



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF PHYSICS STUDENTS**  
**1 July 2004, Kine 1, Health Sciences Building, UFS,**  
**Bloemfontein, 18H00**

**1. Opening and Welcome**

Dr. Chris Theron acted as chairman and opened the meeting at 18:02.

**2. Attendance**

An attendance register was signed by those present.

**3. Items for the Agenda under General**

No additional items were added to the agenda.

**4. Feedback from the Shaping the Future of Physics in South Africa Report**

***4.1 Recommendation 4.1.1***

Recommendation was reviewed and accepted.

***4.2 Recommendation 4.1.2***

Recommendation was reviewed and accepted.

***4.3 Recommendation 4.1.3***

Recommendation was reviewed and accepted.

***4.4 Recommendation 4.1.4***

The issue was raised that the training of teachers should be addressed. A suggestion was made that money should be allocated for training programmes to equip teachers with scarce skills.

***4.5 Recommendation 4.2.1***

The recommendation for the establishment of HEI was well accepted, however, the feasibility of such institutions was questioned should proper funding not be available for that.

***4.6 Recommendation 4.2.2***

Suggestions were made that financial support is necessary for the improvement of courses in general.

***4.7 Recommendation 4.2.3***

Some students agreed that the SAIP should inform them about funding possibilities. A database as such could be established. This was not uniformly accepted, some students expressed the view that the SAIP did not have the capacity to do so and that the responsibility lies with the students themselves to search for information regarding funding.

#### **4.8 Recommendation 4.2.4**

The suggestion was made that student relationships should receive serious attention, in particular relationships between students and their promoters.

#### **4.9 Recommendation 4.2.5**

Disagreement on the formation of councils occurred. A suggestion was made that a SAIP representative should inform students on how to form such a council, since the students might not understand the responsibilities/duties of such a council. It was also felt that if initiated by council it would legitimise the process and explain the need for such a body. There was no clear feeling on whether this was useful or not, in fact the benefits were not obvious to the students present.

#### **4.10 Recommendation 4.2.6**

Students felt in general that funding during studying was not their biggest problem, rather the difficulty in finding a suitable job after completion of their study.

#### **4.11 Recommendation 4.2.7**

It was agreed upon that it is the students' responsibility to make other students from HBU's feel welcome and comfortable.

#### **4.12 Recommendation 4.2.8**

Recommendation was reviewed and accepted.

#### **4.13 Recommendation 4.2.9**

Recommendation was reviewed and accepted.

### **5. Election of a student representative on Council**

Students prefer to have the representative serve a one year term. Otherwise, for the two year term, a representative should be re-elected upon completion of study or when leaving the country.

### **6. General**

#### **6.1 Research Opportunities for Post-Graduate Students**

##### **6.1.1 International Institute for Space Geodesy and Earth Observation (IISGEO)**

Research opportunities at the IISGEO was reviewed.

#### **6.2 Career Paths with Physics**

The establishment of a database of available jobs in Physics was suggested.

#### **6.3 Student fellowships**

The comment was made that bursary and fellowships are not enough and should be adjusted according to a person's family situation.

### **7. Closing**

The meeting was closed by Dr. Chris Theron at 19:18. No date has been set for the next meeting.

Minutes prepared by Ina Claassens.