

Minutes of the 176th Meeting of the Council of the SAIP

Central Block 8, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

2 March 2007

1 Opening and Attendance

The President, Prof. Moraal, chaired the meeting and welcomed Council to Johannesburg. Prof. Moraal congratulated Dr. Combrink on the completion of his Ph.D. as well as Prof. Chetty on his election to the Senate of U. KwaZulu-Natal.

Present: Prof. N. Chetty (PE), Dr. A.Z.A. Combrink, Dr. S.H. Connell, Prof. J.A.A. Engelbrecht (T), Prof. D.J. Grayson, Prof. W.D. Heiss, Dr. P. Martinez, Prof. H. Moraal (P), Dr. J. Padayachee (S), Dr. E.G. Rohwer, Prof. E.C. Zingu.

2 Items for Discussion under General

The following items were added for discussion under "General".

1. Absence of President from 2007 SAIP Conference
2. SA Space Agency Update

3 Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1 Minutes of Council Meeting 175 held on 20 October 2006

The minutes of the 175th meeting of the Council, held on 20 October 2006, was accepted with the following additions:

- Item 1: Dr. Martinez was present at the meeting.
- Item 16.1.4.: The total cost agreed upon was R85 000.

4 Matters arising from the Minutes

4.1 Meeting with National Research Foundation President

Profs. Chetty, Moraal and Zingu met with Prof. Mzamo Mangaliso in his capacity as the new President of the National Research Foundation (NRF) on 1 December 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the SAIP to Prof. Mangaliso, to describe what the SAIP does, and to give him an opportunity to describe his vision for the development of science and technology in South Africa. Prof. Mangaliso was accompanied by Drs. Rob Drennan, Andrew Kaniki, and Romilla Maharaj.

The point of departure was the International Panel investigation into the status and future of Physics of 2004, and a summary of its implementation strategies. In particular, discussions focussed on (a) the SAIP office and (b) the problem with postgraduate grant holder bursaries, which are insufficient and so do not attract sufficient students into Physics to ensure sustainable growth of the subject.

Prof. Mangaliso steered the discussion by explaining his vision for the NRF as being an Academic Enterprise. Prof. Mangaliso places equal emphasis on both words, i.e. that it should be an enterprise in the sense of his business management background, and academic in the sense that if the basic sciences at the teaching institutions were not healthy then development within all levels within society is impacted. He pointed out that South Africa's output of 800 Doctorates p.a. across all disciplines was not sufficient. Prof. Mangaliso wants to see a major drive for Ph.D. production.

Prof. Mangaliso explained that his vision differed from that of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), because DST thinks more strategically and politically expedient to promote science through macro-projects. He also mentioned that in the past too much emphasis may have been placed on direct development spin-offs from basic research.

He strongly welcomed the SAIP's standpoint about too small grant holder bursaries on - especially - the junior postgraduate level. He openly said that the bursary amounts were ridiculously low. He then said that this kind of input would only strengthen the NRF's hand with DST to pay heed to our International Panel's recommendation that small science should be nurtured alongside the flagship projects.

Romilla Maharaj felt that our science system was too fragmented, and asked the SAIP to give attention to how the Physics community could work together to strengthen our voice with government, as it was important to demonstrate the viability of science beyond the narrow confines of science and technology. It is important to show how science impacts on economics, human resource development - especially equity - and on quality of life.

Prof Mangaliso hoped that the meeting of with the SAIP would be the first of further contact with other professional societies in the country.

Profs. Chetty, Moraal and Zingu reported that they were satisfied that the SAIP has established a presence with the new NRF President.

5 Shaping the Future of Physics in SA (HM/ECZ)

5.1 Progress Report

The DST has made the following funding available:

Marketing of Physics in Industry in 2007/8	R 79 000
Public Understanding of Physics in 2007/8	R 250 000
SAIP Office Start-up Cost (once off)	R 58 000
First Year of SAIP Office Running Expenses	R 469 000
<u>Total</u>	<u>R 856 000</u>

Subsequent funding for the second year running expenses of the SAIP Office will be based on the SAIP showing the capability of generating sufficient funds to cover the costs of that year. The evaluation model will also be used in determining funding for the third and final year running costs.

DST has also offered the SAIP office-space in the DST building in Tshwane.

Council agreed upon the following strategy for the establishment of the SAIP office, appointment of the Executive Officer and reporting to SAIP members as well as the International Panel.

1. The offices of the SAIP will be based in Tshwane.
2. The Executive of the SAIP will form the Steering Committee for the SAIP office.
3. The President will write a brief report that will be submitted to the International Panel, SAIP members and other stakeholders.

