

<b>SAAFoST COUNCIL Minutes</b>		
<b>Sunday, 27 August 2023</b>	<b>14:00 – 16:00</b>	CTICC Meeting Room 1.3
<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>		
Prof Elna Buys (EB)	President	University of Pretoria
Prof Riette de Kock (RdK)	President Elect	University of Pretoria
James McLean (JM)	Immediate Past President	Hilltop Foods
Prof Lucia Anelich (LA)	Treasurer	Anelich Consulting
Virtual Attendance		
Prof Gunnar Sigge (GS)	Vice President	Stellenbosch University
Ingrid Woodrow (IW)	CEO	SAAFoST
Dr Vusi Mshayisa (VM)	Chair: Cape Branch	CPUT
Petri Horn (PH)	Vice Chair: Cape Branch	Merieux NutriSciences
Dr Nwabisa Mehlomakulu (NM)	University of Pretoria	MySAAFoST Chair
<b>BY INVITATION</b>		
Irene Burke (IB)	Membership Development Officer	SAAFoST
Tricia Fitchet (TF)	Editor: FST	SAAFoST
Tsetse Baloyi (TB)	Communications Officer	SAAFoST
Prof Arno Hugo (AH)	FS Representative	University of Free State
Gill Slaughter (GvS)	National Secretariat	Turners
<b>APOLOGIES</b>		
Dr Gerda Botha (GB)	SACNASP	
Dr Shanece Ramkisson (SR)	University of Pretoria	MySAAFoST Vice Chair

No	Item	Action	Document
1	<b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>	EB	
	EB welcomed all and apologies were noted.		
2	<b>CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA</b>	ALL	
	The Agenda was accepted.		
3	<b>READING &amp; CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023</b>	ALL	
3.1	James McLean did attend the Council meeting that was held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023. Pg 1 Point 3 – should always have a seconder when approving minutes. Pg 3 Point 6 – should read Budget was approved by Riette de Kock and		

	seconded by Petri Horn.		
3.2	The minutes were confirmed as correct. Approved by Gunnar Sigge                      Seconded by Riette de Kock.		
4	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>	ALL	
	No matters arising.		
5	<b>MOTIONS, PRESENTATIONS &amp; DOCUMENT SIGNING</b>	ALL	
5.1	RdK advised that she did not think that it would be a motion, however, suggested that a Shared Drive be created, housing all meeting documents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IW advised that there is a Secure section on the SAAFoST website where documents are placed. This section currently contains Council meeting minutes. IW will provide the Council with further information and the password.</li> <li>• LA agreed and advised that this was also done for ILSI, and it was a useful tool for approval and storage of documents. LA further suggested that all documents should have dates and a version number.</li> <li>• EB asked who was responsible for the secure page.</li> <li>• RdK felt that it was the Secretariat's responsibility, and it was agreed that IW will oversee the process with Turners to ensure that all documents are uploaded to the website.</li> </ul>	IW	
5.2	RdK proposed that an annual or bi-annual review of Turners Secretariat should take place to evaluate their services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EB asked at which level the evaluation would be conducted.</li> <li>• GS suggested that Exco conduct the evaluation and report back to Council on their findings and suggestions. GS agreed that it would be a good idea as the process would be beneficial for both parties.</li> <li>• EB requested IW opinion as IW was meeting with Turners monthly. IW suggested a bi-annual review.</li> <li>• LA suggested an annual performance management review, where SAAFoST assesses the performance of Turner.</li> <li>• EB requested that the council decide on the date of the annual review. It was agreed that the review take place annually between August and October.</li> </ul>	IW / TS	
5.3	LA advised that the appraisals for the staff would also need to be done a lot earlier than they are currently being done so that they are finalized for budgeting purposes and budget approval at the November meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SAAFoST Council accepted the motion, and it was approved and seconded. Approved by: Gunnar Sigge Seconded by: Nwabisa Mehlomakulu and Petri Horn.</li> </ul>		
6	<b>FINANCES OF THE ASSOCIATION</b>	LA/ALL	

