



Minutes of the 182nd Meeting of the Council of the South African Institute of Physics

Monday, 7 July 2008
University of Limpopo, Polokwane

1. Opening and Attendance

The President, Prof. Chetty chaired the meeting and welcomed Council to Polokwane.

Present: Prof. N. Chetty (President), Dr. A.Z.A. Combrink, Dr. S.H. Connell, Prof. J.A.A. Engelbrecht (Treasurer), Dr. A. Forbes (Secretary), Dr. I.M.A. Gledhill, Prof. W.D. Heiss, Dr. P. Martinez, Mr. B. Masara, Prof. H. Moraal and Prof. E.G. Rohwer.

Apologies were received from Mr. B.M. Archary (DST) and Mr. G.W. Bosman

2. Items for Discussion under *General*

1. International Astronomical Conference 2011 – PM

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Initials of Person making submission	AC
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion at Meeting	Previous minutes were approved - proposed by HM, seconded by JE

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising that were not already included in the agenda.

5. Report from the President

Initials of Person making submission	NC
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion at Meeting	<p>5.1. Simon Connell</p> <p>A brief summary of the situation with respect to Simon Connell's dismissal from WITs was given.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution: Council decided that Dr Simon Connell should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Return from voluntary leave of absence; ○ Relinquish his position as the president-elect of the SAIP; ○ Assume the position of an Ordinary member of the SAIP Council. • Resolution: The Executive Council of the SAIP should comprise: JE, HM, AF and NC. • Resolution: At the next round of Council elections scheduled for March 2009, there shall be a call for nominations for the president of the SAIP. Any member of good standing with two terms on the Council shall be eligible. <p>SC returned from leave of absence after the above resolutions were passed, and joined the meeting as an Ordinary member of the Council.</p> <p>5.2. FET Project</p> <p>The status of the FET project and its delivery of materials to DST was discussed. ~R83 000 remaining in budget to complete the task.</p> <p>Action: JE to put together a tender document and circulate to Council for the completion of the task.</p> <p>5.3. Representative of the SAIP</p> <p>There is confusion as to who represents the SAIP Council on various bodies.</p> <p>Action: AF to compile a list for Council.</p> <p>5.4. SAIP Policy on Conflict of Interest</p> <p>A proposal document was submitted by BM.</p> <p>Action: PM, IG, BM and AF to make a proposal to Council on whether to accept the document or suggest required changes. To be included in the SAIP Handbook.</p> <p>5.5. SAIP Project Management guidelines</p> <p>A proposal document was submitted by BM.</p> <p>Action: JE, SC and BM to make a proposal to Council on whether to accept the document or suggest required changes. To be included in the SAIP Handbook.</p> <p>5.6. Role of Executive Office and the SAIP Conference</p> <p>It was suggested that the EO become involved in the financial aspects of the annual SAIP conference, with the aim of making a profit of ~R200 per delegate. (Note: This proposal was rejected at the AGM)</p>

6. Report from the Executive Office

Initials of Person making submission	BM
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion Meeting at	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BM gave a summary of his report. • Council did not accept the idea of producing low cost educational equipment and suggested that this requires further thought, and discussion with existing players both local and international. • IG, AC and BM were thanked for assisting with the appointment of a new secretary for the EO. • Action: BM, AF and IG to open a bank account as signatories for the EO using the signed minutes with this resolution. • Action: BM to discuss with Marketing Committee the production and sale of educational equipment and make a new proposal to Council. • Action: BM to create an integrated database of all young African school leavers, and to link with the WiPiSA, SAIP and DST databases.

7. SAIP Operations

7.1. SAIP Council Handbook

Initials of Person making submission	JP
Notes	None
Discussion Meeting at	Action: JP to complete and AF to maintain.

7.2. Code of Conduct

Initials of Person making submission	NC, BM
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion Meeting at	Action: NC and BM. Council needs to develop a Code of Conduct for all officers of the Institute.

