

Minutes of the SACLA 2015 Annual General Meeting held on 3 July 2015 at Maboneng Precinct, Johannesburg

Present

Chair: Emma Coleman (Wits)

Judy Backhouse (Wits)

Susan Benvenuti (Wits)

André Calitz (NMMU)

Jason Cohen (Wits)

Helene Gelderblom (UP)

Mitchell Hughes (Wits)

Jan Kroeze (Unisa)

Linda Marshall (UP)

Vreda Pieterse (UP)

Colin Pilkington (Unisa)

Ian Sanders (Unisa)

Lisa Seymour (UCT)

Linda Spark (Wits)

Anitta Thomas (Unisa)

Walter Uys (NWU)

Judy van Biljon (Unisa)

Ruth Wario (UFS)

Apologies

Jean Greyling (NMMU)

Craig Marais (Rhodes)

Brian McArthur (UKZN)

Jane Nash (Rhodes)

Nompilo Tshuma (Rhodes)

Mc Donald van der Merwe (Unisa)

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for attending. Apologies were noted.

2. Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the SACLA 2014 AGM were confirmed.

3. Chair's Report

Emma presented the SACLA 2015 Chair's Report.

4. SACLA Constitution

Proposed by André

- The idea of an executive committee for SACLA in order to ensure continuity and control.
- To comprise 3 chairpersons at any point in time – the previous year's, present year's and following year's.
- Will enable flow of information and control from one organizing committee to the next.
- Treasurer Role (of Executive Committee) to manage the R70 000 (reserve fund) and R30 000 (seed fund).
- There is a distinction between role and incumbent of Executive Committee Treasurer and Conference Treasurer.
- Final report from any Organising Committee to include a Financial Report to the Executive Committee Treasurer.

Discussion

- There was a discussion around the fact that SACLA does not have a bank account, so each year the hosts have to arrange an account. The suggestion was to have the money regulated under the SAICSIT account to allow for FICA compliance, although this was regarded as not an ideal arrangement.
- There was support for a more permanent structure for SACLA.
- All employees teaching CS or IS courses in all universities would be equal members and could all make decisions in that year.
- The proposal was supported by Jason and Jan.
- There was also support for SAICSIT to be the home for the SACLA bank account – this is to be trialed for 1 year.
- There was a further proposal to have two financial reports annually
 - i. Executive Committee report – reporting on reserve fund and seed money
 - ii. Conference Financial Report – detailing finances for the particular conference
- All proposals supported and André will post updates regarding the changes on the website.

5. SACLA Executive

SACLA 2015 Executive: André Calitz (NMMU - SACLA 2014 Chair), Emma Coleman (Wits - SACLA 2015 Chair), Ken Halland (UNISA), Linda Marshall (UP - SACLA 2016 Chair), Lisa Seymour (UCT).

Membership and Roles for the Executive Committee going forward into 2016

- André as treasurer (incoming, and outgoing chair)
- Lisa as secretary (incoming)
- Linda as chair (incoming)

6. SACLA Finances

Mitchell Hughes presented the financial report for SACLA 2015. Mention was made of non-payment, or non-timeous payment by delegates.

7. SACLA Website

Discussions were held relating to the SACLA website that is currently hosted by Rhodes and maintained by George Wells. The website should contain all SACLA documentation to ensure historical records are kept and to enable transparency. The website should be updated and modernized.

8. SACLA M&D

- Jason presented the model of the Masters and Doctoral Symposium as held during SACLA 2015.
- The opportunity to encourage future /aspiring academics was identified, giving exposure to the SACLA community.
- Students, supervisors and academics participated.
- Was seen as “fun”: light and interactive – should be supportive, encouraging and provide students with meaningful feedback.
- This year was undersubscribed so the symposium was held as part of main conference.
- There appears to be some confusion or competition with SAICSIT, which is not the intention.
- Suggested that Associates also be part of this symposium, not only Masters and Doctoral students.
- A first-time attendee discount was proposed, but left for next year’s committee to decide.

9. Future SACLA Events and Chairs

There were no nominations for 2018(?), but André will communicate with all Heads of Departments; Lisa Seymour to be contacted if necessary.

Discussions were raised around Southern African countries and their participation and desire to host, as there were no external delegates this year.

10. General/AOB

No issues were raised.

11. Closure

Lisa proposed a vote of thanks and congratulations to Emma and the organising committee.

Emma thanked colleagues and sponsors. Thanks were extended for the Lego and blanket donations.