

University of Pretoria
Postgraduate Student Association of the Natural and Agricultural Sciences (PSANA)

Date: 31 July 2006

PROPOSAL FOR AMMENDMENT TO POINTS 11.4 AND 11.5 OF THE CURRENT CONSTITUTION OF PSANA (INCREASED TRANSPARENCY)

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT AND MOTIVATION

- At present, the minutes of Executive Committee Meetings of PSANA are distributed to only committee members. The headings of these minutes are made available on the website under the section "Minutes" under the specified date of when the meeting was held. However, the headings are often obscure and students have no insight into what issues PSANA is investigating. As a result, there is a definite lack of student interest in PSANA, as evidenced by both of the previous elections where nominees for the committee positions concerned were obtained from the Heads of the various Departments in the Faculty.

2. PROPOSAL

- Rectify the situation by bringing the minutes to the eye of the public.
- Once the minutes have been okayed by the President of PSANA, distribute a link to them on the biolpost listserver and put them onto the website.
- In both cases, a disclaimer should be made immediately after the details of the meeting are noted (date, venue, time) stating that the reader must "Please note: the matters discussed herein are the personal views and opinions of the members present at the meeting. They are therefore not the views or policies of PSANA or the University of Pretoria and PSANA and the University of Pretoria therefore do not accept liability for any damages or implications arising from the correctness of the facts stated in these minutes, unless specifically stated."
- Allow members to attend meetings to bring any particular issues they have in mind to the attention of the committee.

3. IMPLICATIONS

- Constitutional ammendments as stated below (~~strikethrough~~ indicates existing material proposed for deletion and underlining indicates new material for replacement):
11.4. ~~Points~~The full detail of the meeting will be posted on the under the section "Minutes" on the website of PSANA after each meeting, so that the members of PSANA and the public can see what is being discussed at all EC meetings. A link to this will also be sent out on the listserver biolpost. A disclaimer absolving the University of Pretoria and PSANA of any damages or implications of whatever nature will also be included at the beginning of these minutes, both in the email sent out on the listserver biolpost and onto the website.
11.5. The full set of minutes is open for perusal to any member of ~~Faculty~~the University who requests ~~them~~it, with good reason.
8.2.4. Any member that has a particular issue that they wish to bring to the attention of the committee is welcome to do so. The member has to verbally notify the committee prior to the commencement of the meeting of the issue. The member may be banned if they repeatedly attend meetings to bring up issues and cause trouble. Members may notify the committee of the issue by either sending the issue through to one of the committee members or by attending a meeting and bringing up the issue themselves.
- The full set of all previous minutes will have to put onto the website by the webmaster.

Where these are no longer available in the archives of the psanacom listserver, the originals will have to be typed up again and added, in html format, to the website.

- Each set of minutes will have to receive the disclaimer in the specified place according to the wording above.