6.1	<p>LA shared the PowerPoint slide that she planned to show at the BGM showing the financials and reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2021 a loss of just R1 million was made and in 2022 further loss of just over R1 million was made.</li> <li>• Currently in the period a loss of R277 000,00 is predicted</li> <li>• Due to the two losses in 2021 and 2022 two large amounts have had to be disinvested, R800 000.00 and a further R900,000.</li> <li>• LA further reported that SAAFoST are running into difficulties as the funds are not being replenished as the 2021 congress ran at a loss of R657 000.00. The true loss to SAAFoST was R2.1 million as previous congresses have made a surplus of R1.5 to R1.7 million. Traditionally, the surplus from the congress and interest earned from investments carried the association for 2 years.</li> <li>• Interest earned for 2021 was R557 419.00, this included +/-R25,000 interest from the money market account.</li> <li>• 2022 was unfortunately a bad year for the markets and the investments did not perform well.</li> <li>• The markets are however recuperating, and interest earned from January to July 2023 is R404 000.00. The R15 000.00 previously reported was only interest from the money market and ABSA accounts.</li> <li>• For the period January to July the current loss expected is R277000.00 and a loss of R361 000.00 was budgeted.</li> <li>• The investment portfolio has remained the same and LA suggested that the new council meet with Paul Retief to discuss SAAFoST's investments and make decisions on the way forward.</li> <li>• Currently R3.45 million is invested, which has dropped below the R4 million threshold which was agreed on. The value of the investment in 2019 was R6 million.</li> <li>• No withdrawals have been made so far in 2023.</li> <li>• LA is hoping that some income will be earned from the 2023 Congress.</li> </ul>		
6.2	<p><u>Membership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The membership fees for 2021 and 2022 did not increase. An increase of 6.5% was put in place for 2023 and for the first time a student membership fee was charged.</li> <li>• LA reported that she would like to propose an increase of 6% for 2024 across all membership categories except postgraduate and student memberships which should increase by 4%. The same percentages to be proposed for 2025. The fees proposed include VAT.</li> <li>• LA advised that this proposal be presented at the BGM for approval by members.</li> </ul> <p>The council supported LA's suggestions.</p>		

Member	Current 2023	%	2024	%	2025
Custodian	17120	6%	18150	6%	19240
Institutional	4494	6%	4765	6%	5050
Gen Members	786	6%	835	6%	885
Professional	786	6%	835	6%	885
International	969	6%	1028	6%	1090
Postgraduate	286	4%	298	4%	310
Student (New)	240	4%	250	4%	260
Consultants	1070	6%	1135	6%	1205

6.3

### Audits

LA advised that there have been significant challenges in getting the audits finalised. Turner's Secretariat had advised that the 2019 audit would be finalized by 31 July 2023 and the 2020/2021 audits would be finalized before congress, which had not materialized. When LA started to investigate and pushed a little harder to get information, she sent an email directly to the auditors requesting the draft audits for 2019, 2020 and 2021 by the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2023, the auditor contacted LA to advise that they were still waiting for documents from Turners Secretariat for 2019 and that the 2020 and 2021 audits had not started.

When Exco was informed they were shocked and LA requested that Williams put it down in writing which they did and then, she sent it through to GvS and GvS spoke to the Turner Group Financial Director, Ian Losinsky who had taken over the entire process to ensure that the 2019 audit was received on Friday 25 August.

LA advised that she has sent the 2019 draft financials to Exco and JM for approval from JM and RdK as the President and Treasurer at the time. LA confirmed that everything looked in order except for one small technical issue which needed to be fixed. LA was hoping the change could be done and the financials signed on Monday, 28 August.

LA advised that she has received the 2020, 2021 and 2022 management accounts and that she had spent the previous day going through them. These were also received on Friday 25 August as promised by Ian. LA has several questions with regards to the 2021 management accounts but 2022 looked fine as everything tallied up with everything that she had so far. January to July 2023 was something she had been working on with Liezl at Turners and that she had taken on face value.

LA commented that perhaps GvS could give more information.