Action: Moraal

4. Dr. Combrink, Dr. Connell, Prof. Grayson and Prof. Moraal will make up the committee with the following assigned tasks:

- (a) visit the DST offices (in the next few weeks) to ensure that the offices on offer are suitable
- (b) draw up a job description for the Executive Officer (high priority task)
- (c) draw up an advertisement for the post of Executive Officer to be ready by mid-April

Prof. Zingu will provide advice as necessary.

Action: Committee

5. There will be a standing item in the agenda of the Council meetings for the Executive Officer to report-back on his/her duties. The report would be circulated to the Council before the meeting.
6. The Executive Officer will be required to attend Council meetings.

Prof. Chetty expressed his appreciation to Profs. Moraal and Zingu for their perseverance, which got the Shaping the Future of Physics project to this stage.

6 Financial Matters(JAAE)

6.1 Report

The financial situation at the time of this report is as follows.

6.1.1 Arrears 2003 and 2004

The same number of members still owe their membership fees for 2003 (13) and one member less for 2004 (50) since the last meeting. The amounts are R 2 380 for 2003 and R 9 395 for 2004. It was agreed that the memberships of these members (listed below) would be terminated according to By-law 2.3.

Action: Engelbrecht, Padayachee

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6.1.2 Arrears 2005

Currently 99 members (down from 106) are still in arrears with their membership. The amount owed is R 23 735 (down from R 25 385 - this amount includes the arrears for 2003 and 2004).

Members in arrears since 2005 will be given until 1 June to settle their accounts. If they are still in arrears after the deadline, their memberships will be terminated.

Action: Engelbrecht

6.1.3 Membership fees 2006

R 54 376.03 (down from R 59 785) is still due for 2006 membership, which includes the amounts in arrears for 2003, 2004 and 2005. The fees of 195 members are still outstanding.

6.1.4 Balance of Accounts

Current Account (19/02/2007)	R 117,706.98	Money for FET Training (R 89,100) included herein. Balance : R 28,606.98
Moneymarket (02/02/2007)	R 738,379.16	Money for WiPiSA (R 198,844) included herein. Balance : R 539 535.16
Moneymarket (02/02/2007)	R 50,452.67	CB van Wyk Trust fund

NOTE : The interest on the Moneymarket account was of the order of R 36 000. This is additional income, that was not taken into account in the proposed budget for the 2006/7 financial year.

6.1.5 Budget vs. Actual Spending for the Financial Year ending 31 March 2007

Income	Budget	Actual	Expenditure	Budget	Actual
Donations	100	200	Affiliation fees	500	450
Membership fees	66,275	73,400	Bank charges	1,500	412
Interest	5,500	4,952	Honoraria	6,000	4,500
Conference surplus	50,000		Overseas speaker	15,000	
Sponsorships	1,000	7,000	Science olympiad	1,000	
Transfer from 32 Day Account	48,000		Scifest	1,000	
			Secretary/Treasurer Expenses	5,000	2,560
			Travel expenses (Council)	25,000	13,964
			Meetings : Specialist Groups	10,000	
			Specialist group prizes	3,000	9,500
			Website + Postnet	2,000	990
			Audit of Financial Statements	750	1,000
			SAIP Office	100,000	
			Excess for year	125	52,176
	170,875	85,552		170,875	85,552

Note: The organisers of the conference at the University of the Western Cape have not requested money for an overseas speaker.

6.1.6 WiPiSA Financial Statements

INCOME	R	EXPENDITURE	R
		Prelaunch work (D Grayson)	8,000.00
		Travel (July meeting)	180.00
		Travel (July meeting)	1,541.50
		Tukssport (July meeting:travel)	300.00
		Girls in Physics program :	
		University of Venda	30,000.00
		University of Stellenbosch	17,410.00
		Jhb Planetarium	7,000.00
		Travel (Oct meeting)	1,371.50
		Surplus (30/09/2006)	294,575.00
		Girls in Physics program :	
		University of Mmabato	45,500.00
		NMMU	29,500.00
		Launch costs (MW Diale)	11,650.00
		Travel (July meeting)	1,126.00
		WiPiSA Dept Launch NWU	2,238.20
		Surplus (31/12/2006)	204,560.80
		Andromeda Workshop	5,716.80
		Surplus (20/02/2007)	198,844.00
	514,000.00		514,000.00

Prof. Engelbrecht was thanked for his hard work, especially in light of the his increased duties.

