



MINUTES OF THE 163TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SAIP

DATE: Friday, 20 February 2004
TIME: 09h30 – 17h35
VENUE: Department of Physics, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein

1 OPENING

The President of the SAIP, Prof. Zingu, chaired the meeting and welcomed all present to Bloemfontein.

2 ATTENDANCE

Present: Dr. N. Chetty, Dr. S.H. Connell, Prof. J.A.A. Engelbrecht (Treasurer), Prof. W.D. Heiss, Prof. H Moraal (Vice-President), Miss. J. Padayachee (Secretary), Dr PA Whitelock, Prof. EC Zingu (President and Chair)

Apologies: Prof. D.J. Grayson

3 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION UNDER "GENERAL"

There were no items added for discussion.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Council **considered and approved** the minutes of meeting R163 held on 24 October 2003 at Mangosuthu Technikon, Durban.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes, that have not been captured under normal agenda points.

6 SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PHYSICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

6.1 Update

Final arrangements are underway in respect of the site visits that have been scheduled and individuals and organizations that have been invited to meet with the International Panel. The composition of the International Panel is as follows:

Prof Manfred A Hellberg, University of KwaZulu-Natal, SA (Convenor)

Prof Krish Bharuth-Ram, University of KwaZulu-Natal, SA

Prof Martial Ducloy, Universite Paris-Nord, France

Dr Kenneth Evans-Lutterodt, Lucent Technologies, USA

Prof S Jim Gates, University of Maryland, USA

Dr Igle MA Gledhill, CSIR, SA

Prof Guebre X `Tessema, NSF, USA

Sir Arnold W Wolfendale, Royal Institution of Great Britain, UK

The draft report (strategic plan) will be submitted on 19 March 2004 and the final report will be completed by early April. The draft report is to be handed to the MPC on Friday 19 March 2004.

6.2 Strategy for Meeting with International Panel on 8 March 2004

It was agreed that the President would make a short presentation to the International Panel at the meeting on 8 March 2004. The content of the presentation will be decided upon once all Council members have had an opportunity to review the documents provided to the International Panel. Prof. Zingu has a CD with copies of all the documents on it.

The documents will be placed on the SAIP web-site for Council members to download. Suggestions for the presentation must be sent to Prof. Zingu before Friday, 27 February 2004.

6.3 Other Matters

It was decided that Council should meet sometime in April 2004 to discuss how the outcomes of the report by the International Panel should be implemented.

It was also agreed that a press release about the Panel should be prepared in advance of the Panel's arrival as well as that a press conference should be arranged for 19 April 2004, when the report is handed over. The NRF media liaison and Technical Committee will be contacted to assist.

Action: Secretary

7 FINANCIAL MATTERS

7.1 Treasurer's Report

Currently, the financial status of the Institute is healthy, especially after receiving the profit from the Conference hosted by the University of Stellenbosch (R 50 859). The treasurer however remains somewhat concerned about membership fees still owed by members, in particular those who are in arrears :

1. Arrears 2002. Currently 52 members still owe their membership for 2002 – this is down from 74 members reported at the previous meeting of Council. A total of R 3 478 is owed. Despite many reminders by email and ordinary mail, the membership of these members will probably have to be terminated according to Bylaw 2.3 of the Constitution.
2. Arrears 2003. A total of 126 (down from 180 at previous meeting) members are still owing their 2003 membership, totalling R 19 780. (The 52 of point 1 above is part of this number and amount). The number/amount may be slightly less, since I still receive payments, without any names or invoice numbers on them, and therefore cannot assign such payments to a particular member. The amounts due will appear as "in arrears" on the invoices to be sent out early March to members for the 2004 membership fees.

It was decided that SAIP members in arrears would be given formal notice that their membership would be terminated by the end of April 2004 if they did not pay their membership fees.

Balance of Accounts as of 7 February 2004

Current Account : R 33 558.57

32-Day Call account : R 136 112.32

A source of great frustration for the Treasurer was the lack of response from the IoP, despite many emails. However, a response was obtained from the IoP just before the meeting of Council.

