



**REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27 OCTOBER
2006 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

Prof. Anthony Minnaar (Acting President)

1. Introduction

I report to you today in my capacity as Interim President. This status was necessitated by the unfortunate resignation at the beginning of the year of CRIMSA President, Prof. Kris Pillay, due to a number of personal reasons. I would first like to start off by thanking him for all his hard work over the last few years in the service of CRIMSA. In addition, in the course of the year further resignations from EXCO followed: Prof Linda Davis (vice-president: Victimology) – left academe; Karen Booyens (Treasurer) and Prof. Johan Prinsloo (Editor: Acta Criminologica) – health reasons. To all of them I extend the Associations' thanks for many years of service and hard work. Furthermore, my thanks also to all those active members of the EXCO who have willingly and unstintingly given of their time and energies to the running of this Association, and for their support of the president.

Having said that the affairs of CRIMSA remain under pressure from all sides. Your EXCO were only able to hold five meetings since the AGM in September last year. Scheduled meetings were forced to be cancelled due inter alia to overwhelming work pressures, fieldwork research, trips overseas and illness among the EXCO members. To at least deal with CRIMSA matters an effort was made to institute online meetings (or exchanges of e-mail on certain issues) but this was not a satisfactory method or a replacement for face-to-face meetings where matters can be better openly discussed. Irrespective of these drawbacks the business of this Association continued and I report on these activities below.

2. International networking

At the 14th World Criminology Congress: “*Preventing Crime and Promoting Justice: Voices for Change*”, held at the Jerry Lee Center of Criminology, University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA from 7-11 August 2005 CRIMSA became a listed associated member of the International Society of Criminology. (See also two reports in CRIMSA Newsletter No. 39: 2005 for details on this congress).

3. SGB

The Standards Generating Body (SGB) for Criminology and Criminal Justice was established on 24 March 2002 (Govt. Gazette No. 23221, vol. 441). The Criminology and Criminal Justice SGB is an independent body accredited by SAQA functioning under the auspices of CRIMSA. Its expenses were largely funded by the Dept of Criminology at UP, UNISA’s Institute for Criminological Sciences and SAQA. In line with the SAQA regulations the SGB is representative of providers and critical interest groups working in the field of crime, victimisation and criminal justice (21 members)

The work of this SGB (under the Chair of Prof. Beaty Naude) has been able to achieve the following:

Six qualifications and 31 unit standards have been developed to date: Further Education and Training Certificate (NQF level 4); National Certificate in Criminology (level 5); Bachelor of Criminology (level 7); Master of Criminology (level 8); Master of Criminology (with specialisation in Victimology) (level 8) and Doctor of Criminology (level 10). These have been finalised and registered on the NQF. (for more detail on these qualifications and unit standards and other SGB matters I refer you to CRIMSA Newsletters Nos 39: 2005 and 42: 2006).

The Council for Higher Education (CHE) has also approved the Master of Victimology for registration but requested that the title be changed to Master of Criminology (with specialisation in Victimology).

A SAQA/NQF brief to NSB-08 qualifications was that they must also incorporate entrepreneurship, ethics, human rights, victim rights and needs and stress these in their qualifications and standards. Our SGB was commended for having included these learning fields in all our qualifications and for being the only SGB (out of a total of 18 SGBs), which completed its brief in the three year term allocated to them.

The NSBs have been abolished and Consultative Panels are now used to quality assure the submitted qualifications and standards. These panels are selected in terms of the organising field in which the qualification has been submitted.

The SAQA deputy directors now also conduct a more stringent quality check on the qualifications and standards received.