7.3. Duties of the EO and SAIP Secretary

Initials of Person making submission	JP
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion Meeting at	<p>A brief summary of the document outlining the respective roles was given.</p> <p>Resolution: Council accepted the definition of roles, and the proposal document to become an official Council document.</p> <p>Action: JP/AF to incorporate the new document into the SAIP Handbook.</p>

8. Shaping the Future of Physics in SA

Initials of Person making submission	IG
Notes	Additional documents available

Discussion at Meeting	IG summarised the Physics 500 status. It was felt that ~40 names was not satisfactory and that some intervention might be required, e.g., to illustrate the benefits of joining the SAIP. Action: Marketing Committee to look into the benefits to SAIP members and report to Council at the next meeting.
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9. Financial Matters

9.1. Financial Report

Initials of Person making submission	JE
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion at Meeting	The report was summarised. An urgent issue of the August 2008 deadline for the EO budget was raised and discussed. It was noted that the benefit of the EO should be made clear, and that some planning for sustainability should be incorporated into the budget plan. Action: JE, together with the Council Financial and Risk Committee to consider new budget proposal for EO and circulate to Council as soon as possible.

9.2. Financial Statements 2007-2008

Initials of Person making submission	JE
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion at Meeting	The report was summarised. It was suggested to remove the once off SAASTA grant from the books, and to make clear in future reports that all surplus funds are in fact already committed to projects. Action: JE to determine what the SAASTA funds were allocated for prior to removing them from the books.

9.3. Proposed Budget for 2009-2010

Initials of Person making submission	JE
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion at Meeting	The report was summarised. Action: JE to propose a 7% across the board fee increase to the members at the AGM.

10. Conference Matters

10.1. SAIP Conferences

10.1.1. 2006 – U. Western Cape

Initials of Person making submission	PM
Notes	No additional information
Discussion at Meeting	Council accepted the recommendation that the preliminary report from UWC be accepted ; the financial report is still outstanding.

10.1.2. 2008 - U. Limpopo

Initials of Person making submission	PM
Notes	No additional information
Discussion at Meeting	Some issues from the organising of the 2008 conference were noted.

10.1.3. 2009 – UKZN

Initials of Person making submission	PM
Notes	No additional information
Discussion at Meeting	LOC to make a presentation on the status at the AGM

11. Committees of Council

11.1. Awards Committee

11.1.1. 2008 De Beers Gold Medal

Initials of Person making submission	WH
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	<p>Two nominations were received for the 2008 De Beers Gold Medal.</p> <p>The Awards Committee recommended that Prof. Bharuth-Ram be awarded the 2008 De Beers Gold Medal. 8 out of 11 votes were received from Councillors, all supporting the Awards Committee's recommendation.</p> <p>The members of the Awards committee were: Prof. W.D.Heiss (Convenor) Prof. D. Comins (Wits) Dr. R. de Mello-Koch (WITS) Prof. P.A. Whitelock (UCT/SAAO) Prof. J. Engelbrecht (NMMU)* Dr. A. Cowley *Stand-by member only</p>

11.1.2. New Gold Medal Sponsor

Initials of Person making submission	WH
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing to report.

11.1.3. Logo on SAIP Medals

Initials of Person making submission	WH
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	It was noted that Dr. D. Chinnery has the moulds for all medals.

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

Initials of Person making submission	SC and BM
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion at Meeting	<p>The available report was summarised. In essence, the Tambo family should be associated with the a suite of SAIP awards rather than just a single award.</p> <p>Resolution: Council agreed that it would welcome a more long term relationship with the Tambo family, and agrees to jointly explore, with the Tambo family, sponsorship for a suite of awards under the OR Tambo name. In addition, the OR Tambo trust would be given the opportunity to sponsor the SAIP banquet in future years.</p>

11.1.5. Composition of Awards Committee

Initials of Person making submission	WH
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing to report.

11.1.6. CB Van Wyk Award

Initials of Person making submission	WH
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	<p>Various suggestions were discussed.</p> <p>Resolution: The CB van Wyk name will henceforth be associated with the Silver Jubilee medal, with the funds used to allow a cash prize to be given with the medal.</p> <p>Resolution: It was agreed that a trust fund be created to allow all future donations to the SAIP to be pooled together.</p>

11.2. Marketing Committee (AC)

11.2.1. Marketing Report

Initials of Person making submission	SC and AC
Notes	For noting
Discussion at Meeting	<p>11.2.1.1. Corporate Identity AC and BM were thanked for the excellent work in finalising the SAIP corporate identity. Pamphlets with the new identity were circulated, and Council was informed that 1000 copies were made. The SAIP has ownership of all the materials.</p> <p>11.2.1.2. Marketing Co-ordinator Five applications for the position received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action: AC to oversee interviews and make a recommendation to Council by the end of July 2008. <p>11.2.1.3. Physics Comment and website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editorial Board compiled: Prof. Zingu; Dr Padayachee (Editor in Chief); Ms Lee and Mr Masara. Action Council Marketing Committee SC presented a new SAIP website/database model which was accepted by Council. SC was thanked for his initiative.

