

Minutes of the GSSA AGM held on 19 July 2007, Eden Grove, Rhodes University, Grahamstown

1. **Welcome** MH

Mark Hardy welcomed all and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He extended a special word of welcome to the NISC representatives, as well as Winston Trollope who had been present at the first GSSA AGM and continued to be an active member of the Society. He thanked Susi Vetter for arranging "refreshments" for the meeting.

2. **Present and apologies**

Present: Nicky Allsopp, Dave Balfour, Anuschka Barac, Harry Biggs, Coral Birss, Philip Botha, Leslie Brown, Amos Chauke, John Clayton, Marisa Coetzee, Pieter Conradie, Justin du Toit, Sikkhalazo Dube, Albertus Dyason, Luthando Dziba, Holger Eckhardt, James Gambiza, Eddie Goldschagg, Wiseman Goqwana, Rina Grant, Mark Hardy, Lisa Hebbelmann, Jakes Jacobs, Jorrie Jordaan, Jorrie Jordaan, Dieter Jordaan, Fiachra Kearney, Klaus Kellner, Hanno Kilian, Kevin Kirkman, Mota Lesoli, Pieter Malan, Paul Malan, Khanyi Mbatha, Jerry Naiken, IB Oosthuizen, Graham Peddie, John Peel, Bertie Ras, Pete Scogings, Rob Scott-Shaw, Alan Short, Nico Smit, Hennie Snyman, Annelene Swanepoel, Derick Swart, Mahlodi Tau, Winston Trollope, Wayne Truter, Loraine van den Berg, Frits van Oudtshoorn, Erika van Zyl, Susi Vetter, Helen King, Mzingisi Mbuti, Fatunbi Abiolun, Freyni du Toit, Fred Provenza, Lester Isaacs, Margaret Crampton

Apologies: Mike Peel, Clive Bunting, Chris Dannhauser, Norman Rethman, Debbie Jewitt, Graham Kerley, Richard Hurt, Dave Goodenough, Maureen Wolfson, Angus Maclaurin, Isak Venter, Erwin Leibnitz

The meeting was declared quorate.

3. **Additions to and acceptance of the agenda** All

No additions to the agenda.

The agenda was accepted.

Proposer: Graham Peddie

Seconder: Rina Grant

4. **Approval of the minutes of 19 July 2006** All

1. Page 4 – Item 7.1, "with 9 resident in South Africa" should be replaced with "with 17 resident in South Africa"

With this correction, the previous minutes were accepted.

Proposer: Graham Peddie

Seconder: Susi Vetter

5. **Matters arising**

5.1 Congress 43 (2008) RG

RG indicated that the planning for Congress 43 is well underway. The Congress will be from 21 – 25 July 2008 at Badplaas Aventura, Mpumalanga. Having the Congress at Badplaas will attract individuals from a wide variety of land uses, such as dairy farming, wool production, game farming etc.

A concern was raised that the conference facilities at Badplaas would not be able to accommodate 250 delegates. Freyni du Toit and Wayne Truter assured the meeting that this would not be a problem.

The main theme of the Congress will be - Implementing new approaches to range and pasture management. Symposia relating to the following issues have already been suggested:

- Practical application of adaptive management approaches
- Management of wildlife on ranches
- Conservation and wildlife management in areas north of the Limpopo
- Using science to direct range and pasture management
- Cultivated pastures

Alan Short suggested that it would be a good idea to organize a theme specific cultivated pastures symposium to attract interested people, rather than just organizing a general cultivated pastures symposium.

The Organizing Committee consists of the following people:

Rina Grant
Wayne Truter
Mike Peel
Freyne du Toit

More information concerning Congress 43 (2008) will be communicated to members in due time.

5.2 Strategic Plan

MH

Mark Hardy gave the background to the Strategic Plan and informed the meeting that the current Strategic Plan was reviewed on 24 April 2007. He specified that a full review will be carried out next year. He indicated that Council is planning and executing all GSSA activities in accordance with the Strategic Plan. He pointed out that most of the important points set out in the Strategic Plan would be covered in the Editor's, PRO and PAC reports, but highlighted the following points from the review.

1. The GSSA vision and mission statements have been finalized.

Vision

Advancing rangeland ecology and pasture management in Africa

Mission

- To be a dynamic and inclusive forum for scientists and practitioners in rangeland ecology and pasture management
- To champion the sustainable use of rangelands and pastures for the benefit of people and the environment

In addition, the vision statement will be used as the Society's slogan.

