



Here's a quick recap of what's going on at SACNASP

I've just been informed that there are 19 Fridays left until Christmas, and I cannot believe how the year has flown by. As we approach the last quarter of 2015, I think it best to take a moment to reflect on the excellent work done by, and progress made within, SACNASP over the past few months.

SACNASP has a new Council

On 25 June, the honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, inaugurated the new members of the SACNASP Council. The newly formed Council had its first meeting on 29 July and met all the relevant prerequisites of the Natural Scientific Professions Act (Act no. 7 of 2003).

In order to constitute the Council, Section 3 of the Act states that the Council must consist of no fewer than 20 and no more than 30 members. The Council members will have a term of office for four years.

Of these members, not fewer than 12 and not more than 18 must be professional natural scientists or certificated natural scientists nominated by the voluntary associations, and who:

- Practise natural scientific professions
- Represent the categories of registered persons mentioned in Section 18 of the Act

In this issue:

- SACNASP has a new Council
- The new SACNASP Council at the first meeting on 29 July 2015
- New Fields of Practice have been Gazetted
- Administrative news
- The Extension Science registrations continue

- Fairly represent the different categories in the natural scientific professions
- Not fewer than four and not more than six members are in the service of the state, each nominated by his or her director-general. At least one must be in the service of the Department of Science and Technology and one in the service of the Department of Education
- Not fewer than four and not more than six are members of the public, nominated through an open process

The Council must be constituted in a manner that is broadly representative of the demographics of the country.

Among the minister's expectations is an increase in the knowledge of basic sciences and that SACNASP, being at the forefront of science in South Africa, must take the lead to enhance natural science in South Africa while spearheading

natural sciences fields internationally.

Professor Norman Casey, the outgoing President, chaired the meeting and outlined the function of the Council and its role in overseeing and guiding the SACNASP office. The Council performs this function through various committees made up of the Council members. These committees are:

- Executive Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- HR and Remuneration Committee
- Legal and Disciplinary Committee
- Strategic Projects Committee
- Registrations Committee
- Qualifications Assessment Committee
- 21 Professional Advisory Committees
- Critical Skills Visa Committee

The new SACNASP Council at the first meeting on 29 July 2015



Back row, left to right: Dr Wendy Ngoma, Mrs Desiree Fisher [SACNASP Committee Co-ordinator] Dr Juanita van Heerden (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Dr Jackie Galpin (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Prof. Robin Crewe (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Mr Neale Baarjes (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Dr Stephanus Terblanche (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Dr Roelof Coetzee (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Mr Fhatuwani Ramagwede (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Mr Troy Govender (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Mr Desmond Musetsho, Ms Thuli Mashanda
Front row, left to right: Dr Irvy Gledhill (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Ms Petunia Masemola, Dr Rolf Becker (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Dr Gerda Botha (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Prof. Kathu Nephawe (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Prof. Mary Gulumian, Dr Phethiwe Matutu
Not pictured: Dr Philia Vukea, Prof. George Bredenkamp (Pr.Sci.Nat.), Dr Monde Mayekiso

In addition to the formulation of the new Council, we welcome Dr Gerda Botha as the Council's newest President and Prof. Kathu Nephawe as the Vice President.

Dr Botha studied Food Science at the University of the Free State, graduating in 1991 and completed an MSc at the University of Pretoria in 1998. She went on to complete a PhD in Process and Chemical Engineering at the National University of Ireland (Cork) in 2008, and worked in South Africa part-time assisting South Africa's participation in a European Union project. Dr Botha is currently employed as the Researcher-Business Area Leader in the Natural Products and Agroprocessing Platform (Food and Nutrition Group) of Biosciences at the CSIR.

Prof. Nephawe is a former Fulbright Scholar of the University

of Nebraska in the US. The professor is rated by the NRF as an Established Researcher and holds a PhD degree in Animal Breeding and Genetics (University of Nebraska), Masters in Business Leadership, MBL (UNISA's Graduate School of Business Leadership), MSc (University of Free State), and BSc (University of Limpopo). Prof. Nephawe is currently employed as a head of department at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT). His previous positions were as Scientific Manager (Livestock Research) in the Limpopo Department of Agriculture (LDA), and as Senior Researcher at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC).

SACNASP is very excited about moving forward with the new Council, and further developing the projects we have been working on over the past few years.



Dr Gerda Botha



Prof. Kathu Nephawe

New Fields of Practice have been gazetted

As we continue to further the natural science landscape in South Africa, we have added another Field of Practice to the SACNASP portfolio. Conservation Science has now been approved and Gazetted as a Field of Practice, allowing for Conservation Scientists to be registered with SACNASP. The team will be attending the South African Wildlife Management

Association's symposium in September, which will mark the kick-off of this next phase.

Statistics has also been approved as a new Field of Practice but not yet Gazetted.

Administrative news

If you have not received an invoice for 2015 or if you are still waiting for your registration card, please contact the SACNASP office by emailing sacnasp@sacnasp.org.za.

We'd also like to remind all that as a registered person at SACNASP you qualify for Professional Indemnity Insurance at favourable rates.

Please contact Kirsty Carr at (011) 794-6848/7770 or by emailing her at kirsty@cfpbrokers.co.za.

The Extension Science registrations continue

The registrations for the Extension Science programme continue to progress, with the dedicated team working hard to ensure that all applications are processed and that the Extension Scientists who comply are registered.

To date, we have registered 186 Extension Scientists and would like to continue the momentum of the project, but we have run into an issue in the process. Our biggest barrier right now is referee reports. In many cases, these are missing or have not been supplied, and we cannot process the applications without them.

If you are a referee, please complete and submit any requested outstanding reports.

If you have any queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact Lientjie on (012) 748 6500.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THE CONTACT NUMBER FOR FINANCE HAS CHANGED.
THE NUMBER IS NOW 012 748 6500.**

This year is already halfway gone, and we are heading into spring. So many of our projects are beginning to come to fruition and I am very proud of the work being done. In the next newsletter I will talk about the Continuous Professional Development projects, as these have begun to gain momentum.

That's all for now,

Dr Rolf Becker (Pr.Sci.Nat)
Executive Director
SACNASP

"Successful leaders see the opportunities in every difficulty rather than the difficulty in every opportunity"
– Reed Markham

