

MINUTES OF THE 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT THE INKOSI ALBERT LUTHULI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (ICC), DURBAN

1. OPENING

At 16:30 the President, Prof Sumaya Laher (in the Chair), welcomed PsySSA members and PAPU guests present at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre, Durban declaring the 23rd AGM open.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies noted:

Dr Ewald Crause (Treasurer)

Dr Kgamadi Kometsi (Additional executive member)

Prof Chery de la Rey (Vice Chancellor of the University of Pretoria, and PsySSA Fellow)

Mrs Dorothy Calata-Dombo (Chair of the Limpopo Branch)

Dr Ramodungoane Tabane (Chair of SEPSA)

3. IN MEMORIAM

Tributes were paid to PsySSA members Mr Elias Makwe and Prof Peter Fridjhon.

4. AGENDA

The Agenda was **adopted**

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the Society held at Emperors Palace on 21st of September 2016 were **confirmed**.

6. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The President gave a synopsis of PsySSA activities and successes for the term 2017-2018

- ▶ PsySSA has its OWN HOME
- ▶ Medical Aids and non-payment to psychologists
- ▶ Scope of Practice
- ▶ PsySSA's involvement in other matters of concern to the profession
 - NHI
 - Board Examination Fees
 - Discovery Health
- ▶ Test Review and Classification
- ▶ Roseneath Primary – Donate a Book Campaign
- ▶ PsySSA's involvement in national concerns
 - Interrogating #PsychologysResponse/ability
 - Life Esidimeni Crisis
 - Pastor of 'Doom'
 - Eastleigh Primary School Matter
 - Healthcare of Refugees

- South African Police Service regarding their Injury on Duty (IoD) communication
- Child Protection Week
- SADAG
- ▶ PsySSA triumphs in the Jon Qwelane hate speech case
- ▶ International Neuropsychological Society Mid-Year Congress 2017
- ▶ 1st Pan-African Psychology Congress 2017
- ▶ 5th Southern African Student's Psychology Conference

7. PUBLICATIONS

7.1 South African Journal of Psychology

The President reported an increase in the impact factor of the PsySSA flagship journal. Prof Laher thanked the editor Prof Pillay and his team for their commitment and effort.

7.2 PsyTalk

The PsySSA newsletter is published every quarter. Prof Laher thanked the editor, Dr Crause for his effort and commitment.

7.3 ThoughtLeader

ThoughtLeader is another PsySSA publication run by the Mail and Guardian. The articles are sourced by Mr Suntosh Pillay. Prof Laher requested that all PsySSA members are welcome to submit articles for ThoughtLeader.

7.4 Website

The PsySSA website has been redesigned to be more relevant to the needs of its members and the public. Google analytics reflects an increase in online traffic.

8. PsySSA STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2018: EXECUTIVE REPORT

Prof Laher gave a brief Summary of the Strategic Plan (2014-2018)

Table 1

| Membership | Growth and Sustainability | Effectiveness and Efficiency | Good Governance | Stakeholder Engagement & Relationship Management | Global Footprint |
|---|--|--|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Between 2014 and 2018 PsySSA will: | | | | | |
| Represent, advocate for and defend our members | Grow its membership | Enhance its human resource capacity | Develop its policies, procedures and systems | Influence education and training standards in and about psychology | Pursue regional leadership |
| Improve PsySSA's profile and visibility | Grow its revenue | Enhance its administrative infrastructure and systems (operations) | Enhance and improve its leadership capacity | Promote knowledge production and development of psychological science | Facilitate international partnerships |
| Increase membership benefits/ services | Grow its international, regional, and local scientific influence | | | Negotiate job creation, salaries and tariffs for psychology professionals | |
| Improve communication with members | Grow its focus on transformation of the discipline of psychology | | | | |
| Increase members' participation in PsySSA structures and activities | | | | | |

Key Strategic Drivers and strategic objectives to inform its operationalisation.

This is the fourth of the five years of operationalising of the Strategic Plan. Each year the Executive proposes specific objectives to focus on. This year, objectives were achieved in each of the drivers. A detailed report on the Strategic Plan will be included in the Annual Report. Prof Laher reported that considerable progress has been made in all of the priority areas in the current strategic plan. Going forward, it is essential that the incoming Executive establish a working group to review the activities of the Society over the last four years and create the vision for the new strategic plan.

9. FINANCES

The audited financials of the 31st of December 2016 were presented. The financials were approved at Council on the 5th of March 2017 and have been on the website since. The audited financials for the six months ended on the 30th of June 2017 were also presented. The audited financials for the year ended 31st December 2016 were accepted.

10. CONFIRM RELEVANT DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

The following Amendments to the PsySSA Constitution were **accepted**.

Proposed: Prof Sumaya Laher

Seconded: Prof Anthony Pillay

Article 5: Membership, Voting Rights and Subscriptions

5.4.1 Applications for membership of the Society shall be made on the **Society's website using the electronic format** for consideration by Council. A person admitted to Membership will automatically become a member of the Branch operating in the Region where the person resides.