GvS thanked LA and apologized sincerely to the SAAFoST Council for the issues that had materialised with the Audits and advised that measures had been put in place to ensure that something like this never happened again. GvS further reported that Liezl would no longer work on any of SAAFoST finances whether it was congress or secretariat; that Delia Watterson, who has been with Turners for a number of years would take over SAAFoST and Ian would remain in the loop. Ian and GvS were putting procedures into place to ensure that the management accounts for each month would be provided by the date agreed upon. This would be a realistic date to ensure that these deadlines are met. She further advised that Ian and herself would continue to drive the process with the auditors until all of the audits are up to date.

GvS once again sincerely apologized from Turners side for what had happened.

LA thanked GvS and commented that it was important that the new treasurer and council kept a very close eye on these three additional audits as they really needed to be done for SAAFoST's NPO/PBO status. SAAFoST was supposed to provide these audits to the government to maintain its status, which meant

6.4	<p>currently SAAFoST was non-compliant. A system needs to be put in place to ensure that these problems do not occur again.</p> <p>EB enquired whether the next audit was in process if the 2019 audit was signed the following day.</p> <p>GvS responded that she had been advised that it already was and that a year at a time would be processed. The original information that was provided was that the 2020 and 2021 audit would be done at the same time, this was not the case, it would be 2020 and once that was complete then 2021 would start and then 2022 thereafter the completion of 2021.</p> <p>EB enquired whether the rest of the audits would be done quicker as all the work on the management accounts was already done and that the expectation was that the audits would be done by the end of 2023.</p> <p>GvS confirmed this but advised that they were hoping the audits would be completed sooner.</p> <p>EB thanked LA as the past two weeks had been hectic considering what had come to light with regards to the audits and advised Council what they saw had literally been put together in the last two weeks. She also thanked LA for following up.</p> <p>JM commented on the 2019 Audits and advised that he had been through them and gave his approval for the draft to be signed off.</p> <p>LA advised that she had just picked up an error on the list of Council members and had written to Ian the previous day to have it corrected, which he would do tomorrow.</p> <p>LA advised that she had been through the 2021 financials again in more detail and the one she had received from Liezl and the one she had received from Ian were quite different, specifically in terms of interest. There was a R300 000.00 discrepancy. Ian had already clarified that R300 000.00 was additional interest earned, so that was now sorted.</p> <p>There were also other things that she had picked up in 2021 which were difficult for her to understand as some figures were not broken down, for example, fees for R1 million, not broken down into Staff Salaries, FST expenses etc.</p> <p>LA confirmed that the figures were, however, accurate just allocated differently.</p> <p><u>General and questions</u></p> <p>a) AH enquired why there was no membership increase in fees if the finances weren't in a healthy position.</p> <p>LA responded that she proposed increases of 6% for both 2024 and 2025.</p> <p>The problem is that SAAFoST has relied on a congress surplus to cover its running expenses. Making a loss in 2021 and possibly again in 2023 was of great concern. SAAFoST needs between R1.5 and R1.7 million in income. LA will suggest that the new council strategize on the way forward for future congresses.</p> <p>b) GS suggested that very early in the next term a strategic planning meeting take place focused on membership and events.</p> <p>LA cautioned the incoming council that if things continued as they have been, they only have enough funds to run for two or three more years. SAAFoST could not continue disinvesting R1 million a year.</p> <p>Some way of funding the organisation needs to be found so that an income of R1.7 – R1.8 million can be earned to sustain the association for two years. LA suggests getting some of the custodian members to participate in the meeting.</p> <p>c) RdK enquired whether before 2019 there were ever audit financials and if so, were they filed anywhere.</p> <p>LA responded that annual audits were done on an annual basis. Something happened in 2018, 2019, 2020 during that period and she wasn't sure what it</p>		
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<p>was, but something went wrong.</p> <p>RdK advised there were expenses made to auditors, BDO at the time and she was asking where did this money go?</p> <p>IW advised that during 2022 the 2018 audit by BDO was completed, and they were paid.</p> <p>LA advised that was one of the things that she has asked Ian to have a look at as there was an additional amount that SAAFoST had to pay to get the senior managers' signature on the audits for 2018. Which was not budgeted for, and we weren't told that we had to pay this additional amount. Every few thousand Rands made a difference. Ian was still investigating, and we did not have an answer yet.</p> <p>GvS responded that she and Ian had investigated, and the only fees paid to BDO were for the 2018 audit. The additional cost was for the compilation of the final audit report by an independent party, which is a new ruling, Ian confirmed that the same happened with all of the Turner Companies audits.</p> <p>d) LA commented that what she understood was the first time that SAAFoST received the 2018 audit was in 2022. The reason for that delay as advised by Liezl was that a lot of information was not available electronically and that some documentation may have been lost.