6.2 Donation from C.B. van Wyk

The donation of Prof. C.B. van Wyk was deposited into the SAIP account on 6 December 2006. This was acknowledged in writing on 19 February, and followed up with a telephone conversation on the same day. (The delay in the letter of acknowledgement was due to a misunderstanding, because Prof. van Wyk was already formally thanked in writing on 11 October, before the actual transfer.) During the telephone conversation he re-expressed his high appreciation that we were keeping the money separate, pending a decision on how to use it to promote physics on a high level.

It was agreed that an announcement about Prof. Van Wyk's donation would be made to the membership.

Action: Padayachee

It was suggested that endowments are a method of generating income for the Institute. The Treasurer will draft a short description of how to bequeath money to the Institute, that will be included with the invoices for membership fees.

Action: Engelbrecht

6.3 Arrears and Constitution

The constitution allows for membership to be terminated once a member has been in arrears for two years. The Treasurer usually keeps members on his books for longer than two years. The question that arose is whether members are then legally obliged to pay the arrears fees for more than two years.

It was agreed that members wishing to re-join will not have to settle any arrears. There will also not be a re-joining fee.

Action: Engelbrecht, Padayachee

6.4 Paid-Up Members for Purposes of Conference Discounts

The Treasurer, Prof. Engelbrecht, requested clarification on the point of the paid-up status of members for purposes of receiving the conference discount.

The constitution states:

Membership privileges shall be limited to paid-up members only.

The by-laws state:

A member whose fees for a particular financial year have not been received by 31st December following the expiry of that financial year shall cease to be a paid-up member.

It was agreed that members who have settled their 2006 accounts are considered to be "paid-up" and therefore qualify for the conference discount. New members will have to pay before the conference.

Action: Engelbrecht, Padayachee

It was also agreed that the phrasing of by-law 2.2. would be changed to:

A member whose fees for a particular financial year have not been received by the expiry of that financial year (31 March) shall cease to be a paid-up member.

to avoid future confusion in interpreting the by-law.

Action: Padayachee

Better benefits for members should be coupled to a stricter monitoring of the payment of fees and should be taken into account in the new constitution.

Action: Chetty

6.5 The Legal Nature and the Identity of the SAIP

Prof. Engelbrecht submitted a description of the areas on which the SAIP needed clarification (registration as a non-profit organisation, registration for tax-exemption, ability of the Institute to issue certificates for donations) to Mrs. G. Connell. No response has been received.

7 Conference Matters (PM)

7.1 Pretoria (UP) 2005

The report has still not been received. The Institution hosting the conference and the Local Organising Committee are accountable to the SAIP, so the President will write to the Chair and Co-Chair of the Local Organising Committee (copied to the LOC Secretary) and request that the report be submitted to the SAIP before 31 May 2007.

Dr. Martinez reported that he would like to see the LOC submit a preliminary report (based on a pro forma report) soon after the conference. The financial statements can then follow later. The main purpose of the report is to assist the Council and future LOC's. Dr. Martinez will develop the pro forma report.

Action: Martinez

7.2 2006 - Cape Town

Nothing submitted for discussion.

7.3 2007 - Wits

The Chair of the Local Organising Committee Council Dr. Deena Naidoo, the Chair of the Programme Committee, Dr. Jonathan Keartland, and the Head of the School of Physics, Prof. Joao Rodrigues, joined the Council at 12h15. Dr. Naidoo requested that the Treasurer transfer the R15 000 that the SAIP makes available to fund one overseas speaker, together with an advance of R8 000 to the conference bank account. These funds are needed to cover the costs of deposits that must be paid.

Action: Engelbrecht

Dr. Naidoo also requested that the Secretary send details of the Affiliated Societies to him.

Action: Padayachee

Dr. Naidoo reported that the second announcement would be sent out in the week of 5 March 2007 and that the conference website was ready. The Secretary will create a link from the main SAIP site to the conference site.

Action: Padayachee

Dr Naidoo asked Prof Chetty to host a panel discussion for 90 minutes on a topic to be proposed to the conference organisers.

Action: Chetty

Dr. Naidoo then responded to queries from the Council regarding the budget and the programme. Some progress had been made with regards to sponsorship, and the Council suggested that the proposed registration costs be increased by 10%.

7.4 2008 - U. Limpopo

Dr Martinez suggested that he visit U. Limpopo to discuss the hosting of SAIP 2008.

7.5 2009 - UKZN

Nothing submitted for discussion.

