

**Draft MINUTES OF THE
24th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
SOUTH AFRICA HELD ON THE 12th OF SEPTEMBER 2018 AT EMPERORS
PALACE CONVENTION CENTRE, JOHANNESBURG**

1. OPENING

At 11:15 the President, Prof Tholene Sodi (in the Chair), welcomed PsySSA members and guests present at the Emperors Palace Convention Centre, Johannesburg declaring the 24th AGM open.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies noted:

Mr Umesh Bawa (Additional Executive member)

3. AGENDA

The Agenda was **adopted**

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES

The chair of the Society for Educational Psychology of South Africa (SEPSA), **Dr Lizette Matthews** opposed the adoption of the minutes stating that the item on page 5 under point 16, "Executive Committee which Council had, after due deliberation at its last meeting, agreed would be presented to the AGM for consideration:" Dr Matthews stated that the Executive Nominations, is not appropriately captured and does not reflect what had actually taken place at the 23rd AGM held in Durban, that there was no election process and the Nominees were announced at the AGM.

Prof Cooper requested that the minutes be retained as is as the matter raised was contentious and currently under threat of litigation by Dr Matthews. Prof Ratele concurred with Prof Cooper that the minutes reflected what had transpired and therefore and be retained as is.

Dr Linda de Rooster opposed the adoption of the minutes stating that the nominations were disregarded and the nominees not informed that their nominations were not acceptable. The nominees were presented at the 23rd AGM without following the due democratic process.

Prof Cooper responded that nominations were received for the various Executive positions that were available for the 2017 – 2019 term. Some members who applied for the positions were the founding members of the breakaway organisation that Council determined was in conflict, EPASSA. This conflict of interest was raised at Council on the 18th of September 2017, before the 23rd AGM. Council agreed with the Nominations Committee that PsySSA cannot have in its leadership persons that are conflicted over their duty and responsibility to PsySSA. In Council's view Executive members need to represent the broad membership and profession as a whole and not a specific registration category. Meetings were held with Dr Matthews and the leadership of SEPSA and subsequent to that, the criteria for nominations for the 2018-2019 President-Elect call were developed. Criteria for Executive positions which will open for 2019 - 2021 will also be developed. SEPSA brought to light the gaps in the nomination process and that was taken into consideration in the call for nominations for President-Elect in this year's call.

Prof Ratele confirmed that Council as the highest decision-making body of the Society deliberated on the nominations, and Council confirmed the nominees that were presented at the 23rd AGM.

Prof Juan Nel pointed out that the minutes accurately reflected what transpired over what Dr Matthews was stating.

The adoption of the minutes was put to a vote and was **opposed** by:

Mrs Philanda Denysschen
Dr Linda de Rooster
Dr Elizabetha Matthews
Mr Henk Mostert
Dr Catherine Sekhukhune
Ms Linda Swart

proposed by:

Prof Saths Cooper
Mr Daniel den Hollander
Ms Anne Kramers-Olen
Mr Rafiq Lockhat
Dr Vicky Malefo
Dr Thirusha Naidoo
Prof Juan Nel
Prof Kopano Ratele
Dr Shahnaaz Suffla

The meeting agreed by an overwhelming majority of members present, that the minutes correctly reflected the proceedings at the 23rd AGM, and the matter raised by SEPSA be addressed outside of the AGM. The Minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Society held at on the 18th of September 2017, at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre (ICC), Durban were accordingly adopted.

5. PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The President provided an Executive Summary of the work of the Society over the last year September 2017-September 2018

PsySSA's involvement in **matters of concern to the profession:**

- ▶ The Leadership Brainstorming Workshop 20 -21 July 2018
- ▶ ICD-10 Information Coding Session – 30 July 2018
- ▶ PsySSA MyCPD
- ▶ PsySSA Publications
 - SAJP had grown from strength to strength as evidenced by by the large improvement in the Journals impact factor
 - The Society newsletter, PsyTalk
 - ThoughtLeader

- Launch of the African Journal of Psychological Assessment (AJOPA) on the 12th of September 2018
- ▶ PsySSA LGBTI guidelines – launched on the 19th of April 2018
- ▶ 5th Global Mental Health Summit
- ▶ Telepsychology Guidelines

On matters of national concern, PsySSA participated in the following **Projects and Events**:

Life Esidimeni – PsySSA raised concerns about the Gauteng Department of Health plan to transfer Mental Health care users that were not adequately prepared to inappropriate NGO's. The Society also recommended that government engage with mental health professional groups such as PsySSA and others in order to allow for more informed decision making regarding this issue. PsySSA released its position statement on the website.