</p> <p>e) RdK queried what the monthly management account was? IW responded that it was the monthly report detailing the income and expenditure for the month. LA added that the report also detailed actual income and expenditure compared to budgeted income and expenditure and it was important that this reporting is done on a monthly basis, which had not been done.</p> <p>f) GvS added that the problem had been identified as being Liezl, and that Turners have put measures in place to ensure that the problem did not happen in future.</p> <p>LA advised that she appreciated it and thanked GvS.</p> <p>RdK commented that one could blame Liezl but in the end Turners was responsible.</p> <p>GvS acknowledged RdK's comment and advised that it was not, that she or Turners' Secretariat were not taking responsibility, but she was asked what the problem was, and Turners identified the problem as Liezl.</p> <p>g) IW advised that she wanted to come back to Gunnar's proposal: she confirmed that she will be meeting with all sponsors, exhibitors and custodian members who did take part in the event to get their feedback. This information will then be communicated to the council for further discussion.</p> <p>EB commented that the costs for the virtual platform in 2021 and venue for 2023 were extremely high and the viability of big expensive venues should be considered in future.</p> <p>GS added that in his discussions with some of the industry before choosing a venue for 2023 was that they wanted more feet in the Exhibition area and that was why the CTICC was chosen as more space was available for Exhibitors and day visitors to the exhibition. Support from Industry was not forthcoming, which meant cutting down on the space required. He added that the cost comparison between Century City and the CTICC was similar, but less space would have been available at Century City for the Exhibition.</p> <p>GS continued that the discussion with industry should be whether they wanted to exhibit or not, or discussion take place with the organisers of the Big Seven on piggybacking onto their events by adding a scientific programme to their events.</p> <p>Riette de Kock, Ingrid Woodrow, Vusi Mshayisa and Lucia Anelich confirmed they were in favour of holding this meeting.</p> <p>h) AH enquired whether SAAFoST had ever considered using the Universities as a venue for the congresses. GS responded that the</p>		
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	<p>2005 congress took place at Stellenbosch University but there was no space for an exhibition, which proved to be a problem.</p> <p>IB added that security could also be a problem, as she had experienced problems at TUT; they were even strict with people working there.</p> <p>GS commented that if it were only a scientific programme it would be easier, but that was something to discuss at the strategic meeting with feedback from Industry.</p> <p>i) RdK advised that she noticed that the Postgraduate student's membership fee for 2023 was increased by 12% and wanted to know if there was a reason for this.</p> <p>IW responded the reason was that a student membership fee had been introduced and that the post grad fee needed to be higher than the student fee. The fee increased from R250.00 to R286.00 so the % is seems high but the rand amount is not.</p> <p>j) RdK enquired with regards to membership fees for 2024 and 2025 was there a motivation why the fees were only going to go up by 6%.</p> <p>LA responded that they had increased by 6.5% in 2023 and she had looked at inflation. The fees could go up by 7% as this was more related to inflation.</p> <p>JM comments that a 6% increase could be justified and is fair.</p> <p>Membership fees were proposed by Lucia Anelich Approved by Petri Horn      Seconded by James McLean</p> <p>No one was against the proposal of the 2024 and 2025 membership fees.</p> <p>k) EB asked LA whether she would be presenting the Financials at the BGM or would JM.</p> <p>LA confirmed that she would present the financial report via zoom, arrangements had already been put in place with GvS and Kerry.</p> <p>RdK advised that the one question that might be received at the BGM was the loss of interest, which was very unfortunate.</p> <p>LA agreed and advised that the financial advisor had recommended SAAFoST stick with the same investment portfolio so that they would benefit when the markets recovered. She further advised that SAAFoST always invests in medium risk portfolio's and that the return on the investments to July 2023 was R404 000.00. LA is hopeful that the target of R600 000.00 will be realised by the end of the year.</p> <p>EB advised that she expected that the financials would be the most sensitive part of the BGM but as the updated management accounts had been received, she thought it would be okay.</p> <p>LA agreed and was grateful that the problem has been identified and that it was being managed. She is taking comfort that Ian is checking everything and feels confident that the financials provided are a good reflection of SAAFoST's financial standing, but this will only be confirmed once all have been audited.</p>		
7	<b>Constitution ACTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS</b>	RdK/IW	
	IW advised there was nothing really to report and this would need to be looked at in the next period. There were many things that had to be changed but could not be changed without considering the PBO.		
8	<b>CONGRESS</b>	GS/VM	
8.1	<p>VM reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 32 Exhibitors and 34 sponsors are supporting the event.</li> <li>• The programme was going well, and everything was going according to plan.</li> <li>• With regards to the finances, as of Friday, the event is projected to</li> </ul>	VM/GS	

