S A H S
Southern African Historical Society
Currently hosted by the National Heritage & Cultural Studies Centre, University of Fort Hare
Private Bag X1314, Alice, 5700, Tel: +27 (0) 40 602 2277,
Email: Luvuyo Wotshela (President) LWotshela@ufh.ac.za Website: www.sahs.org.za

Minutes of the Business Meeting at the Biennial conference of the Southern African Historical Society,

26 June 2019

Committee members present: Enocent Msindo, Luvuyo Wotshela, Anton Ehlers, Nomalanga Mkhize, Thula Simpson, Sandra Swart

- Quorum was not met but all present agreed that meeting must proceed – minutes and matters to be circulated via email for delegates who are members to consider and register objections or comments

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting of 23 June 2017**
    a. Minutes from previous meeting not available. Msindo gave a brief recall of the major issues raised at the last meeting.
        i. The society elected to adopt the Journal of Natal and Zulu History, Nafisa and Thembisa agreed to continue as editors. Taylor and Francis agreed to the agreement.
        ii. Vice President was not elected at the conference. Once the position was filled, the society and member delegates were informed over email communication.
        iii. Question raised from the floor about how minutes to be adopted officially without minutes.
        iv. Suggestion that minutes from 2017 be formally compiled and the circulated and adopted on email.

2. **Treasurer's report**
    a. Treasurer presented a formal report which will be sent to members-
    b. Society members can look at the cash book on request to the Treasurer if they so wish
    c. Payment method for overseas delegates to pay fees requires a solution
    d. Question from floor about conference fee structure:
        i. Msindo response – The LOC of 2019 decided to keep conference fees for members and non-members the same due to the administrative difficulties. A decision made to ensure that conference fees do not increase too much.
        ii. Query about membership drive – Suggestion that when there is a conference there be a membership drive
    e. Question from floor about further royalty income from other countries.

i. T&F comment – The royalties statement given to the society does indicate portion of overseas income

f. T&F royalties shifted from 3,5% to 8% - Treasurer suggest this be renegotiated and increased at the 2021 Conference

g. Report accepted.

3. EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE SAHJ

a. The editing does increase costs – comments made about needing more money from T&F (see Notes at end of minutes)

b. Issue of a dedicated copy editor from T&F- still a pending issue.

c. Reconfiguration of the editorial board

i. Board wants to be more active in developing areas of research strength and create a more distinctive scholarly identity for the journal

ii. Need to expand/ diversify editorial board – invitation for people to apply/ recommend people to join editorial board

iii. Invitation for conference papers to be submitted to journal for a conference special issue, driven by Swart, contact her directly if submitting.

d. Comment raised by President about complaints about delays after articles have been submitted

i. Board responds – there are 4 volunteer members; it is possible that certain coordinating editors do have some delays; the reviewers also delay the process when they don't send their reviews on time, sometimes digital errors happen where authors don't submit properly – **suggestion that the authors contact coordinating editor directly for each issue.**

ii. Editorial board will revise the guidelines to make it more explicit to authors how long to wait before they can submit to another journal

iii. Suggestion that board make it clear to authors that this journal is run on a voluntary basis and this can lead to delays.

iv. Suggestion that the society run a blog that invites historians (of whatever kind) to make contributions to the online platform, driven by Holdridge.

4. Taylor and Francis Report

a. T&F publishes the SAHJ and the Journal of Natal and Zulu History (now adopted by the society)

b. JNZH – Not accredited, JNZH was relaunched in 2018 due to matters relating to institutional restructuring.

c. T&F still working towards re-accreditation.

d. T&F presentation showing number of subscriptions and downloads – data provided (presentation available)

e. Question – can there be open access week?

- **i.** Open access weeks are organized by individual universities and T&F works with librarians to participate in those
- **ii.** Issues of cost and sustainability come into ways of making open access
- **iii.** T&F says they are open to finding methods for how to make open access as a method of marketing

5. Election of new EXCO

- **a.** Luvuyo Wotshela proposed by Sandra Swart, seconded by Anton Ehlers
- **b.** Delegates agree to endorse Wotshela.
- **c.** University of Fort Hare will deal with the conference of 2021
- **d.** Comment made that the society is now breaking with the past in recognizing Historically Black Universities
- **e.** Dr Tshepo Moloi at University of the Free State (Qwaqwa campus) was proposed as VP
  - **i.** Proposal seconded by S Swart.
  - **ii.** This means that following conference will be at UOVS, Qwaqwa campus in 2023
  - **iii.** N Mkhize indicated availability for Secretary - endorsed
  - **iv.** A Ehlers proposed as Treasurer - endorsed
  - **v.** Msindo recommends that there be a Deputy Treasurer – to transfer knowledge.
    - **a.** Suggestion that the Deputy Treasurer be drawn in as an additional member
    - **b.** Suggestion that the additional member be a young member
    - **c.** Suggestion that Exco discuss and approach someone
    - **d.** Exco to deal with coopting SADC country reps
  - vi. Recommendations:
    1. Tinashe Nyamunda was appointed as additional member with special responsibilities of working closely with the Treasurer, Anton for purposes of transfer of skills;
    2. Chris Holdridge was appointed as additional member for the purpose of working as our Media Officer;
    3. Prinisha Badassy will be approached to notify her that she has been nominated as an additional member for her institutional knowledge as well as her role as a part of the Editors.

6. INSERTION OF JNZH INTO SAHS CONSTITUTION

- **a.** Recommendation to expand the Board of the JNZH and also to incorporate the journal into the constitution as it is not yet there. This necessitates the revision of Section 6 of the Constitution then put it to members to ratify. T&F also talked of the need to work towards re-accrediting of the JNZH.

7. FILM: DYING FOR GOLD

- **a.** Following the screening of the film on 25 June 2019, the delegates present discussed the possibility of SAHS taking a position on the issue of Silicosis and environmental consequences
- **b.** Discussion emerges that this issues needs time as there may be disagreements on the issue. There may be questions about why SAHS has not taken a stand on other issues?

c. Suggestion that interested members mobilise a petition for those who are interested
d. Filmmaker suggests that society members be given the use of the film as a teaching tool

8. AOB

a. Issue of ethics protocols to be taken up by the incoming Exco.

ADDITIONAL NOTES TO MEMBERS- Issues established after the meeting:

- Note from AEhlers: T&F are already giving us money for this: £2 500 per year for the SAHJ and £500 for the Natal Journal. They will not give us more.
- Note from AEhlers: We have an editorial collective that are working extremely hard to keep the pipeline of articles for the Journal going. We won't get a dedicated editor from T&F. I don't think it is part of their methodology with journals.
- Note from AEhlers: In terms of co-opting a Deputy Treasurer, the constitution does not make provision for such a position but 5.1.5 of the constitution makes it possible to co-opt or elect an additional member with that brief.
- Note from AEhlers: Section 13 of the constitution prescribes a specific procedure for any constitutional changes. Any changes can only be ratified by a properly constituted members meeting. We will have to keep that in mind for any constitutional changes
- Note from AEhlers: The 2013 Conference was hosted by the University of Botswana. The first time that the conference was held outside South Africa.

ENDS