretary – S. Mullins (iThemba LABS)

12.6 Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science (CMPMS)

The Chairman, Prof. Engelbrecht reported that the CMPMS Specialist group submitted a document outlining the activities of the group to the International Panel on the "Future of Physics", and also assisted with the visit of the panel to various centres. Representatives of the group were also members of the Management and Policy Committee, and several members attended the Report-back meeting at the NRF.

The group funded the visit by Prof Holloway to the conference in Bloemfontein. A successful conference on Photo-responsive Materials was also hosted by Prof. A. Leitch (UPE) at Kariega Game Reserve, with 59 delegates from 12 countries (including from Africa) attending. The group also sponsored one of the African delegates. A total of 48 papers were delivered and the proceedings of the conference will be published in *Physica Status Solidi C*.

The group continued with their successful awards programme, and a total of 9 prizes are available to students.

The Chair was also involved in the screening of abstracts submitted by delegates for presentation at the Bloemfontein conference, for both Applied and Industrial Physics and the CMPMS.

12.7 Theoretical Physics

The chairman, Prof. H. Geyer, gave a summary of the activities of the group. The 16th Chris Engelbrecht Summer School, organised by Dr. N. Chetty (UKZN), will be held in January 2005 at the Alpine Heath Resort.

Prof. Zingu expressed his appreciation to the chairpersons of the Specialist Groups.

13 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

13.1 **SACNASP** – Nothing to report

13.2 **NSTF** – Nothing to report

14 CONFERENCE MATTERS

14.1 Report by Conference Committee

The Conference Committee was formed in response to suggestions from past conference organizers, the report of the Transformation Committee and problems perceived by Council members themselves. The chairperson of the Conference Committee, Dr. Whitelock stated that the recommendations made by the conference committee are open to comment. The report will be made available on the web site and members should submit comments to Dr. Whitelock (paw@sao.ac.za).

Comments: It was suggested that the judging panels be set up before the conference to give judges time to digest the content of the presentations entered for prizes.

14.2 Future Conferences

- 2004 Pretoria hosted by UP approved 2003
- 2005 Cape Town hosted by UWC, SAAO, iThemba LABS (subject to large venues being available) approved at the 2004 AGM
- 2006 Johannesburg hosted by Wits approved at the 2004 AGM

15 GENERAL

15.1 Mission and Goals of the SAIP

Dr Chetty has drafted Goals for the SAIP and Council has agreed on a mission statement. The Mission of the SAIP is 'To be the voice of Physics in South Africa'. The goals will be available on the web site shortly and comments will be appreciated. Comments may be sent to Dr. Chetty (chetty@ukzn.ac.za).

16 CLOSURE

The President, Prof. Zingu expressed his thanks and appreciation to the 2004 conference hosts and to all who attended the meeting. The meeting closed at 10h37.

Secretary
Ms. J. Padayachee
 SAIP URL: <http://www.saip.org.za/>

President
Prof. E.C. Zingu

SAIP PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2006

INCOME	R	EXPENDITURE	R
Donations	100	Affiliation fees	500
Institutional members (2 X 1800)	3,600	Bank charges	750
Interest on 32 day call account	5,000	Honoraria	6,000
Interest on SME account	500	Overseas speaker	12,000
Subscriptions (275 x R240 + 150 x R 60 +15 x R 120)	76,800	Overseas speakers for WYP2005	20,000
Conference surplus	25,000	Science olympiad	1,000
Sponsorships	1,000	Scifest	1,000
		Postage, printing, Election 2005	5,000
		Travel expenses (Council)	30,000
		Meetings : Specialist Groups	10,000
		Specialist group prizes	3,000
		Website + Postnet	2,000
		Audit of Financial Statements	500
		Transfer to Trust fund	20,000
		Excess for year	250
	112,000		112,000