



Minutes of the 184th Meeting of the Council of the South African Institute of Physics

Date: Friday, 31 October 2008, Time: 12h00 to 16H30
 3rd Floor Boardroom, Building 46, CSIR National Laser Centre, Pretoria

1. Opening and Attendance

The President, Prof. Chetty chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone .

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, Mr G.W. Bosman and Prof. E.G. Rohwer.

Apologies: Mr B.M. Archary (DST)

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Person making submission	AF
Action required	Approve minutes
Summary	
Discussion at Meeting	Minutes were accepted with minor changes; proposed by SC, seconded by IG
Additional information:	Minutes C182_final.pdf

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising that were not already included in the agenda. AF tasked with getting the Action List up to date.

4. Report from the President

Person making submission	NC
Action required	Please refer to report
Summary	Please refer to report
Discussion at Meeting	<p>4.1 NC's Disciplinary Hearing at the UKZN NC recused himself; Resolution: the Council discussed the matter at hand and unanimously decided that NC should continue in his present position as SAIP President.</p> <p>4.2 SC victory at the CCMA Resolution/Action: a letter is to be sent to all membership following the draft by NC, but with the final sentences amended to: "Council is satisfied that all matters around Prof. Connell's dismissal from Wits have been properly resolved . Prof. Connell is free to stand for any position on the Council at the next round of elections."</p> <p>4.3 Attie's resignation Resolution: SC to take over chairmanship of the CMC.</p>

	<p>4.4 Physics Comment</p> <p>The CMC is tasked with getting this off the ground, in collaboration with BM.</p> <p>4.5 Shaping the Future of Physics</p> <p>Action: SC to work on Physics Today article, and come up with practical suggestions to fulfil the goals set by the international review panel.</p> <p>Action: IG to collate data of industrial physicists from the contact list generated by this project.</p> <p>4.6 Constitutional change</p> <p>Action: AF to urgently send out ballot for members to vote on the constitutional change presented at the 2008 AGM.</p> <p>4.7 SACNASP Accreditation</p> <p>Action: BM to follow up with SACNASP to have the SAIP recognised as a voluntary association.</p>
Additional information:	PresidentReport3110.pdf

5. Report of the Executive Office

Person making submission	BM
Action required	For noting and discussion
Summary	A summary on progress on office set up, projects and other activities of the SAIP Office is given. Recommendations from the visit to IOP are given.
Discussion at Meeting	<p>BM reported on the activities of the EO. Most notably, Roelof Botha was appointed to assist with marketing and outreach activities. BM requested a meeting with Council to strategise on how to ensure the financial sustainability of the EO.</p> <p>Action: BM to organise strategy meeting at earliest convenience.</p>
Additional information:	<p>SAIP Office Report Oct 2008.pdf</p> <p>SAIP NRF Draft Contract.pdf</p>

6. SAIP Operations

6.1. SAIP Council Handbook

Person making submission	JP, NC
Action required	Recommendation: AF and BM to take over this project with administrative assistance from Isabel.
Summary	The draft SAIP Handbook has been produced by JP. It is a very substantial document. With the re-write of the constitution, many sections need to be re-worked.
Discussion at Meeting	<p>JP has completed a very comprehensive handbook.</p> <p>Action: AF to maintain and update as needed.</p>
Additional information:	Handbook of the SAIP v0.pdf

6.2. Code of Conduct

This is urgently needed, and will be added to the Action List of outstanding issues.

6.3. SAIP Constitution

Person making submission	NC
Action required	For noting
Summary	<p>The Council Constitutional Committee comprising NC (Convenor), MH and JP is still working on the documents. The constitutions of the Academy of Sciences of South Africa, The Royal Society of South Africa, The South African Chemical Institute, The American Physical Society and the Institute of Physics have been consulted in detail. The draft Bylaws are still being drawn up. Ms Anne Strode, a constitutional law lecturer at the UKZN, is currently studying the draft documents. She will submit a formal report by end of November. A payment of between R3000 and R5000 is payable for her services. The draft documents shall go out to all members of the Constitutional Reference Group, which includes all members of the Council before the end of 2008 requesting feedback. All responses will be meticulously addressed, and all respondents will receive a letter indicating how their suggestions have been dealt with by the Council Constitutional Committee. This process should be completed by the middle of February 2009. The draft Constitution shall be submitted to the Council in February 2009. The draft Constitution shall be submitted to the membership after the February 2009 Council meeting for a similar iterative process. The Constitution shall be submitted to the AGM in July 2009. The Constitution shall be put to a vote after July 2009, and shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority of all voting members who have cast their votes.</p>
Discussion at Meeting	<p>Ongoing project; legal advice will be sought prior to bringing the new constitution to Council.</p> <p>Action: NC to present the new constitution at the February 2009 Council meeting</p>
Additional information:	<p>ConstitutionDraft.pdf GuidelinesDraft.pdf</p>

7. Shaping the Future of Physics in SA

7.1. Physics 500

A report was distributed by email. Council expressed their thanks to Kevin Meyer for his efforts.