2. Freyne du Toit is in the process of linking the Society with various other organizations, institutions and interested parties.
3. Banners, fliers and posters, containing information about the Society, have been developed and distributed at various occasions.
4. The position of Website Co-ordinator (currently Additional member) will be made a full position on Council as Website Editor.
5. A good relationship has developed between the Society and NISC. A special arrangement with NISC would assure that all members have access to previous proceedings of the GSSA online.
6. A GSSA expertise database has been developed and tested with the professional members of the Society. Freyne du Toit will send the database to all members for completion. A copy of the database will also be available on the website.

Mark Hardy recognized the fact that the Administrator has done a great job over the last

couple of years to sort out the administration of the Society. He thanked Freyni du Toit for all her hard work, especially with congress planning and organization.

Mark Hardy stressed the fact that we serve the range and forage community and therefore we should promote the science in every way that we can.

6. Treasurer's report

JdT

Justin du Toit presented the Treasurer's report.

Budget

The actual income and expenses for the last year and budget for the next year were presented (attached).

The income from membership fees and membership fees in arrears has increased substantially from last year. The statement showed a net loss of R10 686 for this year, but he indicated that the income from Congress 42 has not been included in the statement.

He pointed out the high expenditure for auditing, as compared to last year, but stressed the importance of having audited financial statements.

Council expenses were higher than the proposed amount and can be ascribed to the fact that the travel costs of Council members to attend meetings were previously partially or fully sponsored by member's employers. He indicated that a larger amount is budgeted for Council meetings for next year.

Due to a change in printer, as well as the improved paper quality of the Bulletin, the amount budgeted for next year is higher than previous years.

As a result of efforts being made to promote the Society through advertorial material, such as banners, fliers etc., the budgeted amount for Public Relations has increased for next year.

A question was raised concerning the R77 000, which was noted as Other Income in the 2005/06 financial year. Winston Trollope indicated that this was a once-off donation from Trust to the Society.

The proposed budget was approved.

Proposer: Winston Trollope

Secunder: Susi Vetter

Non Profit Organization

Justin du Toit indicated that the GSSA is now formally registered as a non profit organization, which holds various benefits for the Society, especially with regard to fundraising.

Membership fees

The proposed membership fee increase for 2007/08 was presented. Justin du Toit proposed that the membership fees of the Society should increase by 6.5% for 2007/08. The new fees are as follows (rounded off to the nearest R5, with the retired membership fees remaining constant):

Ordinary member - R365

Associate member - R325

Professional member - R410

Family - R550

Overseas member - R640

Institution - R950

Retired - R90

The proposed membership fees were approved.

Proposer – Graham Peddie
Secunder – Wayne Truter

Two questions were raised from the floor concerning membership fees.

1. Do libraries fall under Institutional membership?

Freyne du Toit indicated that libraries fall directly under NISC.

2. Is there a way that interested undergraduate students can become members of the Society at a reduced rate?

Freyne du Toit indicated that currently students pay the Associate membership fees and receive the Journal and Grassroots. She pointed out that there is the option of forming a “Grassland Group” and receiving the Journal and Grassroots as a group. Additionally the group can pay the Retired fee per person to receive extra copies of Grassroots. Susi Vetter suggested that the name ‘Retired fee’ is changed to accommodate students only wishing to receive the Grassroots and attend the Congress.

The NISC representative also pointed out that, as a “Grassland Group” they could access the journal online, and suggested lowered rates for online journal subscription by students.

How expensive are our Congresses?

Justin du Toit presented a graph comparing the cost of the GSSA Congress to other national and international congresses (attached). He showed that the GSSA Congress is more expensive than other South African congresses, but less expensive than international congresses. The GSSA Congress, however, offers more to delegates than the other South African congresses, i.e. international speakers etc.

The conclusion was made that the GSSA Congress is not too expensive. Justin du Toit proposed a 12% increase for next year’s Congress fees, and the proposal was accepted by the meeting.

Financial way forward

Justin du Toit pointed out that the major expenses of the Society include Journal publication costs, as well as administration costs. As a result of improved communication and financial agreements with NISC the cost for Journal publication is not as unpredictable as in the past, and can therefore be budgeted for.

Almost all of the Society’s income is generated by membership fees and Congresses. Due to improved administration, payment of current and outstanding membership fees has improved, and the total membership number has increased.

The system of payments by Congress to the Society appears to be working effectively and is guaranteeing a certain income to the Society. The payment to the Society from next year’s congress has been set at R70 000.

