

ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE	13 February 2019	TME	19:30 to 20:10	VENUE	Via Skype
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ATTENDANCE

Council	Role
Case Rijdsdijk	President (Chair)
Chris Stewart	Vice President
Dr Pierre de Villiers	Vice President
Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
W Nel	Membership Secretary
Dr Ian Glass	Council Member
Clyde Foster	Council Member
Lerika Cross	Secretary
Piet Strauss	Chair - Durban Centre
Eddy Nijeboer	Chair - Cape Centre

Appointees

Douglas Bullis	Deep Sky Section Director
Martin Heigan	Imaging Section Director
Bruce Dickson	Cosmology and Astrophysics Section Director
Chris de Coning	ASSA Archiving

Apologies (a) / Absent

Dr Claire Flanagan (a)	Convenor of Scholarships
Dave Blane (a)	Double and Variable Stars Section Director
Percy Jacobs (a)	Photometry and Spectroscopy Section Director
John Gill (a)	Web Manager
Dr Christian Hettlage (a)	Web Master
Auke Slotegraaf (a)	SGAS Editor
Kos Coronaios (a)	Observing Director
Allen Versfeld	Citizen Science Section Director
Prof Matie Hoffman	Chair - Bloemfontein Centre
Johan Smit	Chair –Pretoria Centre
Jerome Jooste	Chair – Johannesburg Centre

ASSET (for distribution)

Tim Cooper	For ASSET Trustees
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	Agenda	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
1	Welcome Apologies	C Rijdsdijk welcomed everyone to the 3 rd ASSA Council meeting for 2018/19 year. Apologies received are noted above.
2	Previous Minutes Agenda Matters arising	Minutes of Council meeting held 11 November as attached to the Agenda, was approved. Note: Actions arising from previous minutes are <i>in italics</i> . Actions are underlined. Outcomes from the Finance Sub-Committee meeting held 7 February 2019 are included and denoted as (<i>7 Feb FSC</i>)
3	ASSA Comms	3. ASSA Communication 3.1 Communications document It was noted that the document was updated e.g. reference to ASSA Telephone removed from slide 12. <u>Everyone</u> to please advise Lerika of any changes /additions. 3.2 Website C Rijdsdijk specifically asked that <u>Chairs/ Directors / Appointees</u> keep checking that their web pages current and relevant and advise the Web Manager John Gill at

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		<p>assawebmanager@gmail.com of any changes required or any issues encountered.</p> <p>C Rijdsdijk noted the interesting 2017 stats that was shared by Auke, specifically the last para (in italics): “Social media users in South Africa: Facebook = 16.0 million (about 30% of the population) Twitter = 8.0 million LinkedIn = 6.1 million Instagram = 3.8 million Interestingly, of the Facebook users, a whopping 14 million access the site from their mobile devices. Age wise, 2.1 million FB users are 13-18. This website https://www.statista.com/statistics/558248/number-of-facebook-users-in-south-africa/ suggests that by 2022 there will be almost 22 million FB users. Not counted in the above, is the number of YouTube users. This total must be staggering. YT in particular is a popular hangout for the younger demographic. And truly staggering must be the number of people who search for something they are not familiar with, using Google.</p> <p><i>If ASSA wants to reach the general public via the Internet, then it's clear the website must be constantly updated (to feed Google), Facebook and Twitter must be fed regularly, and short snippets of content must be put on YouTube (for youth, and for Google in general). This strategy will reach the widest demographic for the least effort.”</i></p> <p>3.3 Centre visits by President C Rijdsdijk confirmed that a visit to Durban Centre will be after March 2019; he has also scheduled a trip to Hermanus Centre.</p> <p>3.4 Other Astronomical Societies in Southern Africa <u>B Dickson</u> kindly offered to approach the ASSA contact in Botswana, Harold Hester haroldh@accelerate-it.co.bw, and possibly also someone in the Namibia group.</p> <p>C Foster noted that he is aware of an organisation/entity in Namibia but does not have a contact and will be interested in being kept in the loop.</p> <p>3.5 Extend sharing of communication The principle of extending communication /sharing of information was discussed, the main points agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To place information on important partners in Astronomy on ASSA website, e.g. the new Digital Planetarium that was recently constructed in Sutherland. The contact person is Nico van der Merwe nico@sutherlandplanetarium.co.za and site www.sutherlandplanetarium.co.za In the first place, <u>C Rijdsdijk</u> undertook to contact Nico (who indicated he would like to become an ASSA member) and place him in contact with John Gill the ASSA Web Manager for posting the links; 2) ASSA_Discussion mail list: everyone was reminded that the mail list is available to inform useful content, e.g. when ASSA Publications such as MNASSA, NightFall, SGAS are available, etc. The Moderators will ensure that content in relevant.
4	ASSA SGAS	<p>4. SGAS 4.1 SGAS 2019 - deliveries Council noted the report from Wilmi Nel after the FSC held 7 Feb: “The current status of deliveries of the SGAS to Country Members. Three queries regarding delivery of SGAS were received. One was solved as the member provided a street address for delivery and SAPO does not affect street deliveries in the area.</p> <p>All country members were emailed and asked if they received their SGAS and also if they</p>