8. Financial Matters

8.1. Financial Report

Person making submission	JE
Action required	For noting
Summary	Current Financial status of SAIP, including DST funded projects
Discussion at Meeting	<p>The financial status was reviewed;</p> <p>Resolution: Members in arrears to have their membership cancelled.</p> <p>Action: JE to hold discussions with Prof. Zingu and SAASTA prior to returning these funds to the original sources (DST/SAASTA/IUPAP).</p> <p>The required signatories on the SAIP bank account was discussed.</p>

	Resolution: Remain with two signatories for the SAIP account, but remove Prof. Zingu as one of them and add the EO (BM) as a replacement.
Additional information:	Treasrep208c.pdf

8.2. DST-FET project evaluation

Person making submission	JE
Action required	For discussion and decisions
Summary	Possible risk to SAIP of DST project to develop materials for Physics teachers
Discussion at Meeting	The history of the FET project was reviewed as well as steps taken by the CEC to remedy the situation. Action/Resolution: NC to invite Case Rijdsijk to the next Council meeting to present an overview of all the CEC activities, and advise Council on the way forward with the FET project.
Additional information:	DST_FET_PROJECT_FINAL.pdf

9. Conference Matters

PM reported that UWC (2007) may have made a R120 000 loss on the conference, but as yet no final financial report has been forthcoming. The UNW (2008) conference report is presently being compiled. Initial numbers suggest 432 delegates attended the conference, of which 311 were students. 322 of these delegates made use of the university residence for accommodation.

9.1. UKZN (2009)

On track, with all lecture venues booked.

9.2. CSIR (2010)

Action: NC to draft a letter to the CSIR explaining what is required of the CSIR as host of the 2010 SAIP conference.

10. Committees of Council

10.1. Awards Committee

10.1.1. New Gold Medal Sponsor

10.1.2. Logo on SAIP Medals

10.1.3. The O.R. Tambo Development in Physics Award

Person making submission	BM
Action required	For discussion
Summary	A Proposal for the OR Tambo Award is presented by BM and SC for discussion
Discussion at Meeting	Round robin decision: Pending De Beers approval that the Gold Medal be included in the umbrella, and that there is still a named banquet for this medal in even years, SC and BM are asked to continue with discussions with Mr Dali Tambo about the umbrella suite of awards. A suggestion has been made that the awards ceremony and the banquet be separated.
Additional information:	OR Tambo Proposal.pdf

10.2. Marketing Committee

Following Attie's resignation, SC has assumed the chair of the Council Marketing Committee. The following items are being considered: The launch of the PC, updating the list of membership benefits, branding the SAIP and extending the membership. Appointment of Marketing Co-ordinator has been successfully recruited and will start work on 1 December 2008. Mr Roelof Botha (30 yrs) will be joined the SAIP office on 1 December 2008. He holds a BSc and MSc in Space Physics. He is currently doing a PhD in Lunar Laser Ranging. He is employed as a assistant at HartRAO. The marketing and outreach coordinator will jointly save SAIP and NLC PULSE project. His initial contract will be to work 3days per five working day week. He will be employed for initial period of one year, this is in line with the current budget. SAIP Office would like to make the position permanent hence additional funding for marketing and outreach coordinator salary was included in the 2009 – 2010 budget request to DST.

10.3. Industrial Liaison Committee

Person making submission	IG
Action required	For noting and discussion
Summary	Items to be covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of entries • prizes • brochure generation • the future of the project.
Discussion at Meeting	The Physics500 report was tabled. Thanks to Kevin Meyer, and the Council Industrial Liaison Committee headed by IG for a job well done.
Additional information:	Report will be sent before meeting.