7.6 Other

7.6.1 Computational Physics Symposium

The Theoretical Physics Specialist Group has created a Computational Physics Working Group with Prof. N. Chetty as the convener. The main agenda is to host a computational physics session at the 2007 SAIP conference under the auspices of the Theoretical Physics Specialist Group.

8 Committees of Council

8.1 Awards Committee (WDH)

8.1.1 Silver Jubilee Medal for 2007

The Secretary sent out a call for nominations for this award in January 2007. Another call for nominations was included in the February 2007 newsletter. Additional to this, the President wrote to all heads of physics departments requesting that nominations be submitted.

There were two nominations received before the closing date of 28 February 2007.

8.1.2 Silver Jubilee Award Requirements

The following phrasing (as agreed upon at the last Council meeting) was put forward to the membership for comment:

The Silver Jubilee Medal is awarded for outstanding achievements by a younger physicist in any of the following facets of any branch of physics: research, education, technology and industrial development. Awards will be made to persons who are less than 35 years old on the closing date for the receipt of nominations.

Thirteen objections were received to the proposal. The general problems with the phrasing:

1. No allowance is made for people who are 35 years old on the closing date.
2. When the award was created, it was intended to be awarded to promising *young* physicists. The proposal does not maintain this spirit.
3. The proposed phrasing is grammatically incorrect and leads to confusion.

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that the following be put forward to the membership:

The award will be made for the outstanding achievement by a younger physicist in any of the following facets of any branch of physics: research, education, technology and industrial development. Awards will be made to persons who turn 35 on or after the closing date for the receipt of nominations. Allowance for career interruptions may be made for a maximum of eight additional years.

Prof. Heiss, chair of the Awards Committee, expressed some concern on the vagueness of the phrase "career interruptions" as there was no clear indication of what was a valid career interruption. It was agreed that the Council would provide guidelines to the Awards Committee as to the implementation of the "career interruptions" clause. The Awards Committee can also contact Council for assistance.

Action: Council

8.1.3 New Gold Medal Sponsor

A letter was sent to Mr. Stuart Brown of De Beers on 16 January 2007 regarding the proposed continuation of the De Beers Gold Medal, at no cost to De Beers. No response has yet been received.

8.1.4 Proposal: The O.R. Tambo Development in Physics Award

The President sent a letter to Mr. Dali Tambo on 15 February 2007 requesting advice on how to proceed with the establishment of the award. No response has yet been received.

8.2 Marketing Committee (SHC)

8.2.1 Public Understanding of Physics

1. The SAIP Marketing and Outreach Business Plan (arising from the Shaping the Future of Physics project) which was completed shortly before the October 2006 meeting was submitted to the DST for approval in November by Harm.
2. A final version of this document can be obtained from the Secretary. News that the plan was allocated the expected funding of R250k was received a few days ago.
3. The Marketing Committee is now preparing to implement the plan.

8.2.2 International Talent Search Competition

Funding was requested from DST on 2 October 2006 for South Africa to host the Second International Talent Search Competition in Physics. It was intended that Mr. Case Rijdsdijk would chair the organising committee, and that it would take place in Johannesburg in conjunction with the SAIP conference.

Since funds were not forthcoming, we informed the organiser, Beverly K. Hartline on 16 January 2007 that South Africa would not be able to host this event.

It is for noting that in the course of the deliberations Mr. Lebs Mphahlele has said that this kind of activity is important for his portfolio at DST, but that their long-term plan (and its funding) is not yet in place, while short-term funding could not be secured, mainly because of resignations at DST.

South Africa has formally registered to participate in the competition through our Marketing and Outreach committee.

8.2.3 Talent Search Symposium in South Africa

1. A proposal had been submitted to the DST to host and organise the Talent Search Symposium in South Africa. No funding commitment was available by the 10th January, and the proposal has to be abandoned.
2. A venue and date for the Symposium is still not available, but it is expected to be July / August.
3. South Africa is now a registered country for participation in the program for 2007.
4. Five documents have been drafted for operating the South African Talent Search.
 - (a) Announcement
 - (b) Call for Co-ordinators
 - (c) Learner Application Guide
 - (d) Student Application Guide
 - (e) Educator Application Guide
5. The TALENT Search participating countries host a website for their participation. WWW-pages based on the Austrian participation has been prepared and could be hosted on the SAIP site.
6. The Marketing Group propose that SAIP partner with the Science Centres and SAASTA in order to distribute and collate the Talent Search documents to schools and that SAIP do this for Universities. It is hoped that the Marketing and Outreach co-ordinator can play a role in the processing.