7.2 Professional Fees and the SARS

The section of the Income Tax Act, which prohibits the deduction against employment income is section 23(m) which applies from 1 March 2002. However the subscriptions may be deductible against professional non-employment income provided the expenditure is in the production of that income.

It was decided that the Academy of Sciences would be asked to approach the Revenue Service regarding the new legislation that made membership fees to professional societies non-deductible.

Action: Treasurer

8 CONFERENCE MATTERS

8.1 Conference Committee

Council provided feedback on the first draft of the report by the Conference Committee. The Committee was thanked for their efforts.

8.2 General Conferences

8.2.1 International Conference on Physics Education, 5-8 July 2003, Durban

The organisation of the ICPE-SAIP International Physics Education conference is going well. A conference website has been set up at <http://www.interaction.nu.ac.za/ICPE2004/>. There is a link to it from the SAIP website. The deadline for paper summaries is 16 February. IUPAP has granted \$4500 for travel grants for participants from developing countries, and UNESCO has added another \$3000 for the same purpose. Six plenary speakers have been invited from different countries: the USA, France, UK, Malaysia and Israel. A seventh speaker is still needed, who we hope will be South African. An international advisory committee provided input on the structure of the conference, and will referee

submissions. The conference has been advertised through several international email physics education discussion groups and websites, as well as through the SAIP, ICPE newsletter, European Science Education Research Association, National Association for Research in Science Teaching (USA based), Southern African Association for Research in Mathematics, Science and Technology Education, American Association of Physics Teachers and Asian Physics Education Network. The services of conference organisers at the University of KwaZulu Natal have been engaged, and Sandile Malinga and Sadha Pillay from the two Durban physics departments are coordinating with them and taking care of the local organisation. The conference will begin with a welcoming reception in the evening of July 4 at the University of KZN and end with a conference dinner in the evening on 8 July.

8.2.2 Possible Clash of Conferences

Concern was expressed at the clash between the 2004 Annual SAIP Conference to be held 29 June to 2 July 2004 in Bloemfontein and the COSPAR/IAU Regional Workshop for African Astronomers and Space Scientists to be held from 28 June to 9 July 2004 in Durban.

8.3 Stellenbosch 2003

The report from a very successful Stellenbosch conference was noted. The President will formally contact the organisers to convey the Council's congratulations and thanks. It was agreed that a special word of thanks should go to Prof. P. Walters for all his efforts in organising the conference.

Action: Secretary/President

8.4 Bloemfontein 2004

The organisers of the 2004 Annual SAIP conference joined the meeting at this point. Prof. H. Swart introduced the members from his department who were involved in the organisation of the conference and presented a short report on progress of conference organisation. Venues have been booked and plenary speakers as well as speakers for the non-specialist lectures were finalised. Accommodation has been booked and approval of conference registration fees was requested. The organisers also expressed concern over the banquet being held on the Friday night. Prof. Swart reported that the web-site would be ready around the second week of March.

Council emphasised the importance of (a) a well-structured poster session and (b) that the organisers work together with the chairs of the specialist groups to put the programme together.

Council was pleased with the progress made thus far and approved the recommended conference registration fees. The organisers were thanked for their efforts as well as for hosting the meeting. It was decided to make the report of the 2003 conference available to the 2004 conference organisers.

Dr. Whitelock will liaise with the NRF regarding funding of guests from Africa.

Action: Whitelock

Formal letters of invitation would be sent to the final two plenary speakers.

Action: Secretary/President

The organisers reported that De Beers had informed them that 2004 would be the last year that the banquet would be sponsored by De Beers. A confirmation must be obtained from De Beers.

Action: Connell

8.5 Pretoria 2005

A formal invitation to host the 2005 Annual SAIP conference has still not been received.

Action: Whitelock

8.6 2006 Annual SAIP Conference

Council noted the offer to host the 2006 Annual SAIP conference by Dr. S. Singh from the Department of Physics at the University of Namibia in Windhoek. It was decided that Dr. Singh would be forwarded the Guidelines for Conference Organisers as well as a copy of the programme of the 2003 conference. Dr. Singh would also be requested to provide a formal invitation, on behalf of the University of Namibia, to host the conference.

