



DEFSA Presidents Report

Presented at the DEFSA AGM September 2019

This report highlights the DEFSA's Committee's key achievements and challenges since the last AGM held in September 2017.

Committee

The DEFSA Management Committee consists of volunteers drawn from a number of public and private institutions. The elected 2018-2019 Committee consisted of

- President Sue Giloi (Inscape)
- President-Elect Herman Botes (TUT)
- Inge Economou (NMU)
- Nic Human (DUT)
- Deidre Pretorius (UJ)
- Mike Swanepoel (NMU)
- Gail Henning (Inscape)
- Ivor Templar (GDC)
- Desiree Smal (UJ)
- Schalk Van Staden (TUT)
- Jabu Makhubu (UJ)
- Secretariat Helen Buhrs (Inscape)
- Senate members

The secretariat duties were covered by Rene Busacker for Helene Buhrs for 2019. S Van Staden and J Makhubu could not attend meetings and therefore left the committee. Nic Human could not attend meetings and Phillipa Kethro acted as DUT replacement from May 2019.

From the 2013-2015 and 2015-2017 terms the key unresolved item was the establishment of a governance structure which was initially conceptualised as a Trust.



DEFSA governance structure

From 2013 to 2017, and under the previous Presidents, various activities related to establishing a trust were undertaken, but no outcome was achieved. The primary stumbling block was to find three individuals who were willing to act as board members. The incoming 2018-2019 committee discussed the various options and have consulted with the firm CST Governance and other experts regarding an appropriate structure for DEFSA.

Ultimately the committee established that a Voluntary Association would be appropriate, and this would be registered as a Non-Profit Organisation. To date DEFSA name has been registered with CIPRO and changes required to the constitution in order to establish the voluntary association are tabled at this AGM.

2017 Conference

The 2017 conference was a great success with 64 abstracts of which 40 was approved for presentation and 38 presented. Twenty-six papers appeared in the conference proceedings which were registered with DHET leading to many design academics and their institutions receiving funding. Prof Dei one of Canada's foremost scholars on race and anti-racism studies was the keynote speaker.

Activities

Two workshops were organised by DEFSA in 2018. A Practice Based Research workshop was hosted by the NRF in Pretoria and saw presentations by the NRF and the Department of Industrial Design of the University of Johannesburg. The workshop was simulcast to NMU in Port Elizabeth and CPUT in Cape Town.

A workshop on Writing and Abstract was hosted by Inscape Cape Town, with presentations by Prof. J Cronje, Viki Erikson and Veronica Barnes of CPUT. The workshop was simulcast to TUT and NMU.

A Newsletter was initiated by Ria Van Zyl and the first edition was well received.

Herman Botes represented DEFSA at the Design Declaration Pre-Summit in Saint-Etienne bring back valuable information and establishing connections with other design organisations. A copy of his report is available on the DEFSA web site at <http://www.defsa.org.za/articles/report-design-declaration>



Sue Giloi did a presentation on Ethics for Designers at the Ikasi Graphic Design workshop in Johannesburg and a panel discussion on postgraduate studies organised by Inscape.

Sue Giloi and Herman Botes attended the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture Design Strategy Workshop on the 27 August 2019.

Appreciation

I would like to thank the following people:

- The conference team for 2019, especially Monica di Ruvo and Ria Van Zyl.
- Helen Buhrs and Rene Busacker for managing the administration of DEFSA and the conference.
- Dianne Volek who designs and manages the DEFSA website.
- Herman Botes who worked fiercely on the 2017 and 2019 conference, peer review process and for ensuring that the 2017 conference proceedings were put together, checked and published. Herman takes over as the President of DEFSA and I can assure you that he will keep driving DEFSA's agenda. The organisation is in very safe and capable hands.

My thanks also go to the outgoing committee for their support, advice and contributions over the past two years.

Dr Sue Giloi