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		<p>would in future like to have the SGAS couriered (at the cost of the member). All 128 Country Members responded: 89 have received their SGAS and 11 still await delivery. 79 members preferred the SGAS to be posted.”</p> <p>Council considered and approved the proposal, i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members be given the option of courier delivery (at their cost) - Members who have not yet received their SGAS by the end of February will be sent another copy via their preferred delivery method. <p>4.2 Other publications – Nightfall and MNASSA C Rijsdijk noted that the current interaction between MNASSA and Nightfall is working well.</p>
5	Scholarships	<p>5. Scholarships <i>(27 Sep) It was noted at the meeting that the amounts (R20 000 for ASSA and Cooke) may be re-assessed in February. In terms of the NRF/SARAAO scholarships, C Rijsdijk offered to follow-up. (7 Feb FSC) AJ Nel informed that consideration can be given by ASSA for two ASSA and not just one. Of R20k each for 2019.</i></p> <p>The proposal of two R20k ASSA scholarships made at the FSC of 7 Feb was noted and endorsed. <u>Claire Flanagan</u> will communicate further with AJ</p> <p>Update from C Flanagan (unable to attend the meeting): “I’ve done a first-look at the scholarship applicants, we had 15 applications for the scholarships, 7 of which have been disqualified on technical grounds (lack of supporting documents etc.). I’m currently following up a couple of references, when those are sorted out the surviving applicants will be passed on to the rest of the selection committee.”</p> <p>P de Villiers noted that it would be appropriate that feedback is given in due course to the donors in terms of the Cooke Scholarship Fund. Council agreed and will be taken further by <u>C Rijsdijk, C Flanagan and AJ Nel</u>.</p>
6	Membership	<p>6. Membership 6.1 ASSA Country Membership 2018/19 It was agreed that the 2019/2020 Country Membership fee should be agreed to soonest. The proposal agreed: R50 to remain for initiation fee The annual subscription R75</p> <p>It was agreed that the website should ensure adequate marketing is done of the Country Membership and the free SGAS. (<u>John Gill</u>)</p> <p>6.2 Hon Members Hon Members list is on website: http://assa.saao.ac.za/about/awards/honorary-members/ It was agreed that it would be good to include all Hon Members to date on the list on the website, including those deceased. <u>C de Coning</u> agreed to search for the data and provide additional info over time to add to the website list, eg year awarded.</p> <p>6.3 Membership of Societies <i>(7 Feb FSC) The FSC discussed ASSA sponsorship of non-ASSA society membership and propose that: Any senior member of the ASSA, but especially Section Directors may motivate for joining another Society/Organization that would support the ASSA in that specialized field. All requests, could, if approved by the FSC get support of up to R1000 pa until such time as s/he is no longer actively involved; contribution to the entity to be reported on in the annual report.</i></p>

