



MINUTES

NTSSA BUSINESS MEETING HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG; JOHANNESBURG

25-28 March 2019

Venue: UJ Library Floor 6 Chinua Achebe Auditorium

1. Welcome (1st BM)

Chair welcomes all present, special word of welcome to the keynote speaker of this conference, Prof Musa Dube (University of Botswana).

2. Personalia (1st BM)

Prof Andri du Toit and Prof Tjaard van der Walt, both leading members during especially the initial years of the NTSSA, passed away since the last conference. Members observe a moment of silence in respect.

3. Apologies (1st BM)

Apologies received from Prof Bernard Combrink, Dr Lambert Jacobs, Jonathan Draper.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Business Meeting

4.1 Honorary President (1st and 2nd BM)

Nominations: Bernard Combrink (Paul Decock); Bernard Lategan (Elna Mouton); Johnathan Draper (Jeremy Punt); Daan Cloete (Lilly N-M)

Voting will take place at the 2nd business meeting.

See point 8.3.

4.2 NTSSA Logo (1st BM)

New logo was designed and has been in use since last year. Positive feedback from members. Word of thanks to Peter Nagel (Media Officer), the graphic designer and members of the Exec for the work completed to establish the new logo.

4.3 Joint Conferences 2020 (1st BM)



The 2020 NTSSA conference is scheduled to be organized by the Early Christian Studies subgroup. Following up on last year's discussion at the BM on the Joint Conference (JC), discussion now continues.

Peter Nagel (NTSSA representative on the JC committee) gives feedback in the form of specific questions: 1) Are we willing to participate in the JC? 2) If yes, do we have a specific theme of our own? 3) Will we require additional slots, above and beyond given sessions? 4) Are there specific themes or topics that we feel can be dealt with in workshop setting with other societies?

Marius Nel confirms the following information: there is an overall JC theme, and societies are allowed to have their own theme and slots. Members should note that the date of the JC is different from the normal NTSSA conference dates, set for Monday, 29 June – Friday, 3 July 2020.

Decision: Chris de Wet, Gerhard vd Heever, Peter Nagel, Lilly Nortje-Meyer will meet to discuss possibilities for hosting NTSSA conference as part of JC, before the 2nd business meeting.

4.4 Keynote Speaker: Panel Discussion (1st BM)

Prof Musa Dube will participate in the panel discussion on movies to be screened on Tuesday afternoon (26 March 2019), namely *The Wound* and *Kanarie*.

5. Approval of the Minutes (2nd BM)

Minutes approved by the meeting (proposed by L Howes, seconded by P Nagel)

6. Transformation - discussion (1st and 2nd BM)

1st BM

Following on the chair's letter to NTSSA members earlier on transformation in the NTSSA, a discussion is suggested on what transformation is, and how this will take place and be organized in the NTSSA. As a society, the members of the society determine what happens in the society. The chair strongly appeals to all members to partake in this process.

The floor is opened for comments, which include:

- Themes of conferences need to be representative.
- Be reflexive as a society and ask critical questions – why do black bodies move to the margins of the space – ask the whys? Who is here? What causes certain people not to participate? Systemic challenges need to be addressed.
- How do we proceed from here? Need to move forward.

NTSSA

New Testament Society of Southern Africa

- Transformation in the society needs to be a critical point of reflection, as well as the relation between transformation in institutions and practicality of how the society looks and functions.
- It is complex and the magnitude cannot be addressed in a short period of time. The discussion must not be shut down too soon. Concrete suggestion: appoint a task team to come with practical steps in proposal, with timelines, embedded in larger project. Needs to be more than window dressing. Very few younger colleagues in Biblical Studies coming through at some institutions. Investments and resources are needed, as well as an organic approach, long term plan. More reflection, brutal honesty, be willing to apologize.
- Consciousness in creating welcoming spaces and inclusive environments.
- Cautiousness and awareness of nurturing new and young members in the society. Link with SNTS. Play an active role in the process, also from the institution you are representing.
- People remember how you made them feel – does this sink in?
- Need to be honest with each other – be able to say when things are said or done that are offensive or inappropriate
- Learn from other societies, e.g. SBL, Circle: recruit members, train them, also be critical about own methods – how much space is there for variety of approaches, theories, motivations, theologies – what type of transformation is being pursued, to what end, why - motives? What are we teaching at institutions?
- Who is driving transformation? Or is the society an ally?
- First understand – introspection – before proceeding to the how

- Proposal 1 to the meeting: Set up task team for transformation, with Hennie Goede (SDF officer) (proposed by J Punt, seconded by P Nagel).
- Proposal 2 to the meeting: Leave the conversation, let it happen naturally via SDF (proposed G vd Heever, seconded by P Decock).
- Proposal 3 to the meeting: Continue the conversation – request members to speak up and say how they feel about where we are at, decided then how forward – guided by questions provided to members (how do we perceive the NTSSA structure and current workings, how do you see the way forward in terms of transformation (proposed P du Toit, seconded by ?).
- **Decision: Continue the discussion at 2nd meeting**

- In preparation for 2nd BM: That all categories of persons' (nominated, making self available, nominations of persons not here) names are provided to the chair by the 2nd BM (proposed by JC Lobe, seconded by J Dickie)
- Nomination of persons does not take place here – to be followed up via email by the exec.
- Members are invited to make themselves available and nominate themselves.

