

Minutes of the 55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Friday 26 February 2016 at 10:00am

At Forum Homini,

The Cradle of Humankind, Letamo Game Estate

PRESENT:	Dr Otis Nyandoro (in the Chair)	WITS
	Mr Derik le Roux	UP
	Mr Kobus Oosthuizen	Mintek
	Mr John Ekoru	WITS
	Prof Ian Craig	UP
	Mr Jonathan Meyer	EXXARO
	Mr Steve Elliot	EHL
	Mr Dion Sabatta	UJ
	Mr Rodney Grobler	BECKHOFF
	Dr Kevin Brooks	BLUESP
	Ms Robyn Verrinder	UCT
	Mr Vinesh Maharaj	YOKOGAWA
	Mr Jonathan van Niekerk	AURECON
	Dr Kenny Uren	NWU
	Dr George van Schoor	NWU
	Mr Tinashe Chinghozha	WITS
	Rupert Hinze	RANDWATER
	Mr Quintin McCutcheon	SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC
	Mr Andre Hoffman	SAIEE
	Mr Francois Pieterse	BLUESP
	Ms Lidia Auret	SU
	Mr Ken Smith	BLUESP
	Mr Tony Lange	OPTIN
APOLOGIES:	Mr Gary Humphries	ANGLO PLATINUM
	Mr Stephen Venter	RITAL
	Mr Laurentz Olivier	SASOL
	Prof T Jones	SU
	Tshegofatso Thejane	
	Mr Gideon Van Der Westhuizen	LONMIN
	Mr Alfred Schroder	AURECON
	S Bridgens	SAIEE
	Dr Fernando Camisani Calzolari	CSIR
	Mr Koos Veldman	ESKOM
	Ms Mary Marusich	CMW AUTOMATION
	Mr Anton Van Wyk	WITS
	Ms Keri Garland	OFFICE EXECUTIVES
SECRETARIAT:	Sarah Webb	OFFICE EXECUTIVES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The president, Dr Otis Nyandoro, welcomed all present to this, the 55th SACAC Annual General Meeting and the apologies as above were noted.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 13 MARCH 2015

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting, held on 13 March 2015, were accepted as a fair reflection of the matters discussed however the following amendments were noted:

1st Page – adjustments were needed to names and titles and duplicate of Mr John Maartens from SAIEE.

2nd Page – 2nd paragraph from the bottom – to change will to well.

4th Page – any other business (spelling).

3. GUEST SPEAKER

The president welcomed Margaret Bauer to SACAC. Her speech included a recap on 2015 of which she spent at ABB in Germany investigating research topics such as Industrie 4.0 and Low Cost Sensing. She also reported on the latest technologies that were presented at the Hanover Fair. The president thanked Margaret and presented her with a gift for her contribution to the morning.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The president tabled and read his report for the year ended 31 December 2015, a copy of which will be attached to the Minutes. Looking back on 2015, it was a successful year. Particular focus has been to re-strategise, realign objectives and refocus on new goals through developing a long term strategic plan. Key points that were revisited included strengthening SACAC's relationship with IFAC; improving co-operation between industry and institutions; developing capacity within the automation industry and providing value for the members.

The result of a survey that SACAC conducted highlighted the need to have more workshops and conferences with activities and benefits covering the broad spectrum of members. The survey further indicated the need to modernise SACAC's image and become more relevant on multiple social media platforms.

The year saw more events being held outside of Gauteng. The next IFAC event to be hosted by SAFAC is the Control Conference for Africa scheduled for March 2017.

A brief summary was given on the finances.

After briefing the group with the outlook for 2016, the president duly thanked Kobus Oosthuizen, Derik le Roux and all the EXCO members of the organisation for their passion and dedication. He then went on to thank all the members of SACAC for their continued support.

Derik le Roux seconded the president's report as an accurate state of the organisation. All were in agreement.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT AND FINANCIALS

The Honorary Treasurer, Derik le Roux, tabled the Treasurer's report for 2015, copies of which had been circulated.

Income for 2015 was largely made up from interest accrued, membership subscriptions and workshops. The large surplus was a result of the interest earned from IFAC 2014.

Expenditure covered IFAC subscription, secretarial fees and rebranding. It was noted that the secretarial fees were abnormally high this year and this was a result of the transition between JCCI and Office Executives as secretariat. This cost is expected to reduce for 2016.

It was advised that the surplus from IFAC 2014 would need to be utilised in such a way to provide maximum benefit for SACAC and its members. Mr le Roux then explained the Economic Road Map – SACAC’s Investment Fund. This covered IFAC’s membership fee, IFAC World Congress Sponsorship for at least two employees of SACAC’s industrial members and at least one student of SACAC’s institutional members, Control Conference for Africa (both seed money for the conference and sponsorship money) and lastly to fund an IFAC event – the first of which being the MMM Workshop of 2019.

The roadmap for 2016 to 2021 was attached to the report.

In terms of the budget, it was reported that 2016 would mark the start of a number of projects with the aim of strengthening SACAC’s position to promote automation and control for the benefit of Southern Africa. The budget was based on 28 corporate members and 8 institutional members.

