Southern African Archaeology Student Council

SAASC CONSTITUTION (DRAFT 1.3)
16 JUNE 2020

1. PREAMBLE

The Southern African Archaeology Student Council (SAASC) is the administrative and advisory body of the Southern African Archaeology Student Society (SAASS), and is a student-based organisation that exists for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and promoting southern African archaeology student[1] and Early Career Professional (ECP)[2] development, enrichment and lifelong learning. SAASC is committed to establishing and fostering networking opportunities among students from different universities, as well as ECPs from various organisations, across the Southern African Development Community[3] (SADC).

The SAASC's primary aim is to act as a unifying organisation for students and ECP members of the SAASS. It also aims to present student and ECP issues and concerns before the Association for Southern African Professional Archaeologists (ASAPA) – a SAQA-registered[4] professional body that exists for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and promoting archaeology in southern Africa (which includes all SADC states).

The SAASC rejects any form of discrimination; whether on grounds of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, birth and nationality, and political orientation, amongst others.

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[1] A **student** is classifies as any individual currently registered for an undergraduate or post-graduate degree in archaeology (or a closely related discipline that includes archaeology as one of its subject majors, including, but not limited to, anthropology, palaeontology, Biblical Archaeology, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Classical Studies, etc).

[2] An **early career professional** is classified as any individual who has completed a post-graduate degree within the last two years in the above-mentioned fields, and who has entered the formal job market.

[3] For information on participating member states of SADC, visit https://www.sadc.int/member-states/

[4] For information of SAQA, visit https://www.saqa.org.za/

2. MISSION STATEMENT

Both the Council (SAASC) and the Society's (SAASS) mission is to

2.1 **Advance collegiality** between students and ECPs from different universities, institutions and organisations from across the SADC (our **target group**).

2.2 **Promote collaboration** between members of the above mentioned target group in terms of studies, research, fieldwork and community engagement.

2.3 **Foster a sense of belonging** within the wider archaeological community, which has thus far been limited to individuals serving in professional positions (effectively excluding students).

2.4 **Promote transformation,** with particular reference to the provision of equal access to educational/academic resources and enrichment opportunities to all students, irrespective of race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language, birth and nationality, and political orientation, amongst others.

2.5 **Support the decolonising of archaeology,** with particular reference to educating and informing our student community about *what* decoloniality is, *how* it can be responsibly implemented, and *why* it matters.

3. OBJECTIVES

As an administrative and advisory body, the SAASC will provide leadership to the SAASS and will advance student and ECP issues (such as development, enrichment and lifelong learning) by:

3.1 **Facilitating enrichment opportunities** including, but not limited to, the annual/periodic Student Development Workshop (SDW).

3.2 **Providing access to enrichment resources**, via our online portal (insert URL), to educational and enrichment resources including, but not limited to, Open Access content (articles and research publications), SDW-produced materials (recorded lectures, practicals and Q&A sessions), templates (dissertation/thesis templates, conference presentation/poster templates), and other resources.

3.3 **Promoting conference attendance** among members of the SAASS in order for students and ECPs to attend, and/or participate in, both local and international conferences.

3.4 **Representing students and ECPs,** and their issues and concerns, before the ASAPA Council as an active member (through the Student Representative seat, traditionally held by the SAASC Chair) of said council.

3.5 **Encouraging ASAPA membership** among students and ECPs who qualify for Professional Membership and/or CRM Accreditation.

4. THE COUNCIL ITS SOCIETY

4.1 GENERAL

4.1.1 The name of the Council is the Southern African Archaeology Student Council, hereinafter called SAASC.

4.1.2 The name of the Society is the Southern African Archaeology Student Society, hereinafter called SAASS.

4.1.3 SAASC is the administrative and advisory body of the SAASS

4.1.4 The SAASS was officially brought into being on 16 June 2020 after a unanimous decision for its establishment was reached by the SAASC.

4.2 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

4.2.1 The SAASC, as the administrative and advisory body of the SAASS, oversees the terms and conditions that regulate **target group** membership to the SAASS (see Section 4.3).

4.2.2 The SAASC in turn is elected on a biennial basis by members of the SAASS.

4.2.3 Nominees for seats on Council should adhere to the terms and conditions set out by Section 4.4.

4.3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY (SAASS)

Membership of the SAASS is guided by the requirements below. Individuals who wish to apply for membership should belong to the following target group(s):

4.3.1 **Be a registered student** at a recognised SADC university/tertiary institution.

(a) Students from universities/tertiary institutions outside of the SADC should provide additional information on the courses/degrees enrolled for upon application for membership.

And, or;

4.3.2 **Be an Early Career Professional** who has recently (no more than two years) completed a degree, or is still in the process of completion, and has entered the formal job market.

(a) The formal job market refers to positions that are within the field of archaeology or a related field including, but not limited to, higher education (lecturing and tutoring), Cultural Resource Management (CRM), museum work (curation, internship, research,

etc), the heritage sector (institutions and organisations such as provincial heritage organisations, SAHRA, or NGO's such as Die Erfenisstigting), and research (post-doctoral fellowships, funded research).

Individuals who adhere to the above-mentioned should then:

4.3.3 Complete the application form (available from the website) and submit it along with proof of registration/employment and a complete CV.