He indicated that the Society is now in a position to increase its net balances, but that extra money can only be paid over to Trust if a buffer is in place for unexpected expenses.

He referred back to last year’s AGM where he showed possible financial scenarios for the future, derived from the financial position of the Society at that time. As a result of the current financial management, he predicted an upward trend in the financial position of the Society in the next couple of years.

Mark Hardy thanked Justin and Freyne du Toit for all their inputs and hard work to improve the financial situation of the Society.

7. Editor’s reports

Pete Scogings, the Scientific Editor, presented the report. A detailed report is attached.

Editorial Board

The total number of Editorial Board members is 25, with 10 resident in South Africa. Mark Hardy resigned as Assistant Editor, but remained on the Board as an Advisory Editor. Dr M. Trytsman joined as an Assistant Editor. During an Editorial Board meeting held on 20 July 2006, a strategy was discussed to publish one special issue each year based on special symposia held at Congress. A document on procedures for Guest Editors of Special Issues was revised.

Manuscripts

Forty-five manuscripts were received in 2006 (33% rejected, 33% accepted and 20% under revision). Most papers were on rangeland topics, with some pasture and animal centred papers. Sixty-seven percent of papers originated from southern Africa, while a few papers from the rest of Africa and the Middle East were received. Eighteen papers and six research notes were published in Volume 23. All material for Vol 23 was sent to NISC on time.

For 2007/08, fourteen manuscripts had been received to date. Volume 24 no 1 and 2 have already been published and Volume 24 no 3 is to be published in October 2007.

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) report

According to the ASSAf report, published in 2006, a total of 255 journals are published in South Africa. The African Journal of Range and Forage Science (AJRFS) was among 19 with the highest impact.

ISI rating

As part of the process of applying for rating by Thomson ISI, the publisher of AJRFS (NISC) requested a brief note on the unique features of the journal and how it is distinguished from other journals in the field. Inputs from 8 members (32%) of the Ed Board were compiled and a document was submitted to NISC in August 2006.

Centre for Higher and Adult Education (CHAE) survey

Pete Scogings indicated that he replied to an online questionnaire compiled by the CHAE. The CHAE was gathering information to use in workshops on "Writing for Publication".

Mark Hardy thanked the Editor for his hard work and informed the meeting that Council is currently looking into the matter of paying an honorarium to the Journal Editor.

Alan Short, the Publication Editor, reported that four issues of the Grassroots have been produced in the previous year, and thanked those who contributed to the Grassroots. He extended a special word of thanks to Freyni du Toit for her inputs towards the Grassroots.

Quality of printing

A new printer has been used to print the latest issue of the Grassroots, which improved the quality of printing. In addition to improved quality of printing, the latest issue boasts a new glossy cover. A proposal will be submitted to Trust to apply for funds to subsidize colour printing of the Grassroots cover in the future.

Administration

Alan Short and Freyni du Toit have compiled an editorial policy to improve the

management of the Grassroots. All aspects of the management of the Grassroots have been thoroughly documented to ensure continuity in the future.

Grassroots on the web

Most of the previous issues of Grassroots (from 2002) are available on the GSSA website. Currently all the Grassroots issues on the web are available as single pdf files, but individual articles can also be downloaded.

He indicated that he has applied to Google Scholar (a search engine for academic websites) for registration, to ensure that Grassroots is accessible to a wide audience through the web.

Assistance

Jorrie Jordaan has agreed to step into an assistant editorial position and has already sourced a number of articles for the Grassroots.

Alan Short indicated that he is looking for an understudy to eventually take over the position of Publication Editor. He asked that interested and enthusiastic individuals, who enjoy fiddling with layouts, please contact him.

General

The Editor asked members to keep sending articles for the Grassroots.

A question was raised concerning advertisements in the Grassroots. Alan Short indicated that an attempt has been made to appoint someone to solicit advertisements to be published in Grassroots, but unfortunately this hasn't worked. He indicated, however, that a colour cover might make the Grassroots more attractive to advertisers.

A suggestion was made to advertise the Grassroots in the Journal and vice versa. This suggestion was accepted by the meeting.

Mark Hardy thanked the Publication Editor for his hard work with regards to the Grassroots.

8. Website Editor's report

KM

Khanyi Mbatha, the Website Editor, presented the report.

The GSSA website has shown a positive growth, with a total of 98 129 visitors since November 2001 to July 2007. The Editor indicated that the website is updated weekly.