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		Council noted the proposal made by the FSC on 7 Feb and approved it.
7	Governance	<p>7 Governance</p> <p>7.1 Midlands Centre</p> <p>It was discussed and agreed that detail pertaining to the defunct Midland Centre – which used to operate around Pietermaritzburg – can now be considered defunct and relevant info may be removed from the website (John Gill) and from the minutes going forward.</p> <p>P Strauss noted that he found one person who used to be a Midlands Centre member and will try and make contact and encourage him to remain in the ASSA community.</p>
8	Financial Matters	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>8.1 Financials 2017 18</p> <p>The Independent Compiler has completed the review of the 2017/18 financials and Council to formally acknowledge and sign off the financials (attached).</p> <p>The Resolution was formally read at the meeting: “Resolution of the Council taken on 13 February 2019 that the Financial Statements (as attached to the agenda) for the period ended 30 June 2018 be and are hereby approved and adopted, including all items of income and expenditure which are contained therein, and all matters undertaken and performed by the Council on behalf of the Society, be and are hereby confirmed and approved Signed: President, Treasurer.”</p> <p>L Cross to return the signed financials to the Independent Compiled (and also the Accountants CTF Services) after the meeting.</p> <p>8.2 Budget items 2018 /19 <i>(26 Sept FSC) AJ Nel undertook to prepare a budget for 2018 19 (Discretionary Reserve) to share with the FSC.</i> Budget for 2018 19 is to be supplied when ready (AJ Nel).</p> <p>8.3 SPARC donation</p> <p>AJ Nel earlier update via email to Council on the issue relating to the donation from SPARC of R3500, was noted: “Glacier cannot accept ad-hoc contributions under R 15,000.00 and as such SPARC needs to claim the funds back and pay us directly. The problem is SPARC no longer exists.”</p> <p>Options to resolve the issue were noted. These would still need to be investigated between ASSA, the Independent Compiler and Crowe HZK, Glazier and possibly a person who was involved with SPARC (which was a voluntary association in East London / Port Elizabeth chaired by Peter Laubscher). AJ Nel and P de Villiers offered to work together on the issue from ASSA side and revert in due course to Council.</p> <p>8.4 ASSA FLICKR account</p> <p>Council was informed and noted that “Flickr was sold, and the new owners are revising the terms and conditions. So this is a new thing: they still offer a free service, but are now imposing a limit on how many can be hosted freely. Due to the large number of images involved, we have to subscribe to the paid service.”</p> <p>The proposal was accepted that ASSA pay the annual subscription for ASSA Flickr account. The current amount (paid by L Cross and refunded by AJ Nel) was R875.17</p> <p>8.5 Proxima Proxima <i>(7 Feb FSC) C Stewart reported that the remaking and placing of the Proxima Centauri Plinth and Plaques at the Johannesburg Observatory is in progress and he is in contact with C Risjdijk and NRF SAASTA in this regard. It was confirmed that there is still R5000 in the budget for this to be completed.</i></p>

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		<p>Council to note the status as reported at the FSC of 7 Feb. C Stewart provided a document outlining the design for C Rijdsdijk and the NRF SAASTA to consider. C Rijdsdijk extended his appreciation to C Stewart for his effort. AJ Nel confirmed that the budget allocated will be available and process may proceed.</p>
9	ASSET	<p>ASSET <i>(27 Sep) Peter Cramb informed on 26 September: “the Master of the High Court granted the registration of ASSET with the new Trustees, namely Ian Glass, Tim Cooper and myself. The new registration is dated 8th August 2018”.</i> No formal update was received from ASSET. I Glass noted that the process is still active.</p>
10	General	<p>10. General items 10.1 ASSA AGM – 7 August Venue was discussed and it was agreed Durban Centre will be the venue for the AGM.</p> <p>10.2 ASSA Symposium 2020 The requirement for possibly plans and possibilities for 2020, the International year of Astronomy, were briefly noted but nothing firm was agreed.</p> <p>10.3 IAU 2024 Permanent note: All input for the event be forwarded to Case Rijdsdijk for onward communication to the Organising Committee. https://astronomy2024capetown.org/</p>
11	Closure	<p>The next Council meetings via skype at 19:30 16 April (FSC 10 April) 9 July (FSC 3 July) AGM 7 August (Durban Centre) PS : note that if the meetings are on a Tuesday, Auke cannot attend ...</p>

Minutes Approved: _____ Date: _____

Attachments in support of minutes:

ASSA Communication 190201.pptx
 ASTSOC AFS 2018 signed.pdf
 Management Report Letter signed.pdf
 Resolution signed CR AJN PdV CAS LC 052.pdf

Checklist (covered under Governance item 7)

1 Feb Scholarship application dead line
 31 Mar Closing date for nominations for: Honorary Members and Awards
 15 April Deadline for Secretary to send to President and Vice President list of nominations
 30 April Deadline for agreement with Struik of the printing schedule for next SGAS
 1 June Call for nominations for Council; Annual review of website
 1 June New Country Membership fees to be agreed by Council
 30 Jun Closing date for nominations for Council, receipt of Section reports, receipt of report from Scholarships Convenor, submission of items for placing on the Agenda of the AGM, Financial year end; Council to review appointment and roles of all Council Appointees including the Section Directors;
 1 Jul Submission of annual updated ASSA membership form, Country Members: Subs renewal
 31 Jul Closing date for ballot for Council nominations: Centre AGMs to be concluded before the AGM;
 AGM 1st Wed Aug. 21 business days before 1st Wed in Aug: Deadline for members to receive notice
 1 Oct Appointment/Negotiations with SGAS Editor for next edition. Open negotiations with Struik
 Annual refresh of the Communications document after the AGM

END