Action: Secretary

Dr. Whitelock will approach the University of the Western Cape to host the 2006 conference if the University of Namibia is unable to handle a conference of the magnitude of the SAIP conferences.

Action: Whitelock

8.7 2007 Annual SAIP Conference

Dr. Connell was still working on getting the School of Physics at the University of the Witwatersrand to agree to host the 2007 Annual SAIP conference.

9 COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

9.1 Awards Committee (WDH)

The closing date for nominations for the 2004 De Beers Gold Medal was Friday, 27 February 2004. It was agreed that the Secretary should send out a reminder to members on Monday, 23 February 2004.

9.2 Education Committee

Nothing to report in light of Prof. Grayson's absence.

9.3 Marketing Committee (SHC)

Dr. Connell reported on progress made by Mr. K. Govender on the following projects:

1. Necs-a-ODT Science clubs:

This project has been progressing well - a core group of 12 schools have been set aside and the ODT has been providing support to their science clubs. Meetings have been held discussing the way forward and the plans for 2004. The interim decision has been made that this body would focus on the schools that are within their reach (around 12 to 15) and focus on developing these science clubs much more. The major event for the year would be the Necs-a Science Club Day which proved to be most successful in 2003. This event would be held towards the end of September

2. Necs-a Science Club Day:

This was an extremely successful event held on 22 September 2003. Schools in the North West were invited to bring the members of their science clubs to Necs-a where we organised a programme of talks, demonstrations and question-and-answer sessions. Exhibitions were displayed by HartRAO, SAASTA and Necs-a. The event was attended by over 440 learners and teachers who were all provided with a light lunch. The demonstrations were performed using mainly the equipment from the Emasondosondo trailer. The highlight of the day was the talks by the respective science clubs who were given the floor to speak about activities they were currently involved in and the vision they had for their science clubs. There was great excitement and motivation generated and feedback was very positive. It has been decided to make this an annual event. If more companies followed this route then this would form a good tool for sustaining and monitoring the progress of science clubs.

3. SAASTA Teachers Forum

On Saturday 24 January 2004 Mr. Govender was invited by Detlef Basel of SAASTA to attend a teachers forum meeting to talk about science clubs. There was an attendance of around 30 science teachers from all over Gauteng and its outskirts. Mr. Govender gave a 30 minute talk about the concept of science clubs and the motivation to have such clubs in place. The response was extremely positive and it resulted in the sending out of guidelines for starting science clubs to each of the schools that were represented (costs of postage was covered by Necs-a). The next teachers' forum will be held on 28th Feb 2004 and I will attend to receive feedback on clubs that have been started since the last meeting. These teachers' forums are organised and co-ordinated by Detlef Basel and SAASTA and is definitely an effort worth supporting.

Dr Connell also reported that development of the Emasondosondo project was continuing and that Mr. Govender was liaising with the Organisers to host learners in a parallel session at the 2004 SAIP Conference.

10 PORTFOLIOS OF COUNCIL

10.1 Communication (JP)

10.1.1 Newsletter

There has been 2 issues of the newsletter since the last meeting, with the February 2004 significantly longer than usual. This was due to two factors: an increase in the number of submissions as well as many people submitting contributions that were too long. The editor has expressed concern over the length of submissions and will be stricter about the length of contributions for the next edition, due out in May 2004.

10.1.2 Web-site

As of 13 February 2004, there were 2520 hits on the web-site. A request to HoDs for information on recent graduates (to be posted on the web-site) has amounted to nothing.

10.1.3 Communication with Members

Items that are of interest to members but which would be out of date for the newsletter are emailed out as they arrive.

10.2 Role and Function of the SAIP (NC)

Council discussed the proposals for a mission and vision statement for the SAIP. A mission statement was agreed upon. The statement would read: "The mission of the SAIP is to be the voice of Physics in South Africa".

Dr. Connell will combine a few of the proposed vision statements and submit this to Dr. Chetty.

Goals for the SAIP will be discussed at a future meeting.

Dr. Chetty reported that the next step would be to put together some terms of reference for the Specialist Groups. These guidelines would be reviewed by Council before being circulated amongst the Specialist Group chairs.

10.3 Industrial Liaison

Discussed in 11.1 below.

10.4 Fund-Raising (ECZ)

Nothing to report.

11 SPECIALIST GROUPS

11.1 Applied Physics Interest Group

Council noted the resignation of the chair of APIG, Dr. D. Raubenheimer, tendered on 19 February 2004, effective immediately.

Shaping the Future of Physics in South Africa will include input from physicists in industry and the decision about an SAIP industrial liaison as well as the future of APIG will be carried over to after the International Panel's report has been released.

The proposal by Prof. J. Engelbrecht, the chair of the Condensed Matter and Materials Science Group, to temporarily coordinate the activities of APIG was accepted.

11.2 Astrophysics and Space Science

Nothing to report

11.3 Condensed Matter and Materials Science

The report from the chair, Prof. J. Engelbrecht, was noted.

11.4 Education

Nothing to report

11.5 Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy

Nothing to report

11.6 Nuclear, Particle and Radiation Physics

Nothing to report

11.7 Theoretical Physics

Nothing to report

12 SAIP AFFILIATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

12.1 Representations

12.1.1 SACNASP

Nothing to report

12.1.2 SAASTA

Nothing to report

12.1.3 NSTF

Dr. J. Hlongwane, CEO of the NSTF, gave a presentation about the NSTF, as well as the new NSTF science awards sponsored by the NRF and Eskom. Dr. Hlongwane requested assistance from the SAIP in developing NSTF strategies regarding Science and Technology. Dr. Hlongwane was thanked for taking the time to attend the SAIP Council meeting in Bloemfontein.

12.2 Affiliations

12.2.1 General

Memoranda of agreement has been signed with the Australian Institute of Physics and the Astronomical Society of South Africa.

The President has contacted the South African Acoustics Institute to meet for discussions regarding how the SAIP can assist the SAAI to improve the status of acoustics.

13 INTERNATIONAL LIAISON

13.1 AIP's History of Physics in South Africa

This item will be removed from the agenda as the project has been scaled down to a History of the SAIP (see 15.8 below). The AIP has been informed of the change.

13.2 IUPAP

Prof. Zingu's report on IUPAP activities was noted.

14 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

14.1 New Members since last meeting (new, Upgrades)

DR KT Hillie (O) - Upgrade	Mr. D.D. Van Niekerk (S)	Mr. F.J. Mundalamo (O)
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14.2 Membership Statistics as at

BY CATEGORY		By Specialist Area		
Honorary Members	12	Applied and Industrial Physics	30	73
Emeritus	11	Astrophysics	61	13
Ordinary Members	272	Education	30	53
Associate	19	Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy	35	27
Student	111	Nuclear, Radiation and Particle Physics	63	30
Retired	21	Plasma Physics	5	7
Institutional	3	Solar-Terrestrial & Space Physics	16	19
Honorary Institutional	1	Solid State Physics and Material Science	139	38
Total Members	450	Theoretical Physics	25	29
		General	7	21

14.3 Lifetime Membership

Lifetime membership is not catered for in the constitution.

15 PHYSICS 2005

15.1 Report on WYP2005

The preparations for WYP 2005 are progressing very slowly.

The Department of Science and Technology will coordinate a steering committee although this has not been confirmed in writing. Contact persons: Ms Anati Canca and Dr Seekoe.

The National Science Week for 2004 (organised by SAASTA) will be used to publicize WYP 2005. SAASTA will communicate with the physics community. Contact person: Ms Leslie Di Santolo

Funding for activities for 2005 are crucial and will be addressed once the steering committee has been established.

The International Steering Committee for WYP 2005 will be meeting at the APS March meeting in Montreal. A second preparatory workshop for WYP 2005 will be held in Montreal as well.

WYP 2005 in Africa

The following activities in South Africa will give special attention to physics in Africa:

- Participants from countries in Africa at the 50th Annual Conference of the SAIP
- General Assembly of IUPAP in Cape Town
- World Conference on Physics and Sustainable Development in Durban.

The Science and Technology Desk of the NEPAD Secretariat has been approached to facilitate the interaction between physicists in Africa.

