



Minutes for SACLA 2025 AGM meeting

Date: 1 August 2025

Venue: Tuscan Rose, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

AGENDA

1. Attendance register:

Estelle Taylor (NWU), Janet Liebenberg (NWU), Dimitrius Keykaan (NWU), Alfred Mazorodze (Belgium Campus), Dirk Snyman (UCT), Rouxan Fouché (UFS), Bennie Botha (UFS), Suezette Opperman (UFS), Tanya Stott (UFS), Fungai NORA MUKORA (UniZim), Eduan Kotzé (UFS), Thipe Modipa (UniLim), Annelise du Preez (NMU), Jocelyne Smith (UFS), Lebeko Poulo (UCT), Mikayla Suraya Seedat (UCT), Sue Petratos (NMU), Adewuyi Adegbite (UFS), Carolien van den Berg (UWC), Andre Zitzke (SAS), Tihlohelo Nkalai (UFS), Shannon Ryan-Thurston (ORACLE), Liezel Nel (UFS), Johan Smith (MicroZone), Melissa Makalima (NMU), Tendani Chimboza (UCT), Wesley Moonsamy (UP), Tapiwa Gundu (NMU), Japie Greeff (Belgium Campus), Jan Mentz (Belgium Campus)

2. Apologies

- Andre Calitz (NMU, SACLA Past President)

3. Welcome

- Prof Estelle Taylor (SACLA President)

4. Approval of the minutes of AGM meeting held at the Boardwalk Hotel, Port Elizabeth, South Africa on 19 July 2024.

5. SACLA 2025 Committee (Executive Committee – 3-year term: 2024-2026)

- SACLA President: Estelle Taylor (NWU)
 - SACLA Past President: André Calitz (NMU)
 - SACLA Secretary: Janet Liebenberg (NWU)
 - SACLA Treasurer: Bobby Tait (Unisa)
 - SACLA 2024 Conference Chair: Lynn Fitcher (NMU)
 - SACLA 2025 Conference Chair: Bennie Botha (UFS)
 - SACLA 2026 Conference chair: Dirk Snyman (UCT)
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- Estelle Taylor (SACLA President) and Bobby Tait (SACLA Treasurer) were nominated and elected for another term.

Note: Secretary election in 2026.

6. Conference Chair report

- Conference chair: Bennie Botha; Programme Chair: Liezel Nel.
- Bennie Botha provided a detailed summary of the SACLA 2025 conference and organisation.
- 54 registrations from 16 universities
- 37 papers, 24 accepted (9 Springer, 15 Proceedings, 2 WIP).
- Awards: 3 x Best papers and 3 x Best reviewers.
- Conference organiser: Renée le Roux (Mongoose)
- Bennie thanked the SACLA 2025 organising committee and sponsors for their efforts in making the 2025 conference a success. Special recognition was given to session chairs and support staff.

7. Financial reports

Item	Expense	Income
Venue	(R121 155.00)	
Technical setup/AV	(R45 297.00)	
Gifts and Bags	(R84 000.00)	
Conference organisation	(R130 000.00)	
Expected additional expense	(R26 000.00)	
Sponsor Income (Received and Expected)		R311 806.00
Seed Funding		R40 000.00
Registration Fees (Received and Expected)		R140 750.00
Totals	(R406 452.00)	R492 556.00
Conference Surplus/(Deficit)		R86 104.00

Outstanding registration payments were noted but are expected to be resolved soon.

8. SACLA Conference statistics

Year	Host	Total papers	Accepted	Springer	Proceedings	WIP	Attendees
2017	NWU	63	40 (63%)	22 (35%)	18 (29%)	0	
2018	UCT	77	47 (61%)	23 (30%)	24 (31%)	0	
2019	UNISA	59	27 (46%)	16 (27%)	11 (19%)	4	58
2020	RU	55	20 (38%)	13 (24%)	8 (15%)	6	110 virtual
2021	UJ	22	10 (43%)	10 (43%)	0	0	72 virtual
2022	US	31	10 (32%)	10 (32%)	0	0	40
2023	NWU	43	24 (59%)	10 (24%)	12 (28%)	0	45+
2024	NMU	53	31 (57%)	10 (19%)	20 (38%)	1	86
2025	UFS	37	24 (65%)	9 (24%)	15 (41%)	2	54+-

9. Future SACLA hostings

- 2026 – UCT (Dirk Snyman) (SACLA/SAICSIT/AISEC)
- 2027 – WITS (Martin Klein) (SACLA/SAICSIT/AISEC)
- 2028 – UKZN (Upasana Singh) (SACLA/SAICSIT/AISEC)

10. SACLA 2026 (UCT)

- SACLA hosts: Dirk Snyman, Tendani Chimboza, Walter Uys
- SACLA and SAICSIT hosted by UCT School of IT - Department of Information Systems and Department of Computer Science
- Location: The UCT GSB Conference centre. Protea Breakwater Hotel.
- Conference dates: 15-17 July 2026. (SAICSIT 13-15 July 2026).

11. Constitution changes

- Changes to the Constitution proposed in 2026 to incorporate formal membership processes. This will include defining membership criteria and benefits.

12. SACLA publications

- Delays in Springer publication were discussed due to dependencies on previous publications.
- Deadlines for final paper submissions were adjusted to accommodate system constraints.

13. SACLA website

The website (www.sacla.org) was reported as inaccessible during the meeting. Estelle Taylor will follow up on this issue to resolve it promptly.

- Managed by George Wells (Rhodes)
- SACLA Documentation on www.SACLA.org.za
- SACLA conference organisation documentation

14. SACLA membership

- Google list (sacla1@googlegroups.com) managed by Mac van der Merwe (Unisa)
- A proposal was discussed to formalise membership for the organisation. This includes introducing annual membership, setting eligibility criteria (e.g., a four-year degree in a relevant field or equivalent qualifications), and ensuring a more structured process for joining.
- Membership Benefits: Members will receive notifications about job vacancies, reports on educational issues, and updates on relevant articles (e.g., generative AI in education). Collaboration opportunities among members were also emphasised.

15. HoD Colloquium

- Chaired by Estelle Taylor.
- The HoD meeting was highlighted as successful, with 21 attendees from 12 institutions. Discussions included generative AI in education and plans for collaborative efforts to develop resources for universities.
- A meeting is planned within the next two months to collaborate on developing resources for generative AI in education.

16. IITPSA

- SACLA is working on formalising its collaboration with the IITPSA through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance mutual benefits. This includes mutual support initiatives and exploring joint projects, such as the accreditation processes.
- The new academic professional membership category under IITPSA was discussed.
- Mr. Kelvin Nhlapo represented IITPSA at the conference but could not attend the AGM.

17. SACAB

- Committee representation – SACLA, SAICSIT, HoD's and IITPSA.
- Accreditation of degree and diploma qualifications.
- SACLA has allocated funds for the work done by SACAB.

18. Closure

As there was no further business, Estelle Taylor thanked all members for their attendance and input.