

ASSA Council Minutes 29 June 2010

This meeting was called because only 3 turned up for the scheduled meeting on 15 June 2010.

There were only 6 members present, which is less than the 7 required for a quorum. Nevertheless, we went ahead on the basis that the proceedings could be ratified by the next Council meeting. Minutes taken by I.S. Glass.

Numbering of items as on agenda.

1. Opened at 2005. Welcome by Pat Booth in the Chair.

2. Present: P. Booth, I.S. Glass, M. Soltynski, M. Rogers, C. Hettlage, L. Labuscagne

3. Register: Apologies as listed on agenda. At least 2 absences without apology.

4. Minutes from May 4 2010. To be accepted by a future meeting because no quorum.

5.4 M. Soltynski proposed and L. Labuscagne seconded a vote of thanks to Maureen and Isobel.

5.7/6.2 Glass reported on MNASSA developments. Mainly that paid non-member subscriptions will be discontinued after this calendar year. Members will still receive a printed version but the possibility of them accepting an electronic version should be investigated. Printing to be digital from now on.

W. Koorts would like to give up being editor but will stay on until a replacement is found.

5.7/6.3 M. Soltynski reported on Struik negotiation. Still some items still to be settled. Struik person away for a couple of weeks. Advertising including revenue therefrom our responsibility.

2010 Sky Guide ads probably not invoiced or paid for. ISG to invoice for them.

5.8 Isobel Bassett was paid the amount stated.

5.9 Treasurer absent.

5.10 C de Coning absent.

5.11 Treasurer absent – leave for next Council.

5.12 L. Labuscagne feels the main Council jobs could be consolidated into one. It was suggested that the next Council look into this.

Also it was suggested with general approval that the structure of the Council be simplified, for example by removing the Council Representatives of the Centres, as this

causes endless waste of time at meetings and what little business is passed through them could easily be dealt with through the Secretary. The Business Manager post could be done away with as soon as the new publication arrangements are in place.

5.13. Treasurer not here to explain.

9. Item on agenda about ASSA Symposium 2010 read out and duly noted.

10. Treasurer absent.

11. Maureen reported that there were 9 new members and their names were read out. She will send the list to the Editor of MNASSA.

12. Wayne Trow's report was noted. New rates are available and will be notified to Wayne and put on the web site.

13. M. Poll's remarks were read and noted.

14. IAU item read and noted.

15. AGM Details noted. No comments on reports received so far.

16 AOB

(1) M. Soltynski reported on developments in the Charles affair. He was interviewed by Prof Bozzoli in April. Prof Bozzoli has evidently reported but her report has not been made public. He has been invited to meet the President of the NRF, Dr van Jaarsveld, on Friday.

Meanwhile, the head of the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology has put out a press release saying that a DA person had claimed there was mismanagement at SALT. This has been strongly denied in a press release by M Shinn, DA spokesperson on S & T. No details on these accusations have been released so far.

(2) Only nominations made by 14 June are valid. Others can be co-opted by the new Council.

(3) It is suggested that the President should normally hold office for two years, but with the option of only taking it for one year.

17 Next Council Meeting:

We suggest that the date of the next Council meeting should be after 20 August, when the names of the Centre representatives should have been communicated to the Secretary.

Assuming it will be held in Pretoria, the suggestion is made that Cape members of Council could get together here or otherwise be present via Skype. It is not clear if this is or is not allowed by the Constitution.

The meeting ended at 2115.