2nd BM

Two proposals on the table:

- 1) Appoint a task team for creating conducive environment
- 2) Have no specific plan – let things develop naturally, using initiatives such as the SDF

Compromise proposal: Meeting tasks the Exec with considering and deliberating as to what will contribute to creating conducive environment for a transformative society, and the meeting gives the Exec the freedom to co-opt whomever they think may be useful discussion partners in this regard. Ask the Exec to come back to business meeting next year and take it forward.

Decision: Compromise proposal accepted unanimously by the meeting.

7. Financial Statements and Budget (2nd BM)

Petra Dijkhuizen (Treasurer) goes through audited statements for 2017 (displayed electronically). These are approved by the meeting (proposed by C de Wet, seconded G vd Heever).

Unpaid members will be urgently followed up and removed as members if there is no response – currently 75 registered and paid members – on paper 208 members.

Proposal: Add reference category to website registration for new members

Petra goes through expenses 2018 (displayed electronically). The statements are approved by the meeting (proposed by P Decock, seconded by E Mouton).

The chair thanks Petra for the hard work that has been done to clean up financial matters.

The proposed budget is presented by Petra to the meeting. The budget is approved by the meeting (proposed by P du Toit, seconded by E Mouton).

Suggestion from the floor: Phase in budget item for conferences outside of SA

8. New Matters

8.1. Website and Online Membership Development (2nd BM)

Things are running smoother. The Exec is grateful for the response from members of the society in making use of the website for registration as members, and registration for the conference.

Suggestion from the floor: Need to begin thinking of a situation where the minority of active members are employed full-time NT scholars – create platform where resources are available and which is accessible for contributions for people who are NT scholars in a part-time capacity.

Going forward: Submission of abstracts for conferences to take place via the website. Create a discussion forum on the website. Add a reference category for website.

8.2 Student Paper Prize 2019 (2nd BM)

Submission of papers presented at the conference will be considered after the conference, and must be sent to the NT editor, Llewellyn Howes. The winner will be made known to the society by email and will be acknowledged at next year's conference.

8.3 Honorary President 2019-2020 (2nd BM)

The names on the table are: Prof Daan Cloete (UWC), Prof Bernard Combrink (SU), Prof Bernard Lategan (SU), Prof Jonathan Draper (UKZN).

Proposal: Prof Daan Cloete is nominated as Honorary President 2019-2020, Prof Jonathan Draper Honorary President 2020-2021 (accepted unanimously by the meeting).

8.4 Future conference outside SA (2nd BM)

A preliminary invitation has been offered by Prof Musa Dube to have the annual conference at the University of Botswana.

There is work to be done before determining the venue for 2021. UNISA colleagues in principal agree for UNISA to be the alternative 'local' host. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.

8.5 New Subgroups (2nd BM)

Gender and Sexuality subgroup: There still remains much more work to be done in the field of gender, sexuality, and NT studies. It is proposed that this subgroup (which dissolves after hosting this conference), reconvenes and continues again as a subgroup until the next Gender and Sexuality hosted conference (2023) (accepted unanimously by the meeting).

Members J Punt and C de Wet will work on a proposed change to the constitution to make provision for projects alongside subgroups. This proposal will be circulated among members beforehand, to be tabled for the agenda of the 2020 BM.

8.6 One Business Meeting (2nd BM)

Suggestion from the floor: Two BM's are in order. The last BM should take place before the conference dinner on the penultimate day (instead of on the last day). The BM's of subgroups can take place parallel on the last day.

8.7 New Members (2nd BM)

(Much confusion over the details of this point of the agenda – meeting requested to send all details of new members via email to the Secretary.)

- Paul Adebayo (SU) (Proposed by J Punt, Seconded by P Nagel)
- Elma Cornelius (NWU) – Returning member
- Stefan de Klerk (SU) (Proposed by J Punt, Seconded by P Nagel)
- Jill Gorven (SATS) (Proposed by Izaak Connaway, Seconded by P Nagel)
- Mpumhezi Hombana (SU) (Proposed by M Nel, Seconded by L Howes)
- *Korea - ?*
- Honore Sewakpo (Nigeria) (Proposed by C de Wet, Seconded by L Nortjé-Meyer)
- Annelie van der Bank (UNISA) (Proposed by G vd Heever, Seconded by Chris de Wet)
- *Australia - ?*
- KiWoon Lee (SU) (Proposed by E Mouton, Seconded by J Punt)
- *José (SATS) - ?*
- Endale Sebsebe Mekonnen (Ethiopië; SU), Bekele Deboch Anshiso (Ethiopië, SU), Ricardo Smuts (SA; SU), Mawusi Amavenku (Ghana; SU), Benjamin Rojas Yauri (Peru; SU), Vuyani Sindo (SA, SU) (Proposed by J Punt, Seconded by P Decock)

Suggestion: Set up a welcome email for new members, officially welcoming them to the NTSSA and encouraging them to complete registration on the website.

