



# CATALYSIS SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CATSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON 9 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 14:00

### REGISTER OF ATTENDANCE

Aaron Folkard	Kabir Otun	Sinqobile Vuyisile Mahlaba
Adli Peck	Katuchero Ramutsindela	Siphumelele Mkhondwane
Aldo Conti	Lindie Marais	Siyabonga Ndlela
Amanda Mbhele	Ludwe Sikeyi	Siyabonga Ngubane
Andrew Swarts	Lynette Nel	Siyasanga Booysen
Babusi Balopi	Mahluli Moyo	Sooboo Singh
Bernard Omondi Owaga	Malose Mokhonoana	Stephen Cotterrell
Bongani Mtetwa	Marile Landman	Stephen de Doncker
Bongokuhle Sifundo Xaba	Martin Onani	Stephen Ojwach
Chelsea Tucker	Mero-Lee Cornelius	Steve Roberts
Cheslin Moodley	Mohamed Fadlalla	Tarsisius Tiyani
Cornie van Sittert	Morena Xaba	Thulani Nyathi
Dailami Adam	Motlokoa Khasu	Tshilidzi Makhado
Danielle Goho	Mpumelelo Humphry Mbatha	Veroushia Padayachee
Darija Susac	Mzamo Shoji	Vincent Vermaak
Dominic de Oliveira	Nandipha Botha	Vuyo Ndila
Firdaus Hendricks	Neil Coville	Wijnand Marquart
Gary Patrick	Nico Fischer	Xinying Liu
George Okoye-Chine	Niels Luchters	Yali Yao
Holger Friedrich	Nikechukwu Omosun	Yusheng Zhang
Jabu Lukhele	Nokwanda Tsaulwayo	Ziba Somjee
Jack CQ Fletcher	Nothando Shiba	
Jack Fletcher	Ntebogang Thibanyane	
Jianqi Shen	Nyameka Diko	
John Moma	Oscar Nqwili	
Joshua Gorimbo	Pari Antalis	
Julie-Ann Hoffman	Patricia Kooyman	
Kabir Otun	Peter Ajibade	
Katuchero Ramutsindela	Pinkie Ntola	
Kobus Visagie	Pooja Philip	
Leah Matsinha	Rehana Malgas-Enus	
Leon Okonye	Rein Weber	
Lerato Mokoloko	Rhiyaad Mohamed	
Liberty Mguni	Richard Martin	
Holger Friedrich	Samuel Mubenesha	
Jabu Lukhele	Samukeliso Dube	
Jack CQ Fletcher	Sebete Mabaleha	
Jack Fletcher	Selusiwe Ncube	
Jianqi Shen	Selwyn Mapolie	
John Moma	Shahid Hussain Ansari	
Joshua Gorimbo	Shaine Raseale	
Julie-Ann Hoffman	Shepherd Siangwata	



# CATALYSIS SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

## 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

After confirming that a quorum (50% plus 1 of the 189 CATSA members – 96 people) had been obtained, the chairperson welcomed all present.

Apologies from Eric van Steen (UCT) and Manie Vosloo (NWU) were noted.

## 2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed.

## 3. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2019 AGM

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no corrections as a true reflection of the meeting. [Proposed: N. Fischer; Seconded: S. Mapolie]

## 5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- Cornie van Sittert presented the Chairperson's Report.
- This year was a challenging year in many ways, but it was also a year of many firsts.
  - On the negative side:  
It is the first time in the history of the Society that we do not meet in November for our annual conference.
  - On the positive side:  
It is the first virtual AGM, and later today, it will be the first time we vote electronically for members to serve on the committee.
- **Sponsors:**  
Last year at the conference, a 5-year sponsorship-continuation agreement was announced for the years 2018 – 2022 with Clariant for the Best Student Oral award and Micromeritics for the Best Student Poster award. With great appreciation, it can be announced that both sponsors agreed in principle to extend the agreement since there will be no award this year. The sponsorship-continuation agreement will be revised early in 2021.
- **Membership:**
  - At present, the Society has 189 members.
  - Membership certificates for all members in good standing were distributed.
  - It was also communicated to members that after careful consideration of CATSA's constitution, which states that membership is valid from one CATSA conference to the next, the committee decided that CATSA membership will be valid until the CATSA2021 conference. This extension of membership will be at no cost to members.