Khanyi Mbatha indicated that the homepage, members' page and upcoming events page are the web pages most frequently visited. She pointed out that according to the automatic counters the mean number of pages visited per person accessing the web page is only one. Susi Vetter felt that these figures are not correct. Freyni du Toit indicated that she would contact Glen Barnes to find out if the counters are correct.

Khanyi Mbatha encouraged all members to keep on visiting the website as the volume of traffic could be used to generate funds for the Society by attracting advertisers to the web site.

Mark Hardy thanked Khanyi Mbatha, Freyni du Toit and Glen Barnes for their inputs towards the website. In return Freyni du Toit thanked Khanyi Mbatha, as she is handling most aspects of the website.

9. PRO report

LD

Luthando Dziba presented the PRO report. A detailed report is attached. He thanked Susi

Vetter for her assistance in the PRO Portfolio and the Communications Committee for their ideas and support.

Student awards

Luthando Dziba indicated that a number of Institutions submitted nominations for student awards. The award winners for 2006/07 include:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. UFS | - Mariska Labuschagne |
| 2. TUT | - Justin Bowers |
| 3. Wits | - Kaera Coetzer |
| 4. Grootfontein | - Pieter Jordaan |
| 5. Cedara | - A van Niekerk |

A question was raised concerning GSSA awards for foreign students. Luthando Dziba indicated that this is possible as all the procedures are in place. The Institutions should just be added to the list, to ensure that information in this regard reaches the necessary individuals.

Fliers/banners

A roll-up banner has been made for the GSSA and used at various meetings. Fliers, matching the banner, have been made and distributed at various occasions. A3 size posters will be made. Freyni du Toit has updated all correspondence material with the new vision and mission.

Symposia, farmers days, radio and TV

Luthando Dziba was interviewed on Ulimo, a TV program targeting small-scale farmers and communities, which is broadcasted daily on SABC 2.

AgriTV will attend the Congress and cover a part of the Dairy Symposium and the Post Congress tour.

Young scientist expo

The regional expos have been delayed by about a month. The first expo will be in Grahamstown on 20 July 2007. Freyni du Toit was thanked for organizing judges to judge at the regional expos. A request was made to get the GSSA Expo award posted on the Expos website.

Shoprite/Checkers Woman of the Year Award

Sue Milton has been nominated by the Society for Woman of the Year in the Science category and was chosen as one of the three finalists in this category. Everybody was reminded to watch SABC 2 on 9 August 2007 when the winner will be announced.

9.1 Young members to assist with PRO

LD

A request was made that young members avail themselves to assist with local and regional PRO related activities.

Mark Hardy thanked the PRO officer for all his efforts towards PRO related activities, especially the Shoprite/Checkers Award.

10. **PAC report**

LB

Leslie Brown, the chairman of the PAC, presented the report. A detailed report is attached. He indicated that the PAC is now properly constituted and it is foreseen that it would again function properly. He thanked council and especially Freyni du Toit for assistance.

Membership

The Professional Register currently has a total of 61 members of which 39 are in good standing.

Website

The professional members list on the website has been updated. The compiled expertise database (as mentioned in 5.2) has been tested with the professional members.

Functioning of the PAC

During a meeting to discuss the functioning and way forward of the PAC the following professional members have been appointed to serve on the PAC:

- Dr. Albert Smith
 - Dr. David Grossman
 - Dr. Maureen Wolfson
 - Mr. Richard Hurt
- Secretary – Ms. Tersia de Beer

The following procedures for the handling of professional member applications have been set:

- a) Freyni du Toit receives all applications.
- b) Once received it is forwarded to the PAC chairperson/secretary
- c) Each application will be sent to two referees who will be registered professional members of the Society.
- d) Referee reports are sent to referees who are asked to provide feedback within 15 working days.
- e) Once referee reports have been received the PAC will make the final decision and notify the applicant in writing of the result.
- f) Should an application be deemed not to conform to the criteria for admission as a professional member, the PAC will provide full reasons for decisions.

Comments on bills

The PAC decided that it can only serve in an advisory capacity with regards to commenting on draft bills or other policy. The PAC will only get involved if formally requested on behalf of the Society, in which case the PAC will either assign a person/s or a task team to develop a response.

South African Council for Natural Scientific Professionals

It was decided that more information from other societies and their opinion on the Act would be obtained before a decision is taken on what procedure to follow.