	<p>run at a loss of +- R196 000.00. Everyone had worked hard to improve the deficit which was R800 000.00 originally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He expects registrations onsite.</li> <li>• He confirmed that the Welcome function will take place at the CTICC on Monday 28 August and the Gala Dinner at Gold Restaurant on Tuesday the 29 August</li> <li>• The registration numbers are as follows: Monday 489 delegates, Tuesday 503 delegates Wednesday, 499 delegates.</li> </ul> <p>EB commented that 500 delegates was a good number.</p> <p>GvS added that this did not include the day visitors to the exhibitions as they were not part of the day delegate catering. They were still coming in but there were already about 100 for Monday. She advised that updates could be provided throughout the week. The catering number provided to the CTICC was for 450 people as there was always plenty of food and it also kept costs down.</p> <p>IW requested that the Day Visitor invitation be sent on Monday and Tuesday morning. GvS confirmed that this would be done.</p> <p>IW enquired whether there was an update on the outstanding money.</p> <p>GvS advised that there were 65 delegates who had not paid but were expected to pay on-site. Numerous follow-ups had been done in the build-up to the event.</p> <p>GvS reported that the registration desk will have a separate desk for onsite registrations to ensure that pre-registered delegates are not delayed. She further confirmed that any unpaid delegates would not be able to get their accreditation until payment had been made.</p> <p>IW enquired whether there were final numbers for the Gala Dinner.</p> <p>GvS responded that they were currently catering for 251 guests, 303 people had indicated that they would attend but had not paid for their tickets yet. Final numbers would be provided to Gold by 16h00 on Monday afternoon.</p> <p>LA enquired where the finances were for the Congress as VM had mentioned that they were hoping to break even, and enquired whether the congress would still run at a loss.</p> <p>VM advised that the event was still running at a loss of R196 000.00 as at Friday the 25th.</p> <p>LA advised that the R240 000.00 that SAAFoST loaned Congress would possibly also not be covered.</p> <p>GvS responded that the loan of R240,000 was included in the projected loss.</p> <p>LA noted that not earning from the congress will put SAAFoST in a precarious position. IW responded that it was not from lack of trying, everyone had worked hard to bring in sponsorship and delegates.</p> <p>EB commented that 500 delegates was not bad, the support from the trade was lacking.</p> <p>LA reiterated that having a strategic planning meeting was imperative to plan the way forward for the Association and future congresses. The fact that the investment account balance is R3.4 million worried her.</p> <p>GS agreed that SAAFoST needed to make money next year.</p>		
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	<p>LA advised that in 2024 SAAFoST would need to make enough to cover the expenses of the organisation. Budgeting for a deficit would not be acceptable.</p> <p>RdK advised that at this Congress we had to announce where the next congress would be, namely Gauteng and is concerned that the Northern Branch does not have a chairperson. IW responded that the Northern Branch does have a chair and that the branch chair did not necessarily have to be the chair of the LOC.</p> <p>RdK reported that she had noticed that the notices that went out were not advertising SAAFoST but advertising Turners and this was a lost opportunity for SAAFoST and did not draw people to the SAAFoST website.</p> <p>TB responded that the reason Turners Conferences name appears on the notices is because SAAFoST uses the Turnes mailing platform account.</p> <p>GvS responded that all notices included the SAAFoST congress brand except for those designed by the industry promoting their product theatres.</p> <p>IW advised that this could be discussed further at a later date.</p>		
9	<b>FOUNDATION</b>	LA	
	<p>LA reported that the Foundation was in a good financial position with just over R4 million in the investment account.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several awards were stopped in 2023 like the Aubrey Parsons Award for the second year in a row.</li> <li>• The Foundation was registered in Cape Town, so they were bound to the Cape Town Deeds office, herself and Sibongile had submitted all the documentation to register them as trustees two years ago and have not been registered as yet. LA therefore, as the Treasurer keeps all the books up to date with Irene and deals with the auditors. Janusz as chair of the Foundation and registered trustee signs off.</li> <li>• She expressed special thanks to an anonymous donor who donated R300 000.00 to the foundation in 2022 and 2023 which exceeded what was expected. Another regular donor reduced their donation by R20 000.00 but has not paid yet. From a marketing perspective, the Foundation needs to do better and get more donations coming in, even if smaller amounts.</li> </ul>		
10.	<b>WEBINARS AND WORKSHOPS</b>	IB/ALL	
	IW advised that there was nothing further to report apart from the contents of the report circulated prior to the meeting.		
11	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	IB/IW	
	<p>IB advised that the addition of the online application form was great, and that it was working well.</p> <p>IW reported that Eskort have decided to join as Custodian members.</p> <p>IB reported that there were between 9 and 10 new institutional members.</p> <p>RdK queried whether there were 520 professional members and IB confirmed.</p> <p>RdK suggested that communications to Custodian members be shared with the employees in the company and not only the nominated representative.</p> <p>IW advised that when she called on Custodian members, she realised that one person receiving the information was not good enough and that she then requested contact details for three representatives for Custodian members and two for Institutional Members. One of the representatives</p>	IW	