9. Other Administrative Matters

9.1 Reports from the Office Bearers (2nd BM)

9.1.1 Chairperson Report: Lilly Nortje-Meyer



Addendum A 2019
Chair Person report.

9.1.2 Treasurer Report (statements and budget): Petra Dijkhuizen



Addendum B1

NTSSAFinancialState



Addendum B2

NTSSAFinancialState

9.1.3 Secretary Report: Nina Muller van Velden

Notices and information have been distributed to members on the mailing list

Members to ensure correct email address is on the mailing list – website particulars are considered the correct.

The Secretary now also serves as secretary of the Neotestamentica Exec Board. These secretarial duties are only for minute taking during meetings.

9.1.4 Media Report: Peter Nagel

NTSSA conferences must attempt to be more virtual and acceptable – e.g. plenaries live on Facebook, using website more for conferences – especially for members who cannot attend.

Based on feedback from the meeting, communication on the closing date of registration for the Annual Conference will be clearer – especially via email. There will be improvement on that.

9.1.5 Member for Development Report: Hennie Goede



Addendum C NTSSA
SDF Report to ExCo

Meeting to take note of terms of reference – send comments to Hennie; institutions to nominate person as liaison officer for transformation / SDF.

A word of thanks from the Chair to the Exec, for their hard work and commitment to the NTSSA.

9.2 Reports from the *Neotestamentica* Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board (2nd BM)

9.2.1 Report from the Editor of *Neotestamentica*: Llewellyn Howes/Petra Dijkhuizen



Addendum D Neot
Editor's Report 2019

9.2.2 Report from the Chair of the Editorial Board of *Neotestamentica*: Chris de Wet



Addendum E
Editorial Board Neot

9.3 Reports from the NTSSA Subgroups.

9.3.1 Pauline Studies: Jeremy Punt and Francois Wessels



Addendum F
PaulineGroup_repor

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



Addendum G
Report for the subg

9.3.3 Gender and Human Sexuality: Elna Mouton, Lilly Nortjé-Meyer and Johnathan Jodamus



Addendum H
Gender and Human

9.3.4 Jesus and the Gospels: Llewellyn Howes and Marius Nel



Addendum I
Subgroup Report 20

10. Notices

10.1 Future NTSSA conferences (1st and 2nd BM)

1st BM

Possibilities outside of the borders of SA – University of Botswana, Gaborone; Lesotho?

2020 – Early Christian Studies – UWC

2021 – Jesus and the Gospels – Possibly Gaborone, University of Botswana. Logistics of responsibilities to be discussed as soon as possible. Conference committee will have to be set up at UB and work together with a NTSSA member. Word of thanks from Llewellyn Howes to Musa Dube for the generosity.

2022 – Pauline Writings – Stellenbosch University – dates not available yet

2023 -

Revival of former subgroups and/or suggestions for new subgroups is of importance.

It is suggested that new subgroup will host 2023 conference.

Further discussion during 2nd business meeting.

2nd BM

2020 – UWC – Early Chr Studies, 29 June – 3 July

2021 – Jesus and the Gospel – Bots / UNISA – Easter break

2022 – Pauline – SU – Easter break

2023 – Gender – TBA – (3-7 July ISBL in Pretoria, SA)

12. Closing

J Punt: A word of thanks to the Exec for the support – especially also financial - to make attendance and participation of younger scholars possible.

G vd Heever: A word of appreciation for this conference – it is not all doom and gloom – this was a positive experience.

Chair L Nortjé-Meyer: A word of thanks and appreciation for attendance, participation and positive engagement. Looking forward to the next engagement in UWC in 2020. Safe travels are wished to all.

Addendum A

2019 Chair Person's Report – Lilly Nortjé-Meyer

The executive committee gathered on Friday 05 Oct 2018 in Roodepoort to discuss the activities of the different executive portfolios. The major issues on the table was: the review of the NTSSA website, revival of PANTSSA, Registration of the NTSSA as NPO and PBO; the online registration of the upcoming conference and the preparation for the 2019 NTSSA conference.

The NTSSA website is now fully functional and the online registration that was created for the 2019 Gender Conference worked well. This has made the payments to the various institutions stress-free.

The officer of Development has undertaken to revive the Postgraduate Association of NTSSA (PANTSSA) to involve emerging scholars and give them an opportunity to read papers and discuss relevant issues during NTSSA conferences.

The chair and treasurer have undertaken to take up the registration of the NTSSA as NPO and PBO. This still needs to be done during 2019.

I am glad to report a successful 2019 conference at the University of Johannesburg. Prof Musa Dube (Botswana) and Prof Annette Wiessenrieder (Germany) were the two international speakers. Besides the excellent papers that were read, we engaged in a discussion on transformation within the Society. The member of Development will drive the transformation process with the support of the other members of the Society.

We have also received an invitation from Prof Musa Dube from the University of Botswana (the keynote for the conference) to hold the NTSSA conference in Gaborone in the near future.

The executive will have again a meeting during the year to plan and assess our activities.

Lilly Nortjé-Meyer

Chair NTSSA