Article 6: General Meetings

6.4 The Notice convening the Annual General Meeting shall include reports **and relevant documents that are available at the time**.

Article 10: Term of Office Bearers

10.3 Office bearers of Divisions may be elected through an **electronic vote system** should a specific Division so wish. Divisions should ensure that their Constitutions and Rules be appropriately amended to incorporate this Standing Order if this electoral system is presently not permitted.

10.4 An office bearer on any PsySSA structure shall not concurrently hold office in any external association or society which may, in the view of Council, be in conflict with the aims, mission and values of PsySSA.

Dr Lizette Matthews, vice-chair of SEPSA, opposed the amendment on behalf of SEPSA stating that The Educational Psychology Association of South Africa (EPASSA) believes in the freedom of association and freedom of speech and believes that holding office in an external association or society enables clear lines of communication and support between associations and societies.

Prof Laher gave the background to Council's decision to eventually include a clause relating to conflict of interest. The opportunity to comment was opened to the floor. The amendment was adopted after a majority of the members voted in favor of the amendment.

Article 13: Divisions

13.2 New Members of a Division shall be members of the Society.

Article 16: Constitutional Amendments

16.3 A Constitutional Amendment by **electronic** vote may be conducted by Council, to be ratified at the following Annual General Meeting, with a two thirds majority of responding Members.

Council had decided to defer the following amendments proposed by SEPSA.

Proposed: Mrs Linda de Rooster

Seconded: Dr Lizette Matthews

Article 4: Legal Status

4.9.1 – The Nominations Committee shall comprise not less than three and not more than five Past Presidents of the Society who are not nominees for Executive Office.

Amend to: The Nominations Committee shall be representative of all branches of Psychology, i.e. Educational, Clinical, Counselling, Research and Registered Counsellors with at least 50% of the committee members being active private practitioners while the other 50% being active academics.

Article 5: Membership, Voting Rights and Subscriptions

5.6 Voting Rights and Procedures

5.6.3 – Voting at a General Meeting shall take place by a show of hands or by secret ballot if requested by two-thirds of those present.

Amend to: Voting for new office bearers shall take place by secret ballot and be counted and checked by an election team consisting of representatives from all branches of Psychology: Educational, Clinical, Counselling, Research and Registered Counsellors.

Article 6: General Meetings

6.7 – Voting at a General Meeting shall be by full members present in person.

Amend to / or add: Voting by proxy for office bearers shall be permitted. (This is to protect Educational Psychologists, many of whom currently do not have the finances to attend the Congress and are thus excluded unfairly from the voting process.)

Council's decision on these amendments were approved by the majority of members.

11. 1ST PAN-AFRICAN PSYCHOLOGY CONGRESS 2017 (18-21 September 2017)

Prof Laher announced the opening of the congress which will occur after the AGM, and provided general information on the congress.

12. PSYSSA DIVISIONAL AWARDS

- **Most Active Division:** Division of Research and Methodology
- **Most Improved Division:** Sexuality and Gender Division

13. PSYSSA ANNUAL AWARDS

- **Fellowship:** Prof Jacobus Gideon (Kobus) Maree
- **Award for Mentoring and Development 2017:** Dr Ian Opperman
- **Award for Undergraduate/Graduate Teaching Excellence 2017:** Prof Willie Chinyamurindi

14. PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

- **Award for Continued Contributions to Mental Health Advocacy in South Africa:** The South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG)
- **Award in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Society:** Dr Helen Dunbar-Krige

15. CERTIFICATES OF SERVICE

Certificates of Service were presented to the Executive members whose current term had ended.

Prof Anthony Pillay – PsySSA Past President
Treasurer – Dr Ewald Crause
Ms Neo Pule – Additional member
Ms Lucinda Johns – Additional member
Mr Rafiq Lockhat – Additional member
Dr Helen Dunbar-Krige – Additional member

Dr Kgamadi Kometsi, who resigned as an additional member of the Executive Committee due to work commitments, was acknowledged for his service to the Society.

16. EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

The Chair of the Nominations Committee, Prof Kopano Ratele, presented the following list of candidates for the Executive Committee which Council had, after due deliberation at its last meeting, agreed would be presented to the AGM for consideration:

President Elect: Dr Helen Dunbar-Krige

Treasurer: Dr Ewald Crause

Additional Members: Mr Umesh Bawa, Dr Diana Soares de Sousa, Dr Boitumelo Diale, Ms Anne Kramers-Olen, Prof Mercy Tshilidzi Mashamba.

The meeting confirmed these candidates as members of the incoming Executive Committee as deliberated on by Council.

17. CLOSURE

Prof Tholene Sodi was inaugurated as the new PsySSA President and Dr Helen Dunbar-Krige as the President-Elect.

Prof Sodi addressed the meeting. The incoming Executive was welcomed on stage.

There being no further business to conclude, the AGM was **terminated** at **17h50**.

Confirmed on:

President: