

SACOMM 2019

Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 29 August 2019 at the University of Cape Town

Chair:

Prof Elnerine Greeff

Prof Ylva Rodny-Gumede tried to connect to the meeting via Skype, but was unfortunately not successful.

1. HOUSEKEEPING

1.1 Opening and welcome

The chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

1.2 Personalia

None.

1.3 Finalisation of the agenda

To add:

Best paper award 2019

ICA feedback and the way forward

1.4 Matters arising from the previous AGM

To be discussed as the meeting progresses.

2. INTEREST GROUP FEEDBACK

2.1 Media studies and journalism

Dr Mvuzo Ponono

Activities in this stream went well for 2018-2019. Two big projects are on the line:

a. Emerging scholars and the media stream:

A global media journal launched its first issue, came out on December 2018. They are working towards accreditation. Dr Shepherd Mpofu is to be the new editor.

b. Panel with Tarryn Isaacs on emerging scholars on decolonialisation during the 2018 discussions

A book manuscript is created and plans to publish in future. Prof Ylva Rodny-Gumede and Prof Colin Chasi was thanked for their assistance.

2.2 Screen studies

Mr Francois Smit

The stream is formalizing relationships with other institutions; creating a base for gay and lesbian issues; building up on archives of TV programmes from around the world. The SACOMM website is up and running. A new user-friendly logo has been designed. There is no rules around the use of the logo and a project will be started on the use and permission to use the logo. Mr Francois Smit was thanked for his hard work in creating this great logo.

2.3 Corporate communication

Prof Lida Holtzhausen

Prof Lida Holtzhausen could not be present, and feedback will be forwarded later.

2.4 Communication studies

Mrs Martine van der Walt Ehlers

A large number of extracts were received for the 2019 conference, especially from the emerging scholars. This is a really vibrant stream and members need to build on the momentum of this stream.

2.5 Communications advocacy and activism

Prof Pier Paolo Frassinelli

A large number of papers were received for the 2019 conference. The media freedom panel was very successful. Proper structure needs to be created in this stream.

2.6 Communication education and curriculum development

Prof Bruce Mutsvairo could not be present, and feedback will be forwarded later.

2.7 Emerging scholars

Mrs Linah Masombuka (nee Nkuna) and Mr Theo Ngcongo

This stream was very active, and submissions to the Journal and The Editor were received from members. A huge number of emerging scholars – 42 – attended their AGM.

2.7.1 Matters arising from previous AGM: Emerging scholars constitution and definition

The emerging scholar constitution will change their name to refer to their vision and mission statement. Something similar to the definition in the IAMCR can be followed. The definition of an emerging scholar do have implications for the conference and budgeting purposes in the following ways:

Emerging scholars register at a reduced fee if they are not employed, but emerging scholars who are employed pay the full conference fee. Should a distinction be made between an emerging scholar who is on contract and not permanently employed? A post-doc fellow is still an emerging scholar, but also a full paying member of SACOMM.

Affiliation to different streams:

A discussion was held on the following:

How many streams can one belong/affiliate to? Only to 1, 2 or 3?

More connections between and within groups should be established and groups are to have ongoing conversations regularly. All members belong to SACOMM in general, and then more specifically to a particular stream/group. Members are to belong to 2 streams at the most to ensure active contribution to the group. Members should openly indicate to what streams they belong. The listserv do go out to all SACOMM members, irrespective of what group they belong to.

3. COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

3.1 Constitution revision and name change committee

Prof Keyan Tomaselli and Prof Julie Reid

The 2018 AGM suggested a name change to SOUTHERN African Communication Organisation as SACOMM attract members from neighboring countries. The next exco is to discuss this name change and take it further, based on the work of the name change committee, headed by Prof K Tomaselli. There will be a name and constitution change committee. The structure of the organization is to change together with the name. We will cooperate with colleagues from neighboring countries to receive their inputs to assist us during decision making. Feedback on progress to be provided on the 2020 AGM.

Revisions to the current constitution are to be made. The constitution will be in line with how the organization is functioning at present. The draft change is on the website and open for comments and suggestions until 2020 AGM.

Suggested changes so far:

Nominations of honorary members

Entrance fee clause.

Memorandum of understanding:

To be added to the constitution. This is a list of the host institution of what is involved in organizing the annual conference.

How to deal with the memorandum of understanding:

This becomes the living document within the organisation.

Former hosts are to make suggestions/changes/provide input to the MOU.

This can become an addendum to the constitution, or the ExCo can draw up the MOU and sign it together with the new host.

3.2 Editor's forum

None.

3.3 SACOMM Archives Project

Prof Keyan Tomaselli

Prof Arrie de Beer had an idea to gather all old information from 1977. The wish is to recover all missing documents and build up a narrative on the SACOMM history. Although infrastructural support was given to the idea, not much buy-in was received from the members. A Google-docs facility was created to gather all info and data. All SACOMM members were invited to provide information from the past. A spatial map of what is available will be created.

4. THE RUNNING OF SACOMM

4.1 Finances

4.1.1 Matters arising from previous AGM: Auditing of SACOMM's finances

SACOMM books are to be audited during 2019. Three quotations will be obtained for this auditing process.

4.2 SACOMM 2019 conference host feedback

Everyone involved with the 2019 organising have been thanked. More feedback after the conference will be provided by the hosts. The UJ 2018 conference organisers were thanked for their support and advise towards the 2019 conference.

4.3 2020 host affirmation

University of Limpopo
More discussions to follow.

4.4 2021 host bid

WITS to take the proposal to their University.
More discussions to follow.

4.5 SACOMM listserv

4.5.1 Matter arising from previous AGM: SACOMM LinkedIn account

The LinkedIn account is connected to the SACOMM Listserv. Comments on this link is welcomed.

4.6 SACOMM Website

The website is active and up and running, thanks to Francois Smit and his team.

5. ELECTION OF NEW SACOMM EXCO

Comments on the voting procedure were received from the floor as members felt that no control mechanisms were in place. Voting to be done after the AGM and new Exco to be announced on listserv and website.

5.1 Deputy President

Nominees:

Prof Sarah Chiumbu
Prof Tanja Bosch
Prof Nyasha Mboti

5.2 Media studies and journalism

Nominees:

Prof Nicola Jones
Dr Hannelie Marx
Prof Zandi Carol Lesame

5.3 Screen studies

Nominees:

Mr Francois Smit
Ms Nantie Steyn

5.4 Corporate communication

Nominees:

Prof Mehita Iqani
Prof Sonja Verwey

5.5 Communication Studies

Nominees:

Dr Sandra Pitcher

5.6 Communications advocacy and activism

Prof Glenda Daniels

Prof Viola C Milton

5.7 Communication education and curriculum development

Nominees:

Dr Rofhiwa Mukhudwana

Ms Sisanda Nkoala

5.8 Emerging scholars

Mr Collen Chambwera

Ms Sylvia Skhosana

6. ADDITIONAL MATTERS

6.1 Hand-over procedure for newly elected SACOMM ExCo

To be discussed with the new ExCo.

7. NEW ITEMS

7.1 ICA and the way forward

Sister Agnes Lucy Lando - Daystar University Kenya

International Communication Association

Request regional and continental cooperation. We can walk and work with others to make an impact on the continent. Eastern and Western Africa plans to attend the SACOMM conference, thus SACOMM should host during a month when all will be available.

ICA 21-25 May 2020 Australia

IAMCR 12 – 16 July 2020 Beijing

EACA 12 – 13 May 2019 Kenya

7.2 2019 Best Paper Awards

The best paper award went to Mr Azhagan Chenganna from Mauritius.

The best student paper award went to Ms Alexandra van Eeden