Mr le Roux indicated that because of SACAC’s strong financial position and the worldwide economic pressure on companies, there would not be any increases in membership fees from 2015 to 2016.

Expenditure for 2016 would incorporate workshop costs, meetings, further branding and sponsorship.

It was noted that the budget had a shortfall (exceptional) of R80,513 which would be funded by the SACAC investment fund and SACAC’s reserves.

The subscription fees were tabled as follows:

- Corporate Membership
 - R4,000.00 Normal Fee
 - R9,400.00 Alternate Fee (allowing 3 delegates to be sent to all local SACAC workshops free of charge)

- Institution Members
 - R2,300.00 Normal Fee
 - R5,000.00 Alternate Fee (allowing 3 delegates to be sent to all local SACAC workshops free of charge)

The president proposed for the budget to be accepted and was unanimously agreed by members present.

Acknowledgements were made to Keri Garland of Office Executives for her excellent work and the effortless transition made during 2015 as well as to Kobus Oosthuizen (previous treasurer) for his guidance with SACAC’s finances.

The Constitution – Change of Address: Since changing secretariats – the AGM needed to approve the change of address. It was put forward to the President and all were in agreement.

6. PUBLICITY –

Mr Derik Le Roux presented the new website (live as of that morning) to the group. The goal was to create a platform to effectively communicate to all members. Rebranding took place in terms of SACAC’s logo. The biggest change was that it could be worked on directly. Next steps for SACAC – using social media platforms. The new webpage was displayed featuring a front page with a carousel showing upcoming events – list of workshops, a monthly newsletter, about page with mission statement and information on IFAC. It was mentioned that it was not a complex website but would work effectively for communication and was well worth the investment. It was also noted that the old site could still be accessed if necessary (still being hosted) but that the new website contains all the information available.

A question was posed regarding the rebranding on the LinkedIn group – and whether it was being kept. Mr le Roux replied that there were changes that needed to be made – but was important to have the website built first in order to create a hub/centre. It would then be restructured at a later stage.

The President thanked Derik le Roux for his input.

7. IFAC REPORT

Prof Ian Craig (current past president of IFAC) thanked the President. He followed on by giving an overview of the activities of IFAC up until 2017. Summarised as follows:

- There are currently 49 national organisations of which SAFAC is one
- New members in last triennium – Algeria and India
- There are 3,400 IFC Affiliates
- Two new membership categories have been introduced: Reduced fee and Introductory membership

Technical Activities:

Meetings:

- There were 43 sponsored/co-sponsored events in 2015
- 2,000 people from 60 countries are actively involved in technical activities of IFAC
- Publication issues in IFC are dealt with by the
 - Publications Committee (Pubcom) forms part of exec board
 - Publications Management Board (PUMB)
- IFAC has 7 journals
- New in 2015 – nonlinear analysis – hybrid systems

The council approved the establishment of a new IFAC journal on systems and control – under leadership of Robert Bitmead. The new journal will cover all technical committees. It will be an open source journal, however these have waned in recent times.

Publications – IFAC PapersOnLine

- POL – now the only formal publication outlet for IFAC meetings
- All IFAC events use the conference manuscript management system PAPERPLAZA
<http://ifac.papercept.net>

A unique selling point of POL is its open-access nature.

Migration to ScienceDirect almost complete – www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/24058963

Major awards and fellows:

There is a new award – the Manfred Thomas medal for an outstanding contributor under the age of 40 as a young researcher and/or engineer – first award to be given at congress 2017

Prof Ian Craig then gave a brief summary of the financial status of IFAC.

In terms of rebranding for IFAC – Europe heavily involved with the process. Social media channels, newsletter etc.

The 2017 Congress will take place in Toulouse: 9-14 July 2017. Admissions already open - Paper submission deadline 31 October 2016. They will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of IFAC with various initiatives.

Future congresses:

The Council has selected Berlin, Germany as the venue for the 21st IFAC congress in 2020 with Frank Allgower as IFAC president for the 2017-2020 triennium.

8. PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The president mentioned how all the activities mentioned during the meeting were fitting into SACAC's plans for the future including rebranding, workshops etc. The conferences were intended for members to take part in and interact with IFAC.

The president further appealed that since the organisation was made up of individuals, that they should continue to support SACAC in order to take the agenda of SACAC forward.

9. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Dr Otis Nyandoro was nominated and seconded to run as President for the coming year.
Mr Kobus Oosthuizen was nominated and seconded to run as Vice President for the coming year.
Mr Derik le Roux was nominated and seconded to run as Honorary Treasurer for the coming year.

The secretary called for nominations for EXCO members for the coming year and the following persons were duly proposed and seconded and AGREED to stand as members for the coming year:

President:	Dr Otis Nyandoro
Vice President:	Mr Kobus Oosthuizen
Honorary Treasurer:	Mr Derik le Roux

The following persons were duly elected to the Executive Committee:

John Burchell	Lonmin
Jonathan Meyer	EXXARO
Steve Elliot	EHL
Alfred Schroder	Aurecon
Kenny Uren	North West University
Lidia Auret	Stellenbosch University
Deon Sabatta	University of Johannesburg
Robyn Verrinder	University of Cape Town

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12:30pm which was followed by luncheon at Roots Restaurant.