Mark Hardy thanked Leslie Brown for the report and all his inputs towards the PAC.

11. Trust report

WT

Winston Trollope presented the Trust report. He indicated that he will be stepping down as chairman of Trust and that Klaus Kellner will be taking over the position. Mark Hardy is stepping down as ex-officio and thanked him for all his inputs.

An amendment was made to the presented Trust financial statement. "R15 500.00 should read R155 000.00".

Winston Trollope indicated that the granting of funds is now in line with legislation through the Joint Allocation Committee.

Freyni du Toit was appointed as Administrator for Trust and she was thanked for her inputs thus far.

12. Election of office bearers

12.1 Vice President

Two nominations were received for Vice President

1. Dave Balfour
2. Pieter Conradie

Two non-voting attendees were appointed to collect the ballots and count the votes.

Pieter Conradie was elected as Vice President.

12.2 Additional member

Two nominations were received for Additional Member

1. Phillip Botha
2. Hanno Killian

Two non-voting attendees were appointed to collect the ballots and count the votes.

Phillip Botha was elected as Additional Member.

13. General

13.1 Congress 44 (2009)

Coral Birss (Gauteng Nature Conservation) proposed to hold the congress at Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve near Heidelberg.

A question was raised concerning the availability of accommodation. She ensured the meeting that the availability of accommodation will not be a problem.

Mark Hardy asked Coral Birss to meet with the rest of the organizing committee to compile a formal proposal, which should be submitted to Freyni du Toit.

Mark Hardy thanked Coral Birss and Mike Peel in his absence.

14. Constitutional changes

There were no proposed Constitutional changes.

15. Date of next meeting

Next meeting to be held during Congress 43 (2008) at Badplaas.

16. Closure

Mark Hardy thanked the AGM for having the opportunity to head the Society. He thanked all Council members for their inputs during the last year. He handed over the presidency to Rina Grant and wished her all the best and asked everyone to support her.