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- **Consolidation of Bank Accounts:**

At last year's AGM, you were informed that a new investment account with higher interest rates would be opened with Nedbank, and the old Nedbank Investment Account closed. This consolidation took longer than expected but should be finalised before the end of 2020.

- **International Association of Catalysis Societies (IACS):**

- Holger Friedrich was appointed by the committee as one of the representatives to IACS for another term.
- IACS travel grant to attend ICC2020 - IACS will distribute 50 grants of \$500 each to young researchers (< 35 years). Each member society can nominate up to 4 candidates if they have an accepted abstract for ICC2020. 6 applications were received from student members of CATSA, namely Shaine Raseale (PhD, Oral), Siyabonga Ndlela (PhD, poster), Thulani Nyathi (PhD, poster), Sinethemba Mkhize (MSc, poster), Sinqobile V.L. Mahlaba (PhD, Oral) and Chelsea Tucker (PhD, Oral).
- Names of applicants selected by the committee were submitted to IACS. The applications of Shaine Raseale (PhD, Oral), Siyabonga Ndlela (PhD, poster) and Thulani Nyathi (PhD, poster) for the ICC 2020 Young Scientist Travel Support Prize were successful.
- Names of applicants selected by the committee were submitted to IACS. The applications of Shaine Raseale (PhD, Oral), Siyabonga Ndlela (PhD, poster) and Thulani Nyathi (PhD, poster) for the ICC 2020 Young Scientist Travel Support Prize were successful. NF informed the applicants.
- Holger Friedrich attended the council meeting on 14 June 2020.
- 17th ICC was cancelled due to COVID. The abstracts received (accepted) will be published, as will the contributions of the plenary lecturers. A 150,254 US dollars loss and these losses were shared 50/50 between NACS and IACS.
- France is hosting the 18ICC in the year 2024.

- **European Federation of Catalysis Societies (EFCATS):**

- EFCATS Summer Schools took place 16-18 September 2020 in Slovenia. However, due to travel restrictions, none of our members participated.
- Workshop on Water in Zeolites has been postponed to 19 – 22 April 2021 and will be hosted in Liblice Castle, Czech Republic
- The 15<sup>th</sup> European Congress on Catalysis, EuropaCat 2021, will be hosted in Prague, the Czech Republic, from 29 August – 3 September 2021.
- Various EFCATS Awards will be presented for achievements in catalysis at EUROPACAT XV in Prague. In addition, the Michel Boudart Award for Advancement of Catalysis will be presented jointly with the North American Catalysis Society (NACS). The nominations have been opened at the EFCATS webpages (<https://efcats.org/Awards.html>); the nomination of individuals, who have made outstanding contributions in the field, is encouraged.
- The Young European Catalysis Network (YEuCat) is an activity under EFCATS that represents a bottom-up initiative from young enthusiasts (<https://www.youngcatalysis.net>). EFCATS and YEuCat are joining forces to organise an innovative catalysis school in 2021 in Spain.

- **Travel Awards:**

Since the 17ICC was cancelled, grants that were awarded but not paid yet reverted to CATSA. No travel Awards was made this year.

- **Eminent Visitor Award:**

No Award was made this year. Prof. Paul Chirik will receive the award in 2021.