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11.3. Industrial Liaison Committee

11.3.1. Strategic Plan for Industrial Liaison

Initials of Person making submission	IG
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing new to report; Physics 500 project ongoing. Output will serve as basis for developing a strategy for liaison with industry. Action IG.

11.4. Education

Initials of Person making submission	C. Rijdsdijk
Notes	See discussion earlier in sec. 5.
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing new to report.

11.5. Women in Physics in South Africa Working Group

Initials of Person making submission	IG
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was suggested that Mmantsae Diale be the SAIP and WiPiSA representative on the team to travel to Korea for the IUPAP Women in Physics conference. • NC noted that a proposal to DST for funding had been submitted. It was suggested in the proposal that a networking event be held in South Africa for African women either pre- or post- the Korea meeting. • IG indicated that the benchmark study of women in Physics would be out before the next Council meeting.

12. Portfolios of Council

12.1. Communication (JP)

12.1.1. Website and Newsletter

Initials of Person making submission	JP
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing to report

12.1.2. Physics Comment

Initials of Person making submission	JP
Notes	See noted earlier in sec. 11.2.1.3
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing to report

13. Student Liaison

Initials of Person making submission	GWB
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Mr Bosman represented South Africa at the Landau meeting in Switzerland.

14. Specialist Groups

Initials of Person making submission	ER
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	No discussion as Specialist Group Meeting to follow at conference.

15. SAIP Affiliations and Representations

15.1. Representations

15.1.1. African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)

Initials of Person making submission	HM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	It was pointed out that the period of study at AIMS was not suitable to the majority of South African students, and the diploma not as attractive as a degree.

15.2. SACNASP

Initials of Person making submission	BM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Ongoing discussions with SACNASP; nothing resolved as yet.

15.3. NSTF

Initials of Person making submission	BM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing to report

15.4. Affiliations

Initials of Person making submission	
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: SC to chat to SGCs to get a consortium involved in NIASA. • Action: AF to put together a list of all SAIP representatives on various bodies for Council.

16. International Liaison

16.1.1. Honorary Membership of the American Physical Society

Initials of Person making submission	HM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	No progress. Action: HM to investigate honorary membership status with the APS

16.1.2. FIP Applications

Initials of Person making submission	HM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Nothing to report.

16.1.3. IUPAP Matters

Initials of Person making submission	HM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	Resolution: ER and AC to represent the SAIP at the IUPAP General Assembly, with IG also nominated in the event of additional funding.

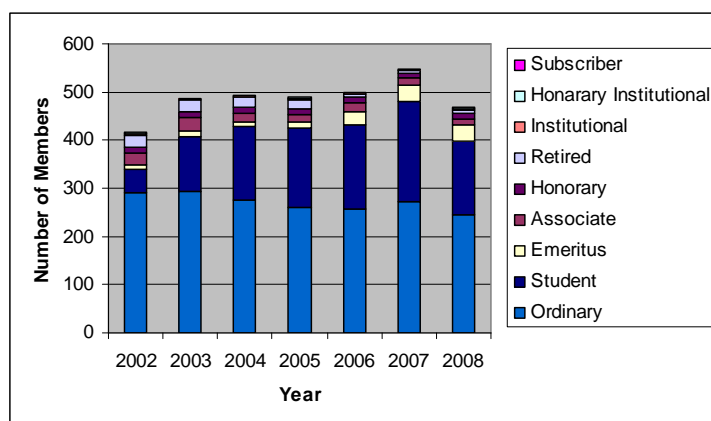
16.1.4. SA ICSU

Initials of Person making submission	HM
Notes	Additional documents available
Discussion at Meeting	Resolution: BM and GB would represent the SAIP at the ICSU meeting in Maputo. Action: BM to report on the activities of ICSU and advise Council on the SAIP's potential role.