8.2.4 SAIP Members Area on Website

A content management system for a members area of the SAIP website is under construction, similar to the IoP system. It will have restricted access. The benefits of membership are listed below. The bold font denotes the service is in the secure area. The draft list for discussion follows.

1. Monthly Newsletter by e-mail. Newsletter archive posted in secure area
2. Newsflashes by e-mail. Newsflash archive posted in secure area.
3. Discounted subscription to Institute of Physics Publishing journals and magazines.
4. PhysMail - a free email service for students.
5. (a) Web publishing service 2MB normal, 6MB Corporate

- (b) Access to special content for members only
- 6. Plenary talks at the SAIP conference
- 7. Policy development documents
- 8. Chartered status - representing the highest standards of professionalism (?)
- 9. Careers (aimed at learners and students, so open access)
- 10. Buyers Guide
- 11. Professional Development support (via the SAIP Office)
- 12. Access to Physics Networks (service analysis, consultancy, design, interpretation, modelling, project collaboration) via the SAIP Specialist Groups (first contact unrestricted)
- 13. Preferential rates for members attending meetings and conferences run either wholly by the Institute of Physics or jointly with other organisations.
- 14. Discount on membership of other organisations
- 15. Promoting access of Industry to Academia - Advertise your capacity to partner with industry in the Professional Services register
- 16. Search for a member - by name, contacts for Branches, Groups and Divisions, supporter for your application
- 17. Facilities at SAIP Head Office - a variety of meeting facilities
- 18. Additional Benefits of Corporate Membership
 - (a) Special rates for Advertising on the SAIP website and in SAIP publications
 - (b) Special invitation to all conferences organised by the SAIP.
 - (c) The Industry representative is a sponsored delegate to the annual conference
 - (d) The Industry representative and partner is a sponsored VIP guest at the conference banquet
 - (e) Conference programme sent to Industry
 - (f) SAIP assistance and liaison in communication with the physics community, local and abroad through the SAIP links with international physics societies.
 - (g) One free A5 size, black and white advert in the book of abstracts of the annual SAIP conference. The member will be responsible for getting the advert to the conference organisers in the format required.
 - (h) Company logo with a link to the company website displayed on the main page of the SAIP web-site.

8.3 Women in Physics in South Africa Working Group (DJG)

8.3.1 IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics

Dr. Igle Gledhill (CSIR) has been appointed to serve on the IUPAP Working Group on Women in Physics. The appointment is for three years.

8.3.2 Report-Back

The working group of WiPiSA met on 6 October 2006 and 23 February 2007. In addition, a workshop was held on 8 December 2006 that was open to all women in Physics. The workshop was on how to incorporate evaluation into your proposals, and was run by Prof. D. Grayson. Following a call for proposals that advance the aims of WiPiSA, the following projects have received support: University of Stellenbosch (R17,410), University of Northwest (R45,500), Univen (R30,000), NMMU (R29,800) and Wits Planetarium (R7000). DST wanted WiPiSA to get involved in camps for girls, but the working group felt that this was not the best use of its time or resources. Instead, WiPiSA plans to run hands-on workshops for girls in order to help girls develop confidence with using tools and doing practical work. The first workshop will be run as a pilot by members of the working group at a school outside Tshwane in April. Departmental representatives have been contacted and requested to organise a social function for women undergraduate and postgraduate students in their department, with a woman physicist as a speaker, as part of WiPiSA's focus on mentoring and role modelling. WiPiSA can make up to R2000 per department available for these functions. So far functions have been held at Northwest University (Mafikeng) and the University of Pretoria. Dr. I. Gledhill and Dr. S. Goedhart have developed a logo. Dr. Goedhart is working on a brochure, which will be ready by the SAIP conference in July. Data is still being collected for the baseline study.

9 Portfolios of Council

9.1 DST and Science Education (DJG)

A tremendous amount of energy and time has been spent in the last five years to improve youth participation and performance in mathematics, science and technology education. However, the level of success is still low relative to the country's demographics and needs. Those needing most attention come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Department of Science and Technology has developed a Youth into Science Strategy to (a) enhance science and technology literacy among the public in general and the youth in particular and (b) enrol more and representative youth with talent and potential into science, engineering and technology-based careers. Achieving these goals will go a long way towards addressing some of the skills shortages in our economy. The successful implementation of this Strategy will require a concerted effort. Cabinet approved the strengthening of a Collaboration between the departments of Science and Technology, and Education, as well as Government's Programme of Action for 2006 and Beyond, as ways of improving implementation of the strategy. Furthermore, collaboration with other government departments, non-governmental organisations, institutes and professional bodies will be strengthened (where they exist) and entered into to support the implementation of the strategy. The Norms and Standards for a Network of Science Centres approved by the Department of Science and Technology in 2005 provides a policy framework for the establishment of a network of science centres. This network will play an important role in implementing the Youth into Science Strategy. The implementation of the Youth into Science Strategy will be monitored through a tracking system that will be managed by the Human Science Research Council. Such a system will also provide the Department with a valuable data-base from which the lessons for future interventions will be drawn.

9.2 Report-Back: Workshop on Helping Teachers with the New FET Curriculum

A workshop was held on 8 and 9 February 2007 in the Physics Department of the University of Pretoria. It was funded by DST and organised and facilitated by Diane Grayson. The workshop was a follow-up to the one held in October 2005. Thirty people attended the workshop, including Koki Selepe from DST and representatives from the Universities of Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Zululand, Fort Hare, Limpopo, KwaZulu Natal Johannesburg, Venda, North West, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan, Cape Town and Free State and the Durban and Tshwane Universities of Technology. In addition, Cynthia Malinga from the South African Association for Science and Technology Educators, Lebs Mphahlele from DST and Haroun Mohammed attended part of the first day.

The following documents were bound together and distributed to all participants: the National Curriculum Statement for Physical Sciences, the detailed Physical Sciences Content, Subject Assessment Guidelines, Learning Programme Guidelines and the Draft National Policy Framework for Teacher Education and Development. Participants were also given a list of the names and contact details of participants in a similar workshop held in 2006 for chemistry lecturers and of the provincial coordinators for Physical Science.

The first day included presentations and a discussion of some of the documents. The focus of the second day was on the details of the Physics part of the curriculum. Participants divided into four groups covering the four physics topics, namely mechanics, waves, sound and light, electricity and magnetism and matter and materials. It was agreed that each group would prepare an outline of what should be covered in a course for teachers and a sample of a few pages of curriculum materials that would be suitable for such a course, to be presented at the SAIP conference in July. A full report of the workshop will be available at the next meeting of Council.

9.3 Communication (JP)

9.3.1 Website

The website has been updated regularly.

9.3.2 Newsletter

There has been two issues of the newsletter since the last Council meeting.

9.4 Role and Function of the SAIP (NC)

9.4.1 Proposal to re-write the SAIP Constitution (NC)

Prof. Chetty, convener of the Constitutional Committee reported that this matter required a substantial amount of further work and research, and has been delayed. The Committee will, therefore, not be able to table a draft constitution for the 2007 AGM. He further reported that the matter remained extremely important

for the SAIP, and would be very likely finalised by the 2008 AGM. Prof. Chetty expressed his apologies for his tardiness.

10 Student Liaison

Nothing submitted for discussion.

11 Specialist Groups

11.1 General

Members of all subgroups supported a successful EBASI conference, in particular Materials science, Nuclear physics and Laser physics.

11.2 Applied and Industrial Physics

Presently the subgroup is trying to define itself. The group committee is divided into two groupings: **Industrial aspects:** K Meyer, N Gabi, **Academic aspects:** E van Dyk. They are currently fielding responses from members regarding the role of the subgroup.

A suggestion has also been made that perhaps the present activities should be taken over by an industrial physics working group representing the issues relating to physics and industry. These issues will be tabled at the AGM

11.3 Astrophysics and Space Science

Nothing submitted for discussion.

11.4 Condensed Matter Physics and Material Science

Nothing submitted for discussion.

11.5 Education

The specialist group is in the process of revisiting the "old questions", namely "where we are going as a group and how we will get there". The group has until now been unable to generate a coherent TOR with general consensus, mainly because this was not part of the structured discussions at the AGM's. It seems the group has been run by enthusiastic individuals rather than driven by a common purpose. There is now a proposed TOR which will be circulated and finalized at the AGM. This will be main focus of SAIP conference meeting. The ESG has for the past five years been unable to have a programme of oral presentations that runs for the duration of the conference. The average for the past five years has been roughly 14 oral presentations per conference.

11.6 Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy

The subgroup wrote an article "Optics in South Africa" which was published in Optics Photonics News Jan 2007.

A femto second laser science workshop has been proposed through the African Laser Centre.

11.7 Nuclear, Particle and Radiation Physics

11.7.1 Earth

An international initiative driven by Rob de Meyer "Earth Antineutrino Tomography (EARTH)" aimed at 3d-mapping the radiogenic heat sources inside our planet by antineutrino tomography is in the process of being set up. The intention is that iThemba LABS and local universities will be involved.