Professor Bongani Mayosi – in August 2018, PsySSA released a post following the tragic death of Professor Mayosi, one of South Africa's most brilliant medical minds.

Nelson Mandela Day

PsySSA's Executive Director, Ms Fatima Seedat ran the Rundela 27 on Sunday the 15th of July 2018. The aim of the race was to celebrate the life and legacy of Madiba.

Biko Fanon Award

PsySSA was privileged to be co-hosts with the Pan-African Psychology Union and the Steve Biko Foundation when the Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng was conferred the Biko-Fanon Award for Psychological Liberation on the 12th of March 2018.

Conferences

PAPU 2017

PsySSA in collaboration with the Pan-African Psychology Union co-hosted the historic 1st Pan-African Psychology Union Congress between the 18th and 21st of September 2017.

Mamela 2018

The 24th Annual Psychology Congress themed Mamela Psychology...listen with humility...act with integrity. Prof Sodi noted that the congress participation was at 718.

Prof Sodi thanked the Executive Committee and the PsySSA office staff under the leadership of Ms Fatima Seedat for keeping the Society active.

Prof Sodi announced that PsySSA would celebrate its 25th Anniversary in 2019.

6. FINANCES

The Audited Financial Report of the 31st of December 2017 was presented. The financials were approved at Council on the 3rd of March 2018 and have been on the website since. The audited financials for the year ended 31st December 2017 were adopted.

7. CONFIRM RELEVANT DECISIONS OF COUNCIL

The AGM **supported the** following matters arising from Council's deliberations on the 11th of September 2018:

7.1 A membership fee increase of 8,5% was proposed to Council. Council approved the proposed fee increase. The proposal to an 8,5% increase for full members included a provision for a no fee increase for students which was also adopted by Council. **Agreed** that the full membership fee be increased to R1150.00 for the next year, with no increase for students.

7.2 The Hardship Policy was **noted** at the AGM. The Hardship Clause in the PsySSA constitution was developed to assist members who wished to become PsySSA members but were experiencing financial difficulties. A Hardship Policy was developed, where members can apply for a 10% reduction in membership fee to the Treasurer. A request for a greater reduction would have to include supporting documentation.

7.3 The proposal to retain two current PsySSA Executive members for an additional year was supported by the AGM. The rationale behind the motion was to retain institutional memory and ensure stability in the Executive structure of PsySSA.

8. 24th ANNUAL PSYCHOLOGY CONGRESS 2017 (18-21 September 2017)

Prof Sodi congratulated and commended the office on an excellent and well organised congress, with the latest addition being the live Mobi APP and encouraged delegates to download the APP.

9. PSYSSA DIVISIONAL AWARDS

- **Most Active Division:** *Sexuality and Gender Division*
- **Most Improved Division:** *Student Division*

10. AWARD OF SERVICE

This award is presented to the Executive of the Society whose term had come to an end.

- **Award for Service:** *Prof Sumaya Laher*

11. PsySSA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

- **Award in Recognition of Outstanding Service to the Society:** *Ms Anne Kramers-Olen*

12. PRESIDENT-ELECT 2019

The chair of the Nominations Committee, Prof Kopano Ratele, announced the President-Elect for 2019. Prof Garth Stevens was the only nomination received for the position.

13. PSYSSA FELLOWSHIP

PsySSA fellowship Award was bestowed on Prof Josephine Naidoo, the first black psychologist during the apartheid era. A short video of Prof Naidoo's acceptance was played and the fellowship would be duly presented to her by the PsySSA Executive Director.

14. 25th ANNIVERSARY PsySSA CONGRESS 2019

Prof Sodi announced the 25th Anniversary Congress. Council and Executive to decide upon the date and venue.

15. CLOSURE

Prof Nel thanked the Executive and Prod Sodi for leading the Society. Two new additions to the programme were announced; these are the Professional Networking Sessions and the Closing Ceremony on Friday to install the incoming PsySSA President.

There being no further business to conclude, the AGM was **terminated** at **13h10**.

Confirmed on:

President: