



R170

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SAIP
WITH CHAIRPERSONS OF THE SPECIALIST GROUPS**

DATE: 5 July 2005

TIME: 13:00-14:00

VENUE: 5-42, Natural Sciences Building, University of Pretoria, Pretoria

1. OPENING AND WELCOME

Prof. Zingu chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He invited those present to introduce themselves.

2. ATTENDANCE

Name	Representing	Email
EC Zingu	President, SAIP (Chairperson)	zingu@julian.mantec.ac.za
D.N.W. Chinnery	Temporary Secretary	dennisn@telkomsa.net
JAA Engelbrecht	CMPMS/ Applied and Industrial /Council	Japie.Engelbrecht@nmmu.ac.za
H. Moraal	Council	fskhm@puk.ac.za
D. Grayson	Council	dgrayson@absamail.co.za
PA Whitelock	Council	paw@sao.ac.za
C. Rijdsdijk	Education	particles@mweb.co.za
S. Goedhart	Astrophysics and Space Science	sharmila@hartrao.ac.za
EG Rohwer	Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy	egr@sun.ac.za
F. Frescura	Astrophysics and Space Science	frescuraf@physics.wits.ac.za
Z.Z. Vilakazi	Nuclear, Particle & Radiation	vzzv@tlabs.ac.za
N. Chetty	Council	chettyn@nkzn.ac.za
SH Connell	Council	connell@src.wits.ac.za
W.D. Heiss	Council	dieter@physics.sun.ac.za
H Geyer	Theoretical Physics	hbq@sun.ac.za

Apologies

K.A. Meyer, J. Padayachee

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no corrections to the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2004.

4. SHAPING THE FUTURE OF PHYSICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Prof. Zingu thanked the Specialist Groups for their feedback to this document. He outlined the progress to date and explained that the document is now extremely urgent and needs to be finalised before the end of July so that it can be submitted via the NRF to DST to be included in their budget.

Dr. Rohwer enquired whether a date had been set for feedback from DST. The response was no, but DST would have to include such a date in their budget. Prof. Zingu added that DST has already provided seed money to Theoretical Physics. Dr. Rohwer reported that Lasers, Optics and Spectroscopy are proceeding with their laser project and that overseas scientists would help to get the project off the ground.

5. GUIDELINES FOR SPECIALIST GROUPS

Dr. Chetty stated that since sending out his proposed guidelines for the Specialist Groups last year there has been very little feedback. He emphasized that the guidelines should not be regarded as an increase in bureaucracy and requested the Groups to discuss the matter further. He drew attention to the following points:

- Groups should be well constituted.
- Elections should be transparent.
- Terms of reference relevant to each Group need to be established.
- A list of goals is required.
- Advertise what Specialist Groups do so that younger members can identify with Groups.
- Individual websites would be advantageous.
- Specialist Groups should play a role in the quality and standard of presentations.
- Specialist Groups should generally engage more actively in matters that concern them.

6. REPORTS

None of the Specialist Groups had been able to complete their reports because their AGMs were scheduled after the meeting. It was decided to refer to the reports when they are included in the AGM of the SAIP.

7. GENERAL

7.1 Communication

Dr. Whitelock reported that communication with the organizers of the conference was a problem this year. Prof. Geyer agreed and added that the organizers should not easily override the recommendations of the Groups. Prof. Zingu stated that Council would convey this to future organizers.

7.2 S. A. J. Science

Prof. Moraal reported that the commemorative issue of the journal would not be ready by Thursday and that he would consult the editor to find out when it will be available.

7.3 IUPAP

Prof. Zingu reported that the General Assembly of IUPAP would be held in Cape Town during the last week of October 2005. Delegates would be visiting the iThemba laboratories on 27 Oct. where it is planned that four S.A. physicists would give presentations on any suitable topics (nuclear physics would be excluded). He requested the Chairs of the Specialist Groups to propose names of suitable speakers. He added that the names are required as soon as possible in order to give the speakers time to prepare.

Prof. Engelbrecht suggested Prof. P. Ngoepe as a possible speaker.

7.4 Nuclear, Particle and Radiation website

Dr. Vilakazi explained that funding for their website was not yet available as their corporate sponsor had not yet come forward with money. Prof. Engelbrecht indicated that R1 000 could be advanced.

8. CLOSURE

The meeting closed shortly after 14:00.