



South African Society for Engineering Education

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Minutes of the 5th Biennial General Meeting held at the UCT Graduate School of Business, Cape Town on Thursday, 11 July 2019, 17h00

1. Opening and Welcoming

Prof Deborah Blaine, president of SASEE, welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. Attendance and apologies

No apologies were noted. Attendance was not recorded, but according to Article 6 Section 1 d) of our constitution, quorum was met for the election of the board.

3. Minutes of previous biennial and special general meetings

The minutes of the 4th biennial general meeting, held on 14 June 2017, Cape Town Lodge Hotel, Cape Town, (Annexure A) were accepted by the meeting, proposed by James Swart and seconded by Zachary Simpson.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Review of activities of the past two years

Debbie Blaine gave an overview of the significant activities of SASEE during the last two years (2017-2019).

4.1.1 Research Grant Programme

The research grant programme, announced following the 2017 conference, provided funding for two emerging engineering education researchers to produce new research to be presented at the 2019 conference. The two grant awards were:

- Teresa Hatting (Wits), with the paper *Why lecturers in an engineering school assess the way they do*
- Tinashe Tendayi, et al, with the paper *Re-thinking the Industrial Engineering Curriculum in Light of Technological Changes*

4.1.2 Workshops

SASEE helped promote the masterclass workshop series funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training, the UK Royal Academy of Engineering, and the UK Newton Fund. Additionally, two SASEE workshops were run:

- Engineering in Context – 1 June, 2018 – Protea Hotel, Durbanville
- Assessment for Accreditation – 26 February, 2019 – Birchwood Hotel, Johannesburg

4.1.3 Biennial Conference

The 2019 joint SASEE/REES conference was coordinated with conference chair Bruce Kloot (UCT), and was envisioned as an inclusive, accessible, and welcoming environment for emerging engineering education researchers.

4.1.4 Membership

Prior to the biennial conference there were approximately 130 SASEE members. Membership during the upcoming cycle will be determined based on the current conference attendance.

5 Financial status

5.1 Current account balances

President Deborah Blaine presented the current SASEE account balances:

- Current account: **R22 211.70 (21 June 2019)**
- 30-day call account: **R586 030.35 (17 June 2019)**

5.2 Tax registration/exemption

President Deborah Blaine presented the current status of the process to register SASEE appropriately with SARS, in the correct category of non-profit organisation. SASEE has employed CHConsulting to complete and submit the required documentation. The registration process has seemingly contradictory procedural requirements, but SASEE continues to pursue tax-exempt status.

5.3 Financial statements

President Deborah Blaine noted that no audited financial statements were available to present at the BGM because of the need to re-compile financial statements on an annual basis. This post-review is currently in progress.

6 Election of 2019-2021 president

As Prof Keith Jacobs (UNISA) was the only candidate nominated for the office of president, no vote for president was conducted and his role of president for the upcoming term, 2019-2021, is confirmed.

It was noted that Prof Deborah Blaine retains her position on the board as immediate past president.

7 Inaugural comments

During the counting of the votes for board membership, Prof Keith Jacobs offered some comments on the vision and direction for SASEE in the coming two-year term:

- A renewed emphasis on long-term financial stability, with a goal of R1 000 000 of investment funds
- Opportunities for engagement with ECSA and other stakeholders, including potential contract research in engineering education and accreditation support

Prof Keith Jacobs invited former SASEE president Prof Jenni Case (Virginia Tech) to speak. Prof Jenni Case commented on the surprising and inspiring growth of SASEE and the South African engineering education community, beginning at a small meeting at ECSA through to the current membership and status. Prof Keith Jacobs also commented on the introduction of outcomes-based education in the South African engineering education system around the year 2000, and the continued need for improved practice and understanding of the approach.

8 Election of 2019-2021 board members

Voting by secret ballot was conducted for the remaining candidates nominated for general board positions. The five candidates with the most votes were elected to the board; they are (in alphabetical order):

- Prof Johnson Carroll (UJ)
- Prof Brandon Collier-Reed (UCT)
- Dr Disaapele Mogashana (UNISA)
- Mr Eudes Tshitshonu (VUT)
- Dr Karin Wolff (Independent)

9 Any other business

9.1 Upcoming WEEF/GEDC 2020 conference in Cape Town

It was noted that the University of Pretoria and SASEE are hosting the 2020 WEEF/GEDC conference, to be held at the ICC in Cape Town. This international conference presents opportunities both for South African researchers as well as for the engineering education community to have a significant impact.

9.2 Thanks for Prof Deborah Blaine's term as president

Johnson Carroll invited the attendees to thank Prof Deborah Blaine for her term as president and for the substantial contributions she has made to SASEE in the last two years.

10 Closure