

Dear LSSA members

It was really good to meet our members at the Potchefstroom conference. I am sure you all agree that it was a very good conference and an indication of the good health of our society. My apologies for the slight delay in correspondence; occasioned by my slow recovery from sinusitis and my travels in Europe after the conference.

It was a very good sign that our annual meeting was not only quorate, but also well attended, with a noticeable presence of younger members. Here are the details concerning the new executive and our plans to sustain the executive committee in the future:

Bertus Van Rooy stepped down from the executive committee. He has been a capable deputy these last two years and will be missed. We hope he will see his way clear to standing again in the near future. I thank him and Nhlanhla Thwala, the other member whose term came to an end.

The new executive stands as follows:

Myself as chair, until the next election.

Jackie Naude (UFS) was re-elected secretary/ treasurer. (Jackie stated his intention of stepping down and training a younger member for the position of treasurer.)

Marné Pienaar (Univ. of Johannesburg) was re-elected as co-editor (with Patricia Watson). Marné wishes to step within a year and urges us to find a suitable replacement from Linguistics. Please let me or Jackie, our secretary have your thoughts on this very important matter.

Ondene van Dulm (Stellenbosch) was re-elected as reviews editor.

There were four further nominations. Of these Ron Simango (Rhodes) and Britta Zawada (UNISA) were elected and Leketi Makalela (University of Limpopo) and Mark de Vos (Rhodes) were co-opted as additional executive members.

In order to build a younger, stronger executive for the future the following members were also co-opted:

Leandra Ehlers (UFS) as web-master.

Nikiwe Matebula (UFS) as co-treasurer

Kiran Pienaar (Rhodes) as marketing and liaison person with NISC.

It is my pleasure to welcome all executives on board, especially the younger ones. We will shortly appoint a vice-chairperson from within.

The University of Stellenbosch was ratified as the next conference venue for January 2008. This will be a four-way conference, together with our partners SAALT and SAALA, and back-to-back with the International Pragmatics Association.

With every good wish for the current semester and looking forward to meeting all of you again in the winelands in January.

Raj Mesthrie

15 August 2007.