17. Membership Matters (JP)

17.1. Membership Statistics July 2008 (JP)

Category	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Associate	25	26	19	17	18	16	13
Emeritus	10	12	10	11	28	33	33
Honorary Institutional	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Honorary	11	12	12	12	12	11	12
Institutional	4	3	4	4	3	3	3
Ordinary	291	295	274	260	258	273	245
Retired	25	26	20	18	6	4	6
Student	48	113	154	166	173	207	154
Subscriber							1
Total	415	488	494	489	499	548	468



17.2. Increasing Membership

Nothing new to report.

17.3. New Members Since Last Meeting

Title	Initials	Surname	Category	Entry Date
Dr.	SP	Ntoahae	(O)	200108 (upgrade)
Dr.	DM	Moeketsi	(O)	200505 (upgrade)
Ms.	M.M.	Biggs	(S)	200803
Mr.	C.J.	Jafta	(S)	200803
Mr.	B.	Masara	(O)	200804
Mr.	O.O.	Nubi	(O)	200804
Mr.	N.T.	Botha	(O)	200804
Mr.	V.	Musara	(S)	200804
Mr.	F.C.	De Beer	(O)	200805
Mr.	A.N.	Moloi	(O)	200805
Miss.	P.S.	Mbule	(S)	200805
Prof.	D.M.	Mafokwane	(O)	200805
Dr.	S.R.	Katashaya	(O)	200805

17.4. New Membership Certificates to all Members

Initials of Person making submission	JP
Notes	For Noting
Discussion at Meeting	62 members responded to the offer of bilingual certificates. Of these, 15 requested certificates in English only as they did not have certificates. AF was assigned the task of printing and posting the certificates.

17.5. Honorary Membership

Initials of Person making submission	JE
Notes	For Noting
Discussion at Meeting	13 ballots were posted for the voting of conferring Honorary membership of the SAIP on Prof. E.C. Zingu and Prof. P.A. Whitelock. 12 ballots were returned for each. All 12 votes (for each) were in favour. Thanks to Dr. P. Anagnostaras and Dr. C.C. Theron for acting as scrutineers. The certificates should be presented at the banquet of the 2008 conference.

17.6. Emeritus Membership (JP)

Initials of Person making submission	JP
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	<p>Resolution: The following nominations for Emeritus Membership were accepted by Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. HJ Smith is now retired and has been a member of the SAIP since July 1963 2. Prof. MG Lötter is now retired and has been a member of the SAIP since January 1972. 3. Dr. DTL Jones is now retired and has been a member of the SAIP since May 1972.

18. Physics in Africa

Initials of Person making submission	NC and HM
Notes	Additional notes available (President's Report)
Discussion at Meeting	Action: HM to follow link in President's Report and give feedback at next Council meeting.

19. History of the SAIP

Initials of Person making submission	HM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	<p>Prof Runan de Kock's progress noted. The document now stands at ~800 pages. There was a request for R30 000 of the R80 000 allowed within the contract.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution: Council agreed that a payment of R30 000 could be paid to Prof. De Kock. • It was agreed that Council would consider a bonus for Prof. De Kock at the end of the project in order to offset inflationary losses. • It was suggested that HM participate more directly in the project, with HM a co-author on the document. • It was noted that while the final document would be trimmed down, all material collected should be suitably archived. • PM indicated that the SA rocket programme should also be included in some way. • Prof. De Kock was thanked for his contribution to date.

20. General

20.1. International Astronautical Congress 2011

Initials of Person making submission	PM
Notes	
Discussion at Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM noted that SA was bidding to bring the International Astronautical Congress to SA in 2011. This would be the first time the conference was hosted in Africa. • Sunspace, US, UWC, UCT, SAASTA and the National Aerospace Centre of Excellence were also working together on this endeavour,

	<p>and it was requested that the SAIP also endorse the bid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution: Council agreed that the bid should be officially supported by the SAIP. • Action: NC to draft a letter indicating the SAIP endorsement of the bid.
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21. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next Council meeting will be held at the NRF on Friday 31st October.

The meeting closed at 17h20.

President: N. Chetty	Secretary: A. Forbes