11.7.2 SA-JINR

On March 8-9th, there will be the third Joint Co-ordination Committee meeting of the SA-JINR (Dubna) to discuss projects for this year.

11.7.3 Synchrotron workshop

Four Meetings on Science at Synchrotrons were held at iThemba Labs 4th to 10th February. There were 105 registrations, of which 43 were students and 21 were international experts, and a good sprinkling of researchers from Africa in general. The capacity building part surpassed our expectations, and the students got very involved, especially because of the Mentor-Mentee program, which culminated in the 90 minutes of student presentations. We received many comments about the excellent student-expert interaction from both the students and the experts as well as compliments about the quality, maturity and enthusiasm of the students. The Thematic Workshop was another area which went very well. Together with the Mentor-Mentee part of the School, 26 embryonic projects were registered. The LOC will now pursue and facilitate these leading to proposals and collaborations at synchrotrons. At the Research Workshop the new relationships and linkages that it was supposed to foster are off to a good start, and in many cases, substantially deepened. Moving to the strategy session, the LOC will soon be able to report in detail on the identified areas of interest and areas of co-operation that have emerged, which in some cases are expected to be dramatically concretised in new programs. The LOC will also be able to moot a preliminary roadmap for the next few years which will include work-packages and milestones.

11.8 Theoretical Physics

The Institute of theoretical physics is still in the process of being established. At this stage a business plan is under discussion and should be finalized in due course.

12 SAIP Affiliations and Representations

12.1 Representations

Nothing submitted for discussion.

12.2 SACNASP

During November 2006, the Council reviewed and reported back to SACNASP on the proposed SACNASP charge-out rates for 2007. The Council had no amendments since the proposed rates were an inflationary increase to an existing structure.

	Category of Staff	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	
The rates are:	A	R 1190,00 per hour	R1250/hour	
	B	R 1010,00 per hour	R1060/hour	where
	C	R 585,00 per hour	R615/hour	
	D	R 460,00 per hour	R480/hour	

1. "Category A", in respect of a private consulting practice in natural sciences, shall mean a top practitioner whose expertise is nationally or internationally recognised and who provides advice at a level of specialisation where such advice is recognised as that of an expert;
2. "Category B", in respect of a private consulting practice in natural sciences, shall mean a partner, a sole proprietor, a director, or a member who, jointly or severally with his other partners, co-directors or co-members, bears the risk of the business, takes full responsibility for the liabilities of such practice, performs work of a conceptual nature in natural sciences and development, provides strategy guidance in planning and executing a project and/or carries responsibility for quality management pertaining to a project;
3. "Category C", in respect of a private practice in natural sciences, shall mean all salaried professional and technical staff performing work of a natural scientific nature and who carry the direct technical responsibility for one or more specific activities related to a project. A person referred to in Category B may also fall in this category if such person performs work of a natural scientific nature at this level;
4. "Category D", in respect of a private consulting practice in natural sciences, shall mean all other salaried technical staff with adequate expertise and relevant experience performing work of a natural scientific nature with direction and control provided by any person contemplated in Categories A or B or C.

12.3 NSTF

Nothing submitted for discussion.

12.4 Affiliations

Nothing submitted for discussion.

13 International Liaison

13.1 ICSU 2006 Annual Report

The Annual report of the IUPAP National Liaison Committee must be submitted to the SA ICSU Board on 5 March. Prof. Moraal will ensure that it gets completed and submitted on time.

Action: Moraal

14 Membership Matters (JP)

14.1 New Members Since Last Meeting

M.R. Scriba (O)	R. Kaseke (S)
K.T. Roro (S)	N. Caga (S)
Z. Iileka (S)	N. Kabanyana (S)
N.L. Kokwe (S)	S.M. Phoku (S)
S. Mamphweli (S)	N.C. Mashao (S)
P.N. Njingana (S)	D.M. Murape (O)
A.A. Teru (S)	

14.2 Membership Statistics - February

Category	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Ordinary Members	269	255	258	272	290	290
Associate Members	16	18	17	19	26	25
Student Members	193	176	149	111	75	48
Retired Members	1	17	19	21	28	25
Emeritus Members	33	12	12	11	11	10
Honorary Members	11	12	12	12	12	11
Institutional Members	3	3	4	3	3	4
Honorary Institutional Members	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Members	528	499	474	450	446	414