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## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Jack V Fletcher presented the Treasurer's Report.
- The Financial Statements reported at the AGM were presented as per previous years. However, CATSA's official Financial Statements (prepared by our independent Accounting Officer) include all CATSA bank accounts, particularly the income and expenditure from conferences.
- **Financial Statement: March 2019 – Feb 2020**
  - Budgeted to make a net surplus of R 63,800 – in the final outcome, a Society net surplus of R 196,550.81 was reported for the financial period 2019/20. CATSA 2018 profit of R 307,195 was achieved, higher than the targeted R 173,200. Furthermore, membership fees of R 37,200 were realised for 2019/20. The Clariant Award for Student Oral presentation and Micromeretic Award for Student Poster presentation was received. The total sum was R 300 more than the budgeted due payment received in USD.
  - For administration, R 8,000 was budgeted. However, due to a script written by Nico Fischer, the hours needed to create membership certificates were dramatically reduced. It led to an expenditure of only R 2,023.
  - R 7,000 was budgeted for the Eminent visitor's scroll, but the cost was only R 6850. However, R 49,000 was budgeted for eminent visitor expenses. However, due to costs incurred by the end of the previous financial year only realised in this financial year, the budget was exceeded by R 13,899,55.
  - Unfortunately, in this financial year we exceeded the contingency budget since due to gift bought for Leon de Jager that support CATSA for 30 years on his retirement. R 9,499 was paid to supplier for 30-year-old bottle of brandy. Supplier went bankrupt. Another bottle had to be bought, bringing the cost of the gift to R 12,614. The bank charges were slightly higher than budgeted.
  - The EFCATS Summer School was very early in 2019/20 so nobody applied for a travel award. Only R 88,000 of the budgeted expenditure for international travel grants was awarded.
  - The financial services were quite high, R 29,945, due to a historical income tax issue that had to be sorted out.
  - Although R 3,900 was budgeted for the newsletter and website, only R 1,829 was spent.
- **Budget: March 2020 – February 2021**
  - Much of the incomes and expenditures were removed from the budget due to there not being a conference in 2020.
  - Income from the 2019 Conference of R 185,300 was budgeted. Although all the accounts are not closed yet, a profit close to the expected budget is expected.
  - There are no membership fees from participation because there is no conference this year.
  - Award sponsorships have been postponed to 2021.
  - Expenditures that were budgeted for are administration, financial services, contingency and bank charges. Of these, the financial services will be the biggest expenditure for the 2020/2021 financial year.
  - The international Travel Grant support was kept at R 47,000, expecting that applications for virtual conferences would be received or travel would open up later in the year or early next year.
  - Anticipated surplus of R 166,013.
- The Financial Report was proposed by N. Coville, seconded by N. Fischer, and unanimously accepted by the members.



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## 7. MEDIA OFFICER'S REPORT

- John Moma presented the Media Officer's Report.
- The website has been updated with photos of the 2019 conference and other relevant information. A request was made for more photos.
- Facebook page – CATSA has two pages. Both were done in 2015. The creator of these Facebook pages was unknown, and the page has not been updated for some time. However, the creator of the pages has been identified, and the update of these pages started.
- A LinkedIn account/page for CATSA has been created. A request was made that members link and follow this page.
- A digital newsletter will be published for 2020 on the CATSA website. An appeal for newsletter articles from the broad catalysis community was once again extended to the Members. The article could cover highlights of research activities and events from various institutions, conferences and workshops, major publications and achievements.

## 8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ' REPORT

- Ziba Somjee presented the Student Representative's Report.
- Due to the highly irregular circumstances, there is little to report on from the student's side.
- Several students have been extremely successful, and there have been several highly reputable publications in really good journals.

## 9. CONFERENCE 2019 REPORT

- Patricia Kooyman presented the Conference 2019 Report.
- 186 delegates ultimately attended the conference.
- There was good student representation for oral and poster presentations across a wide spread of universities.
- The conference accounts still need to be closed.
- Excellent interactions with the 2019 Eminent Visitor, Prof Angelos Efstathiou, took place. His national tour was very successful. However, he left before the end of the conference.
- 38 registered delegates (who had not paid) did not arrive.
- Special thanks and appreciation were extended to the very generous sponsors, as well as the 2019 Organising Committee.

## 10. CONFERENCE 2021 UPDATE

- Stephen Ojwach presented the Conference 2021 Update.
- Good progress was made around the arrangements of CATSA2021.
- After discussions with the venue, Champagne Resort in the Drakensberg, an agreement was reached to postpone arrangements for 2020 to 2021 with minimal changes in cost.
- A final decision on the format of the conference will be taken in March 2020.
- The conference will be from 7 Nov 2021 to 10 Nov 2021.
- The theme of the conference will be "Catalysts for Sustainable Society".
- Fees for the conference will be announced after a decision in March.
- Prof Paul Chirik of Princeton University, USA, has accepted the invitation as the CATSA EminentVisitor for 2021.



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## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- John Moma from WITS will host CATSA2022 (previously CATSa2021).
- If people want to become members of CATSA without attending the annual conference, they can pay membership fees. They can apply to the chairperson or secretary, and an invoice will be issued. The cost is R200, excluding VAT.

## 12. ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Nominated:
  - Holger Friedrich
  - Nico Fischer
  - Selwyn Mapolie
  - Martin Onani
  - Stephen Ojwach
  - Rehana Malgas-Enus
- Elected:
  - Holger Friedrich
  - Nico Fischer
  - Selwyn Mapolie
  - Rehana Malgas-Enus
- Co-opted:
  - Francois du Toit
  - Stephen Ojwach
  - Martin Onani
  - Thirusa Naicker
  - Kamegelo Modisane

## 13. MEETING CLOSED