10.4. Education

Person making submission	HM
Action required	For discussion and approval of recommendations
Summary	To deliver high quantities of PhDs in Physics as per the DST/NRF visions, we need to focus on the quality of education at the undergraduate (BSc) level. It is recommended that a high-level, internationally sponsored and supported workshop be arranged in September 2009.
Discussion at Meeting	Round robin decision: Council approved the initiative to organise a workshop on the BSc curriculum in the second half of 2009, with steering committee Saalih Allie (Convenor), Diane Grayson, Brian Masara, Harm Moraal, Deena Naidoo, Case Rijdsdijk and Patricia Whitelock. Council suggested that if possible steering committee representatives should visit HoDs prior to arranging a workshop to ensure buy-in.
Additional information:	Science Education in South Africa.pdf

10.5. Women in Physics in South Africa Working Group

Person making submission	IG
Action required	For noting and discussion
Summary	The following items will be covered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Conference on Women in Physics • Papers at ICWIP • French-SA Exhibition at SciBono on Women in Physics

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Benchmark Study • General Report. • Hosting of ICWIP 2011, • Thanks to BM and IM.
Discussion at Meeting	Noted.
Additional information:	26thGenl Assmemblyresolution-2008-final.pdf

11. Portfolios of Council

11.1. Communication

11.1.1. Website and Newsletter

The electronic newsletter is to be replaced by the PC.

11.1.2. Physics Comment

The PC is being launched by the Council Marketing Committee. Thanks to BM for tremendous support.

12. Student Liaison

Person making submission	GWB
Action required	For discussion
Summary	<p>Three issues will be focused on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recognition for poster presentations at SAIP conferences. 2) NRF funding for post-graduate studies. 3) SAIP conference evaluation. <p>Previous action list items.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Involvement of SAIP student members at activities such as Youth camps. 2) Nominations for student representatives. 3) Student activities at annual conferences.
Discussion at Meeting	Round robin decision: The minutes of the Council Student Committee were accepted by Council. GB is tasked with acting on the recommendations, and for making specific proposals to Council.
Additional information:	SAIP Student Meeting 10 July 2008.pdf

13. Specialist Groups

All reports were noted by Council.

13.1. Specialist Group Liaison

13.2. Specialist Group Reports

13.2.1. Applied and Industrial Physics

Person making submission	EGR
Action required	For discussion
Summary	Applied physics specialist group functioning: Dr Derry reports: The Committee has kept in contact. A nomination was made for an invited speaker for the Nigerian renewable-energy conference, at BM's request.
Additional information:	No

13.2.2. Astrophysics and Space Science Specialist Group

Person making submission	EGR
Action required	For noting
Summary	International Year of Astronomy 2009
Additional information:	IYA2009.pdf

13.2.3. Education Specialist Group

Person making submission	EGR
Action required	For discussion
Summary	Teacher-membership of SAIP
Discussion at Meeting	Round robin decision: The issue raised by the Education Specialist Group regarding SAIP membership of teachers will be addressed by the draft constitution.
Additional information:	Edu.pdf

13.2.4. Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy Specialist Group

Person making submission	EGR
Action required	For noting
Summary	<p>(1) Photonics Initiative of South Africa (PISA)</p> <p>A workshop was held in Gauteng during the 5 & 6 August 2008. The workshop was organised by working groups strongly represented by members of the LOS specialist group committee. The workshop was attended by more than 60 participants, roughly a 3rd of whom were representatives from local industry. The programme included presentations from three international speakers on photonics in developed and developing countries. The outcome of the workshop was a draft document for a cohesive approach to promoting and advancing photonics in South Africa, titled "A National Photonics Strategy for South Africa". This document will be available on the PISA website shortly, and is to be submitted to the DST for funding before the end of the year.</p> <p>(2) Photonics events</p> <p>There are several training courses and workshops planned by the community to take place within the next 6 months, many of them sponsored by the African Laser Centre (ALC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Short course on Fibre Optics (NMMU/ALC); * Short course on an Introduction to Lasers (US/ALC); * Short course on Introduction to Laser Beams (NLC/ALC); * Workshop on Progress in ALC Projects (NMMU/ALC); * Workshop on "Lasers and Accelerators: Particle Acceleration with High Intensity Lasers" (US/iThemba Labs/NLC); <p>These are open to the entire community, are (or will be) widely advertised, and with particular focus on students.</p>
Additional information:	No

