**MINUTES**

**NTSSA BUSINESS MEETING HELD AT**

**PROTEA HOTEL, PRETORIA, LOFTUS PARK**

**27–30 October 2021**

**Venue: Function Room, 5th Floor**

**1. Welcome (1st BM)**

Chairperson Lilly Nortjé-Meyer welcomes all physcially present. Virtual attendants who are members of the NTSSA are also welcomed; they are part of this business meeting.

**2. Personalia (1st BM)**

Four important scholars in our field have passed away since the last business meeting: Profs Jurie le Roux (UP), Jan du Rand (UJ), Benjamin Hendricks (UJ), and Cees J. den Heyer (Kampen, Neth.). Members observe a moment of silence in respect.

Academic achievements: Izaak Connoway (SATS) completed his MTh; Itumeleng Mothoagae completed his DTh (UNISA); Chris de Wet has been promoted to full professor (UNISA). Congratulations are extended to all three.

**3. Apologies (1st BM)**

Apologies received from Marius Nel, Elna Mouton, Bernard Combrink, and Johnathan Jodamus.

**4. Approval of the Minutes (1st BM)**

Jonathan Draper’s surname is corrected.

Minutes of the previous business meeting held at the University of Johannesburg, 25–29 March 2019, are approved by the meeting (proposed by Chris de Wet; seconded by Gerhard vd Heever).

**5. Finalising of Agenda (1st BM)**

Added under **7** as **7.1**:

Presentation by each of the two nominees for *Neotestamentica* editor, Chris de Wet and Pieter Botha.

Voting takes place on Saturday during 2nd BM. Online voting also possible.

**6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Business Meeting (1st BM)**

1. **Honorary President**

After Prof Daan Cloete, Prof Jonathan Draper will be honorary president till the next conference, as by unanimous decision at the last business meeting in 2019.

1. **Transformation**

This matter is now part of the portfolio of the officer for development, Paul Adebayo, in consultation with other role players.

* 1. **Website and Online Membership Development**

The electronic database of all members, linked to login details on the website, is almost complete. A few members are still not registered on our website (around 20).

Chair emphasises that we do not want to lose physical contact. Internet is just to promote further accessibility; it cannot replace direct contact.

* 1. **Joint Conference 2020**

This conference did not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

* 1. **Future Conference outside SA**

The new executive must take up the issue of a **Southern African** conference.

* 1. **Proposed Changes to Constitution – Chris de Wet and Jeremy Punt**

Proposed changes to the constitution are in respect of rules regarding membership and the addition of Special Projects or Themes to the existing category of Subgroups; see Addendum A.



Voting on these changes will take place during 2nd BM.

* 1. **Student Paper Prize**

Student members are invited to submit conference papers after this conference. A winner will be selected by the editorial board.

* 1. **One Business Meeting**

To hold only one business meeting per conference is too difficult at the moment, but it may be possible in future when online voting is implemented.

**7. New Matters (1st BM and 2nd BM)**

* 1. ***Neotestamentica* Editor Applications (1st BM) and Voting (2nd BM)**

Two applications for the post of editor have been received: Chris L. de Wet, now acting editor, and Pieter J. J. Botha.

Both candidates are granted a 10-minute presentation. These are the summaries:

**Chris L. de Wet**: Both of us are able to do the job. This is not politicking. I have been with the NTSSA for more than a decade. Now acting editor since mid-2020. Difficult times due to COVID-19, but journal is on time. This is crucial. I want electronic submission system. Possibly monograph series.

**Pieter J. J. Botha**: We can both attest to good spirits and putting the journal first. I have been very much part of the NTSSA (longer than Chris), also been the editor before. I really want to take up the opportunity that we have. *Neotestamentica* is a wonderful institution and needs support from all of us. Our journal really took off when Petra became editor: she could spend sufficient time on it. Online submissions/infrastructure is a tool, which still needs to be managed. How can academic content grow? Southern African book project; cooperation with subgroups; theme issues, topics, forums. Maintain *Neotestamentica’s* quality and role in NT and Early Christian scholarship. This is my opportune time: I can and are able to do it, with diligence and dedication.

**Voting**, both on the floor and virtual, took place during 2nd BM. No member made use of question time. Outcome:

* **Pieter J. J. Botha** is elected as editor of *Neotestamentica* for term of 5 years.

Pieter Botha accepts his new role with considerable humility; it is an honour. He looks forward to working together with the administrator, Petra Dijkhuizen.

* 1. **Nominations for Executive Positions (1st BM) and Voting (2nd BM)**

Officer for Development:

Lilly Nortjé-Meyer nominates current development officer Paul Adebayo, seconded by Pieter Botha. No further nominations.

* **Paul Adebayo** is elected for term of 3 years.

Media Officer:

Joel Brown, nominated by Peter Nagel, seconded by Philip du Toit.

Peter Nagel, nominated by Petra Dijkhuizen, seconded by Llewellyn Howes.

**Voting**, both virtual and on the floor, took place during 2nd BM. Joel received majority of votes.

* **Joel Brown** is elected for term of 3 years.

Treasurer:

Chris de Wet nominates current treasurer Petra Dijkhuizen, seconded by Lilly Nortjé-Meyer. No further nominations.

* **Petra Dijkhuizen** is elected for term of 3 years.

Secretary:

Nina Müller van Velden is not available for re-election.

Llewellyn Howes nominates Cornelia van Deventer (not available).

Chris de Wet nominates Gertrud Tönsing (available).

Petra Dijkhuizen nominates Joel Brown (available).

Voting during 2nd BM was no longer necessary as Gertrud Tönsing was the only nominee left after Joel Brown’s election as Media Officer.

* **Gertrud Tönsing** is elected for term of 3 years.