Specialist Group	2007		2006		2005		2004		2003		2002	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Applied & Industrial	47	82	35	78	27	73	30	73	38	77	41	74
Astrophysics	93	27	90	25	82	19	61	13	45	11	43	8
CMPMS	154	41	151	37	149	33	139	38	133	45	120	43
Education	26	51	26	47	25	47	30	53	32	46	30	41
Lasers, Optics & Spectroscopy	47	35	38	30	35	28	35	27	32	20	33	19
Nuclear, Particle & Radiation	59	40	58	34	58	31	63	30	66	34	59	34
Plasma	9	27	9	12	9	12	5	7	-	-	4	7
Solar-Terrestrial & Space Physics	20	14	19	28	16	24	16	19	22	23	15	14
Theoretical	24	36	27	37	26	33	25	29	24	29	18	28
General	8	25	8	25	8	20	7	21	9	22	8	20

14.3 Translations for Membership Certificates (JAAE)

The translations were received, but the Secretary discovered that a few terms were not translated. Prof. Engelbrecht has submitted these to PANSALB for translation.

14.4 New Membership Certificates to all Members (JP)

There are a few phrases missing from the translations. Once these are complete, the call will go out to all members to submit their language of preference.

The language(s) of choice will be automatically inserted into an MS Word document.

14.5 Nomination for Honorary Membership

Dr. Padayachee proposed Prof. J.B. Malherbe for Honorary Membership of the SAIP. Prof. Malherbe has been a Member of the SAIP Council and SAIP President. He served on the Transformation Committee and his department hosted the 50th Anniversary Conference of the SAIP. Prof. Malherbe also represented the SAIP at SACNASP and NSTF meetings after his term on Council was over. The proposal was seconded by Prof. Engelbrecht, Prof. Heiss and Dr. Martinez. The Secretary will proceed with the voting process.

Action: Padayachee

15 Physics in Africa

Nothing submitted for discussion.

16 General

16.1 History of the SAIP

Prof. R. de Kock submitted a written report on the status of the project.

The first stage of the project was to organize the collection of data from all national Physics Institutes and all university Physics Departments. An existing e-mail distribution list to all HoD's of university physics departments in the hands at the SAIP secretariat, was indeed convenient. In addition, the contact details of all other national physics institutes have been gathered., e.g. of NECSA, IMT, ARMSCOR, of members of the Applied Physics Group of the SAIP, as well as of various retired leading physicist.

A first circular of the SAIP president to announce the project was sent middle December 2006 to all physics institutions. This was followed by a second circular, in which each institution was asked for the appointment of a person, who would collect and co-ordinate its history, and who would serve as a contact person for the authors.

As at the time of this report, only four university physics departments and two national institutes had responded. Of those only four suggested definite contact persons. On the positive side, a concept manuscript has already been received from one physics institution

This initial weak reaction was expected, therefore:

1. Prof. de Kock recently made informal contacts with persons at some of the larger, decentralized physics institutions with more separate divisions. This has resulted in the designation of willing and capable contact persons.
2. The Secretary resent the circular on 23 February 2007 to those institutions which did not yet react, and the deadlines have been extended accordingly.

The many fruitful discussions with various, especially retired physicists, as well as with the SAIP president, was illuminating and served to clarify the task. Prof. de Kock appreciates the effort of the President and the Treasurer to get the Chris Engelbrecht documents copied. A copy of the tapes has already been made.

Over the next three month period, Prof. de Kock expects that concept manuscripts will be obtained from most of the physics institutions. After studying them, he may then be ready to discuss the manuscripts with the contact persons and others at the physics conference in July this year.

16.2 Council Elections

The details of the schedule for next Council elections are:

Item	Implementation Date	Deadline
First call for nominations to members and student members	2 April 2007	2 May 2007
Second call for nominations to members and student members	17 April 2007	2 May 2007
Compile ballot sheets, copy and post	3-5 May	9 May 2007
Return of completed ballots		9 June 2007
Counting of ballots		23 June 2007
Results ready for Council meeting		2 July 2007

Council members are reminded to try to encourage physicists to stand for election on the next Council.

16.3 Absence of President at 2007 SAIP Conference

Prof. Moraal will not be present at the 2007 SAIP Conference and associated meetings. He asked that members of Council assist the President-Elect during the many meetings as well as at the social functions of the conference where the President and President-Elect are required to give a speech.

17 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 2 July 2007, 10h00 to 17h30, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

18 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 16h10.

Prof. H. Moraal
President

Dr. J. Padayachee
Honorary Secretary

Date