4.4   MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL (SAASC)

Nominations to serve on the Council are guided by the requirements below. Individuals who wish to serve on Council should be:

4.4.1   A registered SAASS member

4.4.2   A registered student at a recognised SADC university/tertiary institution, and/or;

4.4.3   An Early Career Professional within a two-year period of completing his/her studies.

4.4.4   Available to serve on Council for a 24-month period.

4.4.5   Available to assist in any and all logistical arrangements that are required for the annual hosting of the Student Development Workshop (SDW), as well as any other duties that may arise as part of the position's designated roles and responsibilities.

SAASS members may nominate follow students for the following positions and their associated roles and responsibilities:

4.4.6   **Secretary:** Responsible for all formal communications, with particular reference to SDW-related information, SAASS membership application, funding proposals and funding reports.

4.4.7   **Treasurer:** Responsible for SAASC and SAASS finances, with particular reference to funding received from donors and funding bodies (such as Past, Archsoc, the NRF, etc).

4.4.8   **Workshop Coordinator:** Responsible for the main logistical arrangements of the SDW and/or any other activities, workshops and events that may arise (such as the PACS open days, ASAPA conferences, etc).

4.4.9   **Social Media Coordinator:** Responsible for maintaining all social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, etc) as well as managing the SAASC website.

4.4.10 **SADC & International Representative:** Responsible for communicating with students and their institutions from around the SADC region. The individual should preferably be situated in a SADC member state other than South Africa and should be in a position to

travel internationally should the need arise. The portfolio includes outreach to international students who are studying as part of exchange programs.

4.5   COUNCIL ELECTIONS

4.5.1   Council elections take place on a biennial basis and are usually facilitated as part of the Student Development Workshop (SDW).

4.5.2   Candidature for a position on Council is based on self-nomination, unless an insufficient amount of individuals have self-nominated, in which case individuals may be nominated by their peers (fellow registered members of SAASS).

4.5.3   All candidates should prepare a brief (no longer that 5 minutes) biography which includes clear indications of why they would like to serve on Council, as well as the contributions they can make towards student enrichment.

4.5.4   All Council positions are (self)-nominated and elected by the SAASS, with the exception of the Chair of the Council.

4.5.5   The Chair is selected internally by members of the existing (outgoing) Council. The position should preferably be filled by an individual who has already served as a member of Council for a minimum of 24 months. This guideline is motivated by the need for:
(a) Experience: The nominee for Chair should understand the roles and responsibilities of Council, and should have experience in the workings of Council (organising SDWs, submitting funding proposals, writing reports, etc).
(b) Continuity: In order to maintain the Council's Missions and Objectives, it is important that continuity exists between one Council and the next.

4.5.6   Should an internal nominee not wish to stand for the position of Chair, he/she may decline the nomination.

4.5.7   Should the internal process towards the selection of a new Chair not be practical or possible (for whichever reason) from within the outgoing Council, self-nominations from members of the SAASC will be considered under the following guidelines:
a) The intent to open nominations for the position of Chair via self-nominations should be made public well in advance of the proposed election period (for example, one month prior to the SDW).
b) The candidate should volunteer his/her assistance to the outgoing Council in organising general workshops activities during the SDW period. This will allow the outgoing Council to mentor the nominee on Council duties prior to the election process.

c) Under these exceptional circumstances, the outgoing Chair will assume an Ex-Officio position on the newly elected Council and will serve in an advisory capacity for 12 months.

4.5.8 The nominated Chair should be willing and able to serve on the ASAPA Council as the Student Representative for as long as he/she is Chair of the SAASC.

4.5.9 Any objections towards nominees should be lodged to members of the existing Council for ratification prior to the election itself. No post-hoc objections will be considered once the election process has been finalised. Objections towards a nomination should be supported by three or more member of the SAASS and should be submitted along with sound evidence and/or compelling arguments against the nomination.

4.6   AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

4.6.1 No amendment to this Constitution, whether by addition, deletion, substitution or other change shall be valid except on a resolution voted upon by members of the SAASS, and receiving at least sixty per cent of the votes in favour of the amendment.

4.6.2 Suggested amendments to the Constitution can only be submitted during the Student Roundtable Discussion (SRD) held at the annual Student Development Workshop (SDW).

4.6.3 If any dispute arises over the interpretation of the terms of this Constitution the decision of Council shall be final and binding and shall be reported for the information of members at the next SDW.

4.7   DISSOLUTION OF THE SAASC OR SAASS

4.7.1 The dissolution of the SAASC and/or SAASS shall be at the discretion of Council, or can be proposed by an electronic/postal ballot of SAASS members at a SDW SRD, with not less than sixty per cent of the members voting in person or by proxy are in favour of such dissolution.

4.8   SIGNING INTO EFFECT

This Constitution (Draft 1.3) was accepted by the presiding members of the Southern African Archaeology Student Council – Kelita Shadrach (Secretary), Cherene de Bruyn (Media & Events), Enio Tembe (SADC Representative), and Suramya Bansal (International Student Representative) – and signed into effect by the Chair of the SAASC – Mariette Harcombe – on 16 June 2020.

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Dr. A.M. Harcombe

Southern African Archaeology Student Council

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