

## ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

<b>DATE</b>	25 Nov 2021	<b>TME</b>	18:00 18:45	<b>VENUE</b>	Via Jitsi
-------------	-------------	------------	-------------	--------------	-----------

### ATTENDANCE

Council	Role
Chris Stewart	President (Chair)
Dr Ian Glass	Council Member
Dr Pierre de Villiers	Council Member, Chair – Hermanus Centre
Lerika Cross	Secretary
Bosman Olivier	Chair - Pretoria Centre
Alison Coulter	Chair - Johannesburg Centre
Dr Christian Hettlage	Web Master, Acting Chair – Cape Centre

### Appointees

Angus Burns	Observing Section Director
John Gill	Web Manager

### Apologies (a) and Absentees

Dr Daniel Cunnama (a)	Vice President (Incoming President)
Case Rijdsijk (a)	Vice President (Outgoing President), Chair – Garden Route Centre
Adv AJ Nel	Treasurer
Eddy Nijeboer (a)	Membership Secretary
Auke Slotegraaf (a)	SGAS Editor
Dr Claire Flanagan (a)	Convenor of Scholarships
Dr Sally MacFarlane (a)	Communications Director
Chris de Coning	ASSA Archiving, Historical Section Director
Bruce Dickson (a)	Cosmology Section Director
Dave Blane (a)	Double and Variable Stars Section Director
Martin Heigan	Imaging Section Director
Percy Jacobs (a)	Photometry and Spectroscopy Section Director
Allen Versfeld	Citizen Science Section Director
Amith Rajpal (a)	Chair - Durban Centre
Thinus van der Merwe	Chair - Bloemfontein Centre

### ASSET (for distribution)

Tim Cooper	For ASSET Trustees
------------	--------------------

Jitsi meeting link: <https://meet.jit.si/ASSAMeet>

Meeting recording:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/c61s4ouzre3vhng/assameet%20on%202021-11-25%2016-43.mp4?dl=0>

	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)</b>
1	Welcome Apology	C Stewart opened the 2 <sup>nd</sup> ASSA Council meeting for 2021/22, welcoming Council members. Apologies received before & after meeting are noted in the attendance list.
2	Previous Minutes  Matters arising	Minutes of meeting held 14 October 2021 were approved (C Stewart, A Coulter).  <b>Note:</b> Actions arising from previous minutes are <i>in italics</i> . Current actions are underlined. Finance Sub-Committee (“FSC”) meetings are noted in italics ( <i>date FSC</i> ).  To make meeting as productive as possible, Centenary, item 10, was first item taken.
3	ASSA Comms	<b>3. Communication</b> <b>3.1 Communications document</b> <u><i>Permanent item: latest version attached</i></u>

## ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Agenda	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	<p>C Stewart reminder the Chairs to share invites with ASSAVIP Group and if they have not yet accepted the invite to join the Group to contact him (<u>Chairs, Directors</u>)</p> <p><b>3.2 Other Astronomical Societies / Affiliations</b></p> <p><b>3.2.1 African Astronomical Society (“AfAS”)</b>  <a href="https://www.africanastronomicalsociety.org">https://www.africanastronomicalsociety.org</a>            AfAS continues to share valuable info. Item will remain on the agenda.</p> <p><b>3.2.2 Botswana Astronomical Society (“BAS”)</b>  <i>(14 Oct) Gihan Ilangakoon at the BAS is providing useful resources to the ASSAVIP group and <u>Council</u> will consider formalising contact in due course.</i></p> <p><b>3.3 Dark Sky</b>            Communication commenced with Daniel, Chris S, Pierre, Wim Filmalter, Sally and Allen to unpack a strategy and approach on how best to approach the challenges of a Dark Sky initiative. <u>L Cross</u> to facilitate communications.</p> <p><b>3.4 2018 ASSA Symposium Presentation</b>  <i>(15 Feb) Auke appealed to the meeting for help with the videos he recorded at the 2018 ASSA Symposium, 26 presentations. To edit into YouTube and then placed on the ASSA YouTube Channel. Alison Coulter kindly offered assistance.</i>            Videos are still being processed. Many thanks Alison.</p>
4	<p><b>Publications</b></p> <p><b>ASSA Publications</b></p> <p><b>4.1 SGAS</b></p> <p><b>4.1.1 An e-version</b>            Update from Penguin Random House: “We won’t be doing a PDF version. I think the digital team does an e-book, but it’s not distributed through us”.</p> <p>Ian confirmed the booklet is available in Cape Town. Angus confirmed he had a look at the pdf version and expressed his congratulations to Auke for an excellent Sky Guide 2022. The meeting shared his sentiment: Many thanks, Auke!</p> <p><b>4.1.2 SGAS 2022 Distribution</b>            Advertising info received from Penguin Random House via Auke was updated by John on the website – many thanks, John.            Distribution is expected to commence in December (<u>AJ Nel, E Nijeboer</u>)</p> <p><b>4.1.3 SGAS 2023</b>  <i>(14 Oct) <u>Council</u> to confirm appointment of SGAS 2023 Editor for next edition and open negotiations with Struik.</i>            Has the process been finalised? (<u>AJ, Auke</u>)</p> <p><b>4.2 MNASSA</b>            Update and reminder: the guidelines and deadlines for MNASSA for Centenary are included in the ASSA 100 List.</p> <p><b>4.3 Nightfall</b>            Chris Stewart informed Council on 19 Nov of Doug Bullis’s resignation as Nightfall Editor, as follows:            “You are doubtless aware of the prodigious content published in Nightfall, something that has clearly taken a massive amount of research and effort. Unfortunately, Doug Bullis has resigned as Nightfall editor in order to meet other demands on his time (but happily will</p>

## ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Agenda	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	<p>remain an ASSA member). Existing Nightfall issues will of course live on in our website repository as a monument to his talent and dedication - and doubtless to the delight of future readers.</p> <p>On behalf of Council I thank Doug for his sterling efforts in support of ASSA and wish him well in his other ventures.”</p> <p>Chris commented that there has not yet been any discussion or decision within Council whether to look for a replacement Editor for Nightfall.</p> <p><b>4.4 Southern Skies</b> Angus informed a new Southern Skies Newsletter will be finalised next week.</p>
5	<p><b>Scholarships</b></p> <p><b>5. Scholarships</b> <i>Permanent item: The ASSA and Cooke Scholarships for 2022 is R25 000.</i> Claire informed before the meeting the website page for the bursaries is up to date: <a href="https://assa.saa.ac.za/about/scholarships/">https://assa.saa.ac.za/about/scholarships/</a> and advertising will commence a bit later during the year, after exams are finalised, and she will share with Council in due course (<u>C Flanagan</u>)</p>
6	<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p><b>6. Membership</b> <b>6.1 Country Membership 2021</b> No update available.</p> <p><b>6.2 Honorary Membership</b> <i>Permanent item: ASSA has 13 Hon Members. Max 15</i> <a href="http://assa.saa.ac.za/about/awards/honorary-members/">http://assa.saa.ac.za/about/awards/honorary-members/</a> <i>(14 Oct) Since the meeting, Hon Member, Jose da Silva Campos advised (from Spain) he has still not received his mailed Sky Guide. AJ offered to resend.</i> Jose Campos informed Eddy he still has not received his Sky Guide 2021. <u>Eddy offered to courier both 2021 and 2022 to Jose.</u></p>
7	<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p><b>7. Governance</b> <b>7.1 Register ASSA for tax under a VDP (Voluntary ...) Application</b> <i>(27 Nov 19) Proposal by CTF Services (below the agenda) was accepted: “bold highlighted portions seem to be missing from the constitution”. AJ Nel undertook to compile a draft update to the Constitution and if approved ratified at the next AGM.</i> <i>(21 Sep) AJ Nel confirmed that the draft amendments to the Constitution was sent to CTFS for sign off before presenting to Council and finalising the document.</i> <i>(21 July) 2020 and 2021 financials will be submitted in support of tax registration.</i> No update on registering ASSA for tax and related update to the Constitution was available (<u>AJ Nel</u>)</p>
8	<p><b>Financial</b></p> <p><b>8. Financial Matters</b> <b>8.1 2020 Financials</b> Status was not available on the review / audit/ sign off by the Independent Compiler (Peter Carlisle) of the 2020 Financials. (<u>AJ Nel</u>)</p> <p><b>8.2 Budget 2021</b> <u>AJ Nel</u> to provide an estimate to be available for the Centenary Symposium.</p>
9	<p><b>ASSET</b></p> <p><b>9. ASSET</b> <i>(Permanent item)</i></p>
10	<p><b>ASSA</b></p> <p><b>10. ASSA Centenary, Friday 1 July 2022</b></p>

## ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

	Agenda	Discussions / Decisions / Actions (in bold)
	Centenary	Members worked through the latest ASSA 100 List and where items were updated where progress was noted. <u>Council</u> is asked to review the updated ASSA 100 List and to please keep Lerika informed of updates to share with all.
11	IAU 2024	<b>11. IAU 2024</b> <i>Permanent note: <a href="https://astronomy2024capetown.org/">https://astronomy2024capetown.org/</a> (21 July) Daniel confirmed he will engage ASSA on activities planned in due course.</i>
12	General	<b>12. General items</b> No item raised.
13	Closure	C Stewart thanked attendees for their contribution. The meeting closed 18:45.  Proposed Council meetings 2022 : 7 March, 20 June, AGM 3 August The Financial Sub Committee will meet as / when necessary before Council meetings. Council meetings to not be scheduled on Tuesday or clash with Centre monthly meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hermanus Centre: 3rd Monday.</li> <li>- Cape Centre and Jhb Centres: 2nd Wednesday.</li> <li>- Durban Centre: 2nd Wednesday. Committee meetings: 4th Wednesday. Committee meetings: 4th Wednesday.</li> </ul>

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Attachments in support of minutes:

In support of item 3.1: ASSA Communication 211119

In support of 10: ASSA 100 211125, ASSA logo update options round 2, ASSA 30U30 Draft Letter v1,

### In support of item 7.1

#### **23.3.3 APPROVAL OF PBO**

*Section 30* which gives the Commissioner the right to approve a public benefit organisation for the purposes of the Act provides that the Commissioner will approve such an organisation if

- it complies with such conditions as the Minister may prescribe
- it has submitted to the Commissioner a copy of its constitution, will or other written instrument under which it has been established in terms of which it is:
  - required to have at least three unconnected persons to accept fiduciary responsibility
  - **prohibited from directly or indirectly distributing any funds to any person (otherwise than in the course of any public benefit activity) and is required to utilise its funds solely for the objects for which it has been established**
  - required on dissolution to transfer its assets to a section 30(3)(b)(iii) organisation (see below). In the case of a branch or agency of an association incorporated and tax exempt in another country, it can also distribute the assets of the organisation to any other person provided that those assets were acquired from a source outside the Republic
  - **is prohibited from receiving any donation which is revocable at the instance of the donor**
  - **required to submit to the Commissioner any amendments to its constitution**
- the Commissioner is satisfied that it is not knowingly party to a tax-avoidance scheme
- **it has not paid remuneration to any employee, office bearer, or member which is excessive**
- it complies with reporting requirements determined by the Commissioner

Note that a PBO no longer has to be registered in terms of the Non-Profit Organisations Act (Act 71 of 1997) to qualify for tax exemption, but, the Director of Non-Profit Organisations as defined in that Act

## ASSA COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

can request the Commissioner to withdraw the approval of any PBO if it has been convicted of any offence under the Act.

**END**

### **Checklist** (covered under Governance item 7)

1 Feb            Scholarship application deadline

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            1<sup>st</sup> Wed Aug. 21 business days before 1<sup>st</sup> 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**