Prof. Moraal will be co-ordinating activities for the SAIP. A formal agreement of support is needed from the Departments of Science & Technology and Education.

15.2 Physics in the *South African Journal of Science* in 2005

Prof. Moraal submitted a proposal for the *South African Journal of Science* (SAJS) in collaboration with the South African Institute of Physics (SAIP), to give special attention to the publication of Physics in 2005, including a special commemorative issue in July 2005 that will be devoted to Physics. **Approved**

15.3 SAIP 50th Conference – Pretoria

Discussed under item 8.5 above.

15.4 IUPAP General Assembly 2005

Nothing to report

15.5 UNESCO World Conference on Physics and Sustainable Development

The main organising organisations are: UNESCO, IUPAP, ICTP and SAIP. UNESCO and IUPAP have committed themselves financially.

An International Advisory Committee is being established and is expected to include Prof F. Nabarro and Dr R Adam.

Funding from South Africa to be included in the WYP 2005 request to Government.

15.6 Regional Activities – Public

The list of activities will be refined once the steering committee functions.

15.7 Regional Activities – Schools

The list of activities will be refined once the steering committee functions and the Department of Education has been fully briefed.

15.8 History of the SAIP

Prof. Heiss is trying to obtain the necessary documents from Prof. F. Hahne. A further report will be made at the next meeting.

15.9 Update on Commemorative Stamp

Dineo Poo of Philatelic Services informed Prof. Moraal that the SAIP's application for the stamp issue to mark the World Year of Physics in 2005 (and serve our purpose of advertising the SAIP on its 50th anniversary along with it) will be considered by the appropriate committee on 26 February 2004.

16 GENERAL

16.1 Logo Competition

Council decided on a shortlist of 4 designs to the logo competition. These will now be displayed on the SAIP web-site and members will be given the opportunity to vote for their choice. It was agreed that voting will be electronic and will be restricted to fully paid-up members of all membership categories. Members will be given the opportunity to vote for 1 month between 15 March and 15 April 2004 and the winner will be announced at the 2004 conference banquet on 2 July 2004. Suggestions for secure voting should be submitted to the Secretary before 7 March 2004.

Action: Everyone

16.2 Advertising in Physics Text Book

The offer made by Dr. M. Govender for the SAIP to place an advert in a physics text book aimed at high school learners was rejected.

Action: Secretary

16.3 Advanced Physics Forums

It was decided that the URL would be circulated to student members.

Action: Secretary

16.4 New Journal of Physics Proposal

Dr. Connell's suggestion was accepted. The SAIP supports the concepts behind the NJP and it is appreciated that this support is recognised by a reduction in the article charge for SAIP members. However, the SAIP sees no

sense in participating in a scheme which essentially pays up front for a certain number of articles per year, because:

1. This would bind the SAIP members submitting a minimum number of articles per year. This is in contradiction with the openness of the NJP as it removes some choice.
2. The publishing costs are not so severe that a researcher is excluded. The NRF has sufficient funding streams to cater for researchers from many categories of entry into the system to access funding.
3. It is an inappropriate expense for the SAIP at this stage. It is not a priority to fund a journal against other claims on our resources at this stage. The SAIP's support of the concept by Association is appropriate and will be promoted amongst our membership.

Action: Secretary

16.5 Misconduct in Science

The article from the South African Journal of Science was noted.

16.6 PBMR

Dr. Connell presented problems associated with the PMBR project, from the research point of view. He felt that there was still much research that needed to be done. It was decided that the SAIP should approach the PBMR company to ascertain whether the questions raised by Dr. Connell have been researched sufficiently.

Action: Connell

16.7 South African Light Source

Dr. Connell presented a short overview of the proposal to develop a synchrotron research facility in South African and requested that the SAIP endorse the project. It was decided that the International Panel will deal with the issue in their investigations.

17 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in April 2004, after the report of the International Panel has been released.

18 CLOSURE

Prof. Zingu thanked all Council members for attending the meeting. The meeting closed at 17h35.

MISS J PADAYACHEE

Secretary

PROF. E.C. ZINGU

President

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