Chairperson:

Lilly Nortjé-Meyer is not available for re-election.

Chris de Wet nominates Marius Nel, seconded by Gerhard van den Heever. No further nominations.

* **Marius Nel** is elected for term of 3 years.
  1. **Online Voting for Urgent Issues (2nd BM)**

Lilly Nortjé-Meyer presents a proposal for virtual or online voting on the website to expedite the Society’s decision making:

“A proposal that has been seconded, can be submitted online via the NTSSA website for discussion and feedback by the members of the NTSSA. After the members have come to an agreement concerning the wording and content of the proposal, it will be confirmed by the executive, and the final proposal will be posted on the NTSSA website for voting. Thirty (30) days are given for voting by the NTSSA members. That entails that 50% + 1 should participate in the online voting; and of these 50% + 1 will be considered as an acceptance or rejection of the proposal. If the required 50% + 1 votes are not obtained after thirty (30) days, the voting will be extended for a further fourteen (14) days, after which the number of votes will be considered as final.”

* Online voting proposal is accepted by BM.
  1. **Voting on Proposed Changes to Constitution (2nd BM)**

The amendments to the constitution proposed by Jeremy Punt and Chris de Wet as referred to in 6.6 (see Addendum A) are put to the vote.

* Unanimous acceptance of this proposal by BM.

The new executive is tasked to adapt the constitution in light of the proposed amendments referred to in 7.3 and 7.4. Any further proposed changes must be made public long before the next business meeting.

**8. New Members (2nd BM)**

The treasurer, Petra Dijkhuizen, presents the membership list, with new members in green. Currently, the total number of members is **154**. As from October 2021, the membership list is available on the website for registered members. It will be updated regularly.



**9. Other Administrative Matters (2nd BM)**

* 1. **Reports from the Office Bearers**

**9.1.1 Chairperson Report: Lilly Nortjé-Meyer**



**9.1.2 Treasurer Report (Budgets and Statements): Petra Dijkhuizen**

The treasurer presents the budgets for 2020 and 2021 (Addenda E and F). These are approved by the meeting (proposed Gerhard vd Heever; seconded Gertrud Tönsing).

The treasurer presents the audited financial statements for 2019 and 2020 (Addenda G and H). These are accepted by the meeting (proposed Paul Decock; seconded Pieter Botha). There is also a treasurer report available (Addendum D).

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**9.1.3 Secretary Report: Nina Müller van Velden**



**9.1.4 Media Report: Peter Nagel**



**9.1.5 Officer for Development Report: Paul Adebayo**



**9.2 Reports from the *Neotestamentica* Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board**

**9.2.1 Report from the Editor of *Neotestamentica*: Chris de Wet/Petra Dijkhuizen**

The administrator, Petra Dijkhuizen, presents the editor’s report, with input from the editor, Chris de Wet (Addendum L). The meeting approves the budget for the coming financial year (proposed Llewellyn Howes; seconded Joel Brown). The administrator proceeds to present the audited financial statements of the journal for the last two financial years (Addenda M and N). These statements are approved by the meeting (proposed Gerhard vd Heever; seconded Philip du Toit).



**9.2.2 Report from the Chair of the Editorial Board of *Neotestamentica*: Gerhard van den Heever**

The acting chairperson of the editorial board, Gerhard van den Heever, is not available for re-election. The editorial board nominates the previous editor, Llewellyn Howes (available). This nomination is supported by the business meeting (Chris de Wet proposes; seconded Paul Decock). No further nominations.

* **Llewellyn Howes** is elected chairperson of the editorial board for term of 5 years

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Attached: Addendum O (Report Chairperson Editorial Board) and Addendum P (Minutes Editorial Board Meeting 2021).

**Arising from the Minutes of the Editorial Board Meeting 2021:**

The acting chairperson highlights the unanimous decision taken by the editorial board with regard to an annual bonus scheme for the administrator (R15000); editor (R5000) and review editor (R3000), to be paid out every year at the end of January.

The admin fee for the administrator is currently R99000 per annum (R8250 per month, since March 2020). It is left to the new editorial board to adjust this fee.

The new editorial board is tasked with defining rules and procedures with regard to a postgraduate bursary scheme.

In consultation with the editor and administrator, the new editorial board must see to it that administrative and editorial operations are formalised.

**9.3 Reports from the NTSSA Subgroups**

**9.3.1 Pauline Studies: Jeremy Punt and Francois Wessels/Philip du Toit**

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The co-leader Francois Wessels steps down and is replaced by Philip du Toit at this conference’s subgroup meeting.

**9.3.2 Early Christian Studies: Chris de Wet and Gerhard van den Heever**



**9.3.3 Gender and Human Sexuality: Nina Müller van Velden and Johnathan Jodamus/Jacobie Visser**



The co-leader Johnathan Jodamus steps down and is replaced by Jacobie Visser at this year’s subgroup meeting. This subgroup plans a mini-conference for 2022 on the theme “Children.”

**9.3.4 Jesus and the Gospels: Llewellyn Howes and Marius Nel**

This subgroup will organise the 2022 conference. The theme is: “Orality and Memory in the Study of Jesus and the Gospels.” As keynote speaker Alan Kirk has been invited. He has provisionally agreed. Funds are being raised to allow for a second main speaker. There are also Southern African scholars that are experts in the field: Draper, Dube, Botha, and Loba Mkole.

**10. Future NTSSA Annual Conferences (2nd BM)**

2022

Subgroup: Jesus and the Gospels

Venue: UWC (Stellenbosch willing to step up and maybe Huguenot College)

Date: April, June, October

2023

Subgroup: Pauline Studies

Venue: Stellenbosch University

Date: Easter break

Note: The International Meeting of the SBL will be hosted in Pretoria, 3–7 July 2023.