President _____

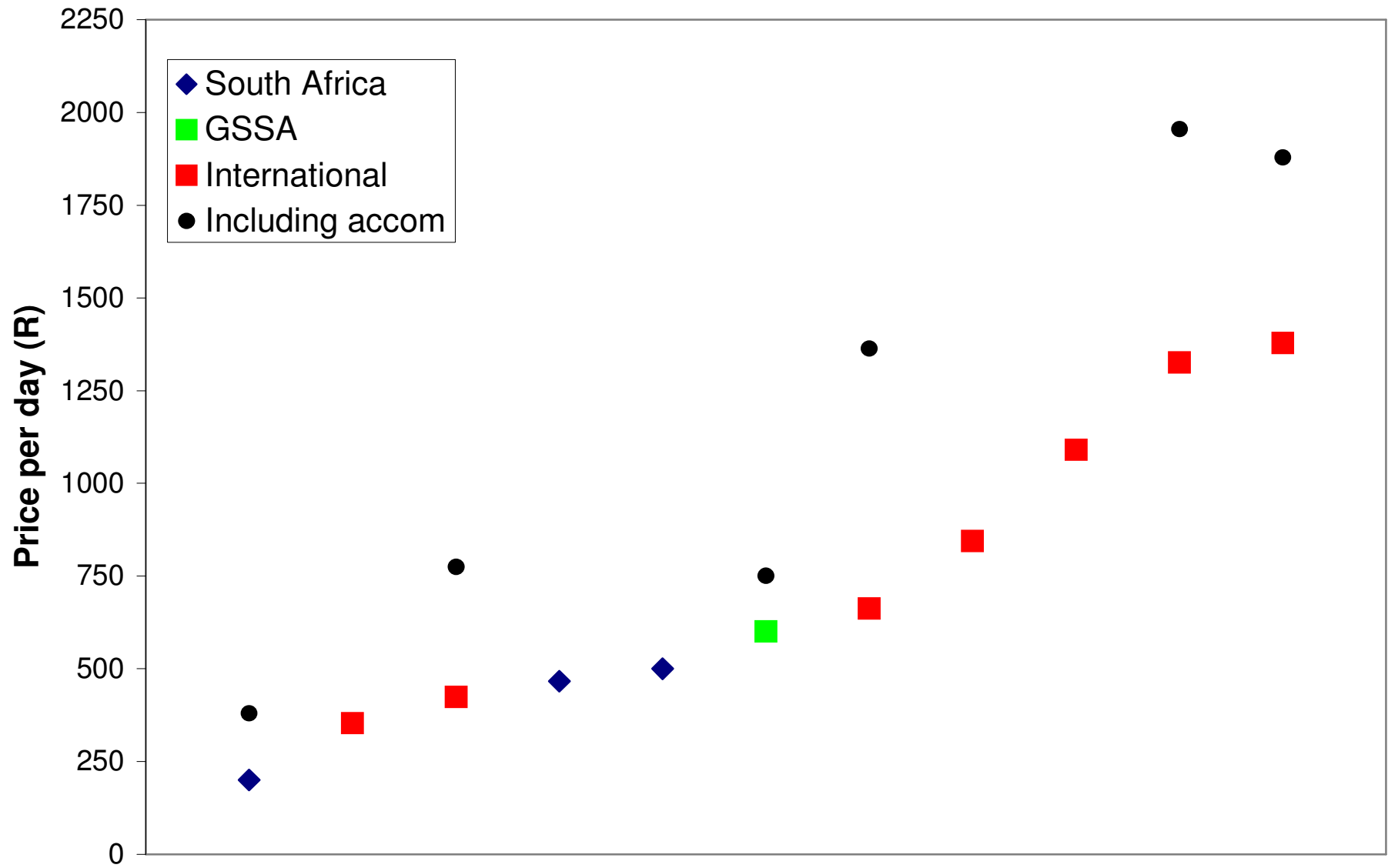
Date _____

Secretary _____

Date _____

GSSA BUDGET				To end June 06	
INCOME	Proposed 2005/06	Actual 2005/06	Proposed 2006/07	Actual2006/07	Proposed 2007/08
Subscriptions					
Membership Fees	108,100	73,731	103,200	128,502	122,640
Membership Fees in Arrears	15,000	16,295	15,000	26,837	27,000
Other					
Annual Congress 40 (2005) Kap	0	0	0	0	0
Annual Congress 41 (2006) War	50,000	108,654	0	0	0
Annual Congress 42 (2007) Gra	0	0	60,000	0	0
Annual Congress 43 (2008) Bad			0	0	70,000
Advertising	0	0	0	0	0
Farmers Days, Symposia, etc.	0	0	0	0	0
GSSA Publications	0	0	0	2,716	0
Other Income	0	77,000	0	0	0
Total Income	173,100	275,681	178,200	158,055	219,640
EXPENDITURE					
Administrator	44,880	47,216	47,600	50,881	51,854
Administrative Expenses (Other)	8,000	2,719	8,500	1,000	8,500
Annual General Meeting	0	1,718	1,720	1,054	2,000
Auditors	3,000	0	2,580	13,680	5,000
Bank Charges	1,500	2,085	1,462	2,067	1,500
Council Expenses	8,000	11,738	6,880	17,616	20,000
Journal Expenses: NISC	80,000	127,295	68,370	55,008	75,207
Postage and Courier	7,000	12,376	8,600	2,847	9,460
Printing: Grass Roots	7,000	11,695	9,460	14,037	20,000
PAC meetings	0	0	0	2,256	3,000
Public Relations	3,000	4,012	3,010	3,040	14,000
ShopDirect (Credit Card Facility)	0	8,382	5,246	2,157	0
Subscriptions	400	440	413	817	850
Website	3,000	2,736	3,000	2,280	3,000
Other expenses	0	0	0		0
Total expenditure	165,780	232,410	166,841	168,741	214,371
Net surplus/loss	7,320	43,270	11,359	-10,686	5,269

How expensive are our Congress?





Grassland Society of Southern Africa

Scientific Editor's Report on the *African Journal of Range & Forage Science* for 2006

Editorial Board

At the start of 2006, the Editorial Board consisted of the Scientific Editor, the Administrative Editor, 6 Assistant Editors and 16 Advisory Editors. During the year, Mark Hardy resigned as an Assistant Editor, but stayed on the Board as an Advisory Editor. Dr M Trytsman joined as an Assistant Editor, bringing the total number of members to 25. The members of the Editorial Board are thanked for their valuable contributions to the policies, procedures and standards of the journal.

The Editorial Board met on Thursday 20 July 2006 at Klein Kariba. The following members (28%) were present: PF Scogings, K Mbatha, S Vetter, L Dziba, E Sabiiti, M Hardy and K Kellner. Apologies (12%) were received from K Kirkman, M Panagos and N Allsopp. At the meeting we discussed a strategy aimed at having 1 special issue each year, either #1 or #2, based on special symposia organised as part of each year's GSSA congress. To this end, a document drafted 2 years previously on procedures for Guest Editors of Special Issues was revised.