13.2.5. Nuclear, Particle and Radiation Physics Specialist Group

Person making submission	EGR
Action required	For noting
Summary	<p>iThemba Directoral report from the Limpopo SAIP, though presumably this was available at the Specialist Group Head's meeting during the conference. Attached</p> <p>Some other noteworthy items are :-</p> <p>a) The latest iThemba LABS PAC and User Meeting will take (or have taken) place on October 27-28th, followed by the Director's Council Meeting.</p> <p>b) On November 14th, the 6th Joint Co-ordination Committee (JCC-6) of the DST-JINR collaboration will take place in Dubna. The two focus areas of Neutron Applications and Heavy Ion Physics will be reported upon, the former probably by Prof. A Faanhof (NECSA) and the latter definitely by Dr S Mullins (iThemba LABS).</p> <p>c) The 2-day symposium on 26-27th November 2008 in order to celebrate twenty years of operation of the separated sector cyclotron facility at iThemba LABS (formerly the National Accelerator Centre)</p> <p>http://www.20years.tlabs.ac.za/20years/default.htm</p> <p>d) the Workshop on Lasers and Accelerators and the 20th Chris Engelbrecht Summer School in Theoretical Physics on Nuclei and Nucleonic Systems.</p> <p>http://academic.sun.ac.za/summerschool/2009.html (19 - 28 January 2009)</p> <p>http://academic.sun.ac.za/lasers&accelerators/ (12 - 16 January 2009)</p>
Additional information:	zzv080707.pdf

13.2.6. Theoretical Physics Specialist Group

Person making submission	EGR
Action required	For noting
Summary	<p>First Director of NITheP appointed: Prof FG Scholtz August 2008</p> <p><u>Summer school</u> 20th Chris Engelbrecht Summer School in Theoretical Physics National Institute for Theoretical Physics at Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study Nuclei and Nucleonic systems 19 - 28 January http://academic.sun.ac.za/summerschool/2009.html</p> <p><u>Workshop</u></p>

	Applications of Gauge/Gravity Duality December 8-12 National Institute for Theoretical Physics at Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study http://cosmology.uct.ac.za/Applications_of_AdS_CFT/Main.html
Additional information:	NewAgenda2008_09_01_Mangena.pdf

14. SAIP Affiliations and Representations

14.1. *African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS)*

14.2. *SACNASP*

Person making submission	BM
Action required	For discussion and input from members
Summary	SAIP needs to re-apply for SACNASP membership accompanied by a list of councillors, their professions and registration status.
Discussion at Meeting	The problem with re registration is that the rules at SCANAPS have changed. Ideally all Council members must be registered with SCANAPS before SAIP can be recognized. I was suggesting that we compile a list of our councillors, their professions and registration status and reapply. This has to be agreed by councillors themselves. Round robin decision: BM is tasked with engaging with Council on how the SAIP can establish its membership with SACNASP, including compiling a list of our Council members, their professions and registration status.
Additional information:	SACNAPS Framework.pdf

14.3. *NSTF*

14.4. *Affiliations*

14.4.1. Cooperation with SAMPS

14.4.2. NIASA

14.4.3. Other learned Societies

15. International Liaison

15.1.1. IUPAP Matters

15.1.2. SA ICSU

16. Membership Matters

16.1. *Possible Foundation Member*

Person making submission	JE
Action required	For noting and discussion
Summary	Emeritus Prof Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf could be Foundation Member
Discussion at Meeting	The most up to date list of such members lists the following persons: Micheal W Feast Wynand L Mouton Jan H van der Merwe Chris B van Wyk Pieter H Stoker

	CJ Doris Kuhlmann-Wilsdorf
Additional information:	Doris.pdf

16.2. Increasing Membership

16.3. New Members Since Last Meeting

16.4. Honorary Membership

16.5. Emeritus Membership

17. Physics in Africa

IG: There are two notes, both about networks of WIP in Africa. Mmantsae Diale has been elected Chair of a group as noted in the WIP Report, and she and Brian Masara have developed an extensive network which could (and should) be used for further African networks. Also, Zohra bin Lakdar and myself ran a meeting on WIP in Africa and the Middle East at ICWIP in Korea, at which a network was suggested and started, and again this should be used by any SAIP activity to which it is relevant, including Physics in Africa.

18. History of the SAIP

Person making submission	HM
Action required	For noting
Summary	<p>I had a half-day meeting with Prof. de Kock on 17 October to discuss our modus operandi when we will be working on this project together during my visit to STIAS in November/December.</p> <p>There are a few additional manuscripts that have come in since July, but I recommended that it would not be necessary for him to give a full written report again.</p> <p>The most important development is that he has engaged several people to write about the revolution at the CSIR of 10 - 15 (?) years ago. We will be talking to these people during my visit to Stellenbosch to ensure a balanced representation of these events, which were certainly important for science and technology development in SA.</p> <p>Prof. de Kock thanks the Council for the interim payment made to him.</p>
Discussion at Meeting	Council notes progress on the History of Physics project, and expresses thanks to Prof Runan de Kock for his continued work.
Additional information:	No

19. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next Council meeting will be held at the UKZN on Friday 27th February 2009.

Meeting closed at 16h00.

President: N. Chetty	Secretary: A. Forbes