	<p>should be a food scientist who is not a member in their own name.</p> <p>IB added that IW followed up on the Custodians and Institutional members. They have also added the accounts contact person to the list. The process was far more streamlined after making these changes.</p> <p>JM thanked IW and IB for the efforts that they put in, especially with Custodians as it was 50% of the Association's income and the membership as it was certainly reflected in the monies that had come in.</p> <p>IW advised that it was far from where it should be and a lot more work needed to be done; she still had to visit a number of the Custodians.</p> <p>IB advised it was harder to get a Custodian member and easier to get an Institutional member. Institutional members could always be converted at a later stage.</p>		
12	<b>MARKETING</b>	TB	
	<p>TB reported that he visited the University of Venda the previous week to present SAAFoST to their food science students as there are no student members from the University. The students had highlighted a few issues which he had passed on to IB and he had advised them that SAAFoST would assist where possible. He asked them to form a WhatsApp group with Dr Mmaphuti, one of the lecturers at the University and challenged them to come up with ideas for events which SAAFoST would consider supporting them with.</p> <p>EB commented that now that Victor was there, she was positive as he was familiar with SAAFoST's structures and would promote SAAFoST and the University support should improve.</p> <p>IW advised that they were already quite committed as they were coming to some events, e.g., the Career Roadshow on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, so they would speak to them there again.</p> <p>IB advised that the bookings for the Career Roadshow were great, the best they had ever received, the universities wanted to be there and use what SAAFoST has to offer.</p>		
13	<b>REPORTS:</b>	ALL	
13.1	<p>CEO</p> <p>Sent prior to meeting and taken as read.</p>		
13.2	<p>Cape Branch</p> <p>Sent prior to meeting and taken as read.</p>		
13.3	<p>KZN Branch</p> <p>Sent prior to meeting and taken as read.</p>		
13.4	<p>Northern Branch</p> <p>Sent prior to meeting and taken as read.</p>		
13.5	<p>Regional Representatives (EC &amp; FS)</p> <p>Sent prior to meeting and taken as read.</p>		
13.6	<p>MySAAFoST</p> <p>Sent prior to meeting and taken as read.</p>		
14	<b>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS / LIASON</b>	GS/LA/ IW	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>IFT</b> – GS attended the congress in Chicago in July</li> </ul> <p>GS reported that Christie Tarantino-Dean CEO, Sean Leighton, President Elect, were both speakers at SAAFoST 2023 and Julie Emsing Mann, one of the panelists was also one of the Directors of IFT. EB enquired how the IFT representatives were being funded and GS responded that Julie Emsing Mann was an invited speaker and IFT had funded Christie and</p>		

	<p>Sean.</p> <p>Nothing new from the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SAAFoST-AIFST collaboration</b></li> <li>• <b>IFT- FSRD SAAFoST</b></li> </ul> <p>RdK advised that there was a request from the Nigerian Food Science Association to forge closer links with SAAFoST.</p> <p>IW confirmed that she had seen the email and would make a special effort to go to the presentation that Prof Joseph Abu was giving and would introduce herself to see where there could be future liaisons.</p> <p>EB advised that Prof Joseph Abu was the President of NIFST.</p>		
15	<b>FST</b>	TF	
	<p>TF reported that she had received an email from Nick Starke suggesting that the FST be sent to several companies and organisations overseas and that he will give her a list. TF further advised that the magazine is sent to IFT currently.</p> <p>IW requested the list so that she had it in case TF was not available and the companies and organizations had questions.</p> <p>RdK advised there was also an opportunity to do marketing in Africa, as there were only two international SAAFoST members. She had spoken to people in Malawi, and they had mentioned that they do not have a Food Science and Technology association locally. So, they could belong to IFT - we missed an opportunity for SAAFoST. She further suggested advertising in the Food Business Africa magazine and other industry-related websites to encourage membership from Africa.</p> <p>EB commented that in 2021 SAAFoST really tried hard to encourage people from Africa to attend the Virtual Event as it would be more affordable but with little success, there was interest but no funding to support them.</p> <p>TF enquired whether the proofreader and graphic designer of FST could be offered an increase as their fees had remained the same for two years.</p> <p>EB responded that at this stage they could not commit as the discussion would need to take place when the budgets were set for 2024.</p>		
16	<b>FOOD ADVISORY CONSUMER SERVICES (FACS)</b>	GB/IW	
	<p>IW reported that they were busy updating the articles and links on the FACS website as numerous links did not work anymore and needed to be updated and some were older but were still relevant articles. The next step would be to ensure that FACS was marketed more widely.</p>		
17	<b>REGULATIONS</b>	ALL	
	<p>EB thanked IW for her hard work on the draft food labelling regulations submission with support from various SAAFoST colleagues.</p>		
18	<b>SAAFoST MAJOR OBJECTIVES 2024</b>	ALL	
	<p>It was decided that major objectives for 2024 would be discussed by the new SAAFoST Council.</p>		
19	<b>SACNASP</b>	GB	
	<p>IW reported that the SACNASP CEO, Dr Nompumelelo Obokoh would be presenting at the Congress.</p>		
20	<b>ADDITIONAL ITEMS &amp; GENERAL</b>		
	<p>No additional items were discussed.</p>		
21	<b>DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING &amp; SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS</b>		
	<p>Strategy Meeting – proposed date 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023</p>		

	Council Meeting – proposed date 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023		
22	<b>MEETING CLOSED</b> EB thanked all for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 16h02.		