Manuscripts received, rejected and accepted

Forty-five manuscripts were received during 2006. Of these, 8 were received during the first quarter, 10 during the 2nd, 16 during the 3rd and 11 during the 4th quarter. Of the received mss, 15 (33%) were rejected and 15 (33%) were accepted, while 9 (20%) mss are currently being revised. Five mss are still with referees. One ms was withdrawn. The mean time from submission to acceptance was 6.4 months (SE = 0.54).

The main topics covered by the manuscripts received were on pastures (7), animals (9) and rangelands (29). Submitting authors were from South Africa (28), Kenya (4), Nigeria (3), Zimbabwe (1), Lesotho (1), Ghana (1), Uganda (1), Iran (1), Australia (1), the UK (2) and Sweden (1). Geographical regions covered by mss included southern Africa (29), eastern and central Africa (8), and western/northern Africa and the Middle-east (6).

Volume 23

Eighteen papers and six research notes were published in Volume 23. All material for Vol 23 was sent to NISC on time.

Referees

The referees are thanked for their contributions to maintaining the journal's standards. Sixty-one referees were involved in reviewing the manuscripts received during 2006. They were:

A Gaylard	D Joubert	J du Toit	M Samways	S Ammann
A Illius	D Richardson	J Gambiza	M Trytsman	S Collins
A Lezar	D Williams	J Hodgson	N Allsopp	S Fuhlendorf
A Mills	E February	J van Heerden	N Rethman	S Todd
A Palmer	E Witkowski	K Kellner	N Zambatis	S Milton
A Smith	W Ekaya	K Mbatha	P Bartholomew	T Papachristou
A van Rooyen	F van Langevelde	K Mfundisi	P Greenfield	T Rooke
B Fulkerson	G Naidoo	K Parr	P Jones	V Williams
C Bonyongo	G Trytsman	L Dziba	P Carrick	W Stock
C Morris	H Snyman	L Dziba	R Fynn	
D Codron	I Gordon	L Hunt	R Grant	
D Druce	I Nsahlai	M Hardy	R Teague	
D Grierson	I Samuels	M Landman	R Uys	

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) report

Following its 2005 questionnaire survey of journal editors regarding journal operations, the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) published their report in March 2006. In it ASSAf reported that of 255 journals published in South Africa, AJRFS was among 19 with highest impacts (www.assaf.co.za). The report also said that AJRFS performed better than some of the journals published in South Africa that are rated by ISI.

ISI rating

As part of the process of applying for rating by Thomson ISI, the publisher of AJRFS (NISC) requested a brief note on the unique features of the journal and how it is distinguished from other journals in the field. Inputs from 8 members (32%) of the Ed Board were compiled and a document was submitted to NISC in August 2006.

CHAE survey

The Centre for Higher and Adult Education at Stellenbosch University asked journal editors to reply to an online questionnaire in November that was aimed at gathering information for use in countrywide workshops on "writing for publication". I obliged.

PF Scogings, PhD
 Scientific Editor: *African Journal of Range & Forage Science*
 13 July 2007

PRO Report, July 2007

STUDENT AWARDS

Several Institutions have submitted nominations for Student Awards.

Names of Award Winners for 2006/2007 are:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 6. UFS | - Mariska Labuschagne |
| 7. TUT | - Justin Bowers |
| 8. Wits | - Kaera Coetzer |
| 9. Grootfontein | - Pieter Jordaan |
| 10. Cedara | - A van Niekerk |

We encourage professors and lecturers to nominate good students at their institutions. It is motivation for the students (recipient and others) and good publicity for the society.

FLYERS/BANNERS

A roll-up banner for the GSSA was made. We have used it at various meetings, including the KNP Network Meeting and various workshops (SANBI, CSIR). New A3 size banners will be made. We will contact you to post these in your provinces and institutions. Flyers HAVE BEEN UPDATED to match the banner. The new flyer was placed in every delegate bag at the recent Society for Conservation Biology (+/- 1700 delegates) and the banner was displayed throughout the meeting.

Freyne has updated all correspondence material with the new vision and mission as agreed upon at the last Council meeting.

SYMPOSIA, FARMERS DAYS, RADIO, TV

Luthando was interviewed on Ulimo, which is a TV programme presented at 5:30am daily on SABC 2 and targets small scale farmers and communities. He also talked about the Congress and the Dairy symposium. The director promised to send a crew to cover the post-congress tour on Dairy and Planted Pastures. Freyne sent him information for the media, a media pass, and an invitation to the Congress. **AGRITV will come and cover part of the Dairy Symposium and the TOUR.**

YOUNG SCIENTIST EXPO

Information about the Expo was recently received after we followed up with the organizers. We had not heard from them until quite late than usual. It turns out the regional expos have been delayed by about a month compared to previous years. The first expo will be in Grahamstown on July 20. Freyne was very helpful in organizing judges to help in judging at the regional Expos and quite a few have responded positively. Freyne was in touch with organizers about getting our award posted on the Expo's website. We think this will also be good publicity for the GSSA. People who have been approached to judge must respond to Freyne. We appreciate the contribution of GSSA members in the regard.

CAREERS EXPO

Stands over until next meeting. PRO will send out information to Council and GSSA members as soon as they receive it. We encourage Council and GSSA members to contact us when occasions such as career expos are organized in their regions.

SHOPRITE/CHECKERS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Sue Milton was nominated for the Shoprite/Checkers Woman of the Year Award in the Science Category. A CV and a motivational letter were sent for the nomination. Nicky Allsopp provided previous information used to motivate for Sue's nomination for the GSSA's Prestigious Award, some of which was used in this nomination. Timm Hoffman was contacted but was unavailable because he was in the field. Organizers asked for Sue's response to two questions about what motivated her to follow her line of career and what were her future plans. PRO contacted her and sent a response to organisers immediately. Sue was thankful and felt honoured by the society. The awards will be presented to the winners in August on

Women's Day. **SHE IS ONE OF THE THREE FINALISTS AND THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON WOMEN'S DAY!! Every GSSA member must watch SABC2!!!!**

YOUNG MEMBERS TO ASSIST WITH PRO

Members are sometimes needed to help with local or regional PRO related activities. We request members to avail themselves for such activities. We thank members who have been very generous with their time and resources to help the society with PR.

PAC REPORT 2006/2007

Membership

The PAC currently has a total of 69 professional members who are potentially on the register. Of these 17 do not have application forms on file and Freyni is in the process of acquiring these. Of these, eight have been suspended due to non payment of fees. Thus there are currently 61 members of which 39 are in good standing.

Website

Freyni du Toit has updated the professional members list on the website. Members have been asked to provide keywords on their speciality and once completed Glen Barnes and Freyni du Toit would get the expertise database online where professional members would be searchable by the public. The public will only have access to the members name and Province and will have to contact Freyni who will notify the member.

Functioning of the PAC

A meeting was held at Unisa (Florida campus) on 22 June 2007 to discuss the functioning and the way forward of the PAC. The following was decided:

a) Composition of the PAC

The following professional members have been appointed on the PAC:

- Dr. Albert Smith
- Dr. David Grossman
- Dr. Maureen Wolfson
- Dr. Richard Hurt

Secretary: Ms Tersia de Beer

b) Handling of applications for professional members

- Freyni du Toit receives all applications.
- Once received it is forwarded to the PAC chairperson/secretary.
- Referee reports are sent to referees and asked to provide feedback within 15 working days.
- Once referee reports have been received the PAC will make the final decision and notify the applicant in writing of the result. It is expected that the process should be completed within six to eight weeks.

c) Procedure for the functioning of the professional register

The following amendments to point 4.3 of the above procedure are recommended:

- A new point "d" should be added reading: "Each application will be sent to two referees who will be registered professional members of the Society".
- The current "d" becomes "e".
- Add point "f" reading: "Should an application redeemed not to conform to the criteria for admission as a professional member, the PAC will provide full reasons for decisions".

d) Comments on bills

The PAC has decided that its role with regards to comments on draft bills or other contentious issues regarding the environment can only be an advisory one and that it should refrain from providing formal comments. The PAC can only play an advisory role and should forward draft bills, decisions etc. pertaining to GSSA members to them. The PAC will only get involved if formally requested on behalf of the society in which case the PAC will either assign a person/s or a task team to develop a response.

e) South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions

It was decided that more information from other societies and their opinion on the Act would be obtained before a decision would be taken on what procedure to follow. Some members of the PAC felt that we should simply ignore it as was done in the past.

Conclusion

The PAC is now properly constituted and it is foreseen that it would again function properly. I also want to thank Council for their continued support and especially Freyni du Toit for her assistance.

I trust this meets your approval

Leslie Brown