In mid-year SAQA further indicated that they would like to retain the expertise of SGBs whose term has expired and they would like to re-register them for a further three years. Accordingly in terms of Government Gazette Nr 28970, Notice Number 638, dated 7 July 2006, the following representatives were appointed by SAQA to serve on the Criminology and Criminal Justice SGB for a further period of three years:

Dr Vanitha Chetty, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban
Ms Amanda Dissel, Centre for the Study of Violence & Reconciliation, JHB
Mr David Kgosimore, University of Limpopo, Polokwane
Ms Harriet Klopper, University of Pretoria
Supt Gladys B Mangawani, South African Police Service, Pretoria
Dr Alice Maree, South African Banking Risk Information Centre (SABRIC), JHB
Prof Beaty Naudé, CRIMSA
Ass Com KP Ngoveni, SAPS
Mr Robert Peacock, Monash University (South Africa), Roodepoort
Prof Rika Snyman, University of South Africa
Mr Gerhard Swanepoel, FETC representative
Dr Joep Toebosch, CRIMSA
Dr Elrena van der Spuy, University of Cape Town

The following members were elected to the executive committee at a SAQA meeting held on 3 August 2006.

Chair: Beaty Naudé
Deputy Chair: David Kgosimore
Secretary: Harriet Klopper
Member: Joep Toebosch
Member: Rika Snyman

The brief of the new SGB is to review the following criminology qualifications which will expire in 2007/2008:

Further Education and Training Certificate and unit standards (ID48856, 2007-10-13)
National Certificate and unit standards (ID49709, 2008-10-12)
Bachelor of Criminology (ID49108, 2007-12-02) and unit standards
Master Criminology (ID49065, 2007-12-02)
Master of Victimology (ID49599, 2008-10-12)
Doctor Criminology (ID49064, 2007-12-02).

In terms of the Business Plan approved at the August meeting of the new SGB all service providers in this field will be approached for input in the review process. New developments in the field of criminology will also be researched to ensure that the qualifications meet the SAQA standards of being geared to the

needs of South Africa while also internationally comparable. All revised qualifications will also be circulated to all providers and critical interest groups for comments before it is submitted to SAQA.

I accordingly make a call to all CRIMSA members to e-mail any recommendations to the secretary, Ms Harriet Klopper at hkloppe@postino.up.ac.za as soon as possible.

4. Application for professional body status

The application for the establishment of a regulatory board for criminologists (based on the 4-year Bachelor of Criminology which was registered by SAQA as a professional (i.e. career-focused, qualification) was submitted to the SA Council of Social Service Professions (SACSSP) on 14 March 2006. We still await the outcome of this application. If the application for a regulatory board is successful all providers will have to align their bachelor programme to the National Qualification (ID49108) and registration with the board will become mandatory for all practising criminologists and students who meet the training requirements.

5. Acta Criminologica

In August this year Prof. Johan Prinsloo, resigned as co-editor due to health reasons. After more than 16 years of hard work. Prof. Prinsloo (and his team) has been instrumental in placing our journal on a sound financial and academic footing and I would like to take this opportunity to extend the Association's grateful thanks for all his efforts in this regard. I would also like to extend these thanks to his co-editor, Prof. Jan Naser for all his hard work on the journal, particularly the technical and printing aspects.

The journal remains the only accredited journal (SAPSE & DoE listing) for the field of criminology in South Africa.

With regard to some of the unwarranted, unfounded and often personal criticism of Prof. Prinsloo's editorial duties at the journal I would like to use this public forum in answering them:

Firstly, as editor Prof. Prinsloo was only responsible for the following:

1. accepting submitted articles;
2. making a decision on content in terms of fitting in with the broad criminology discipline of Acta Criminologica as a subject journal; and
3. then making a decision as to which two external referees (topic specialists) any submitted article should be sent for peer review and article (content) evaluation.

In terms of the review process I need to mention and emphasise the fact that it is a blind review process i.e. the external reviewers do not know who the author/s of the submitted article is.

With reference to whether an article is accepted for publication or rejected the peer review is undertaken by the external reviews based on a checklist of criteria. They are also asked to make a recommendation on the following:

1. article to be published with minor corrections or changes;
2. resubmitted with substantial recommended changes; and
3. not publishable in journal

If the two external reviewers differ in their recommendations the editor can then decide to send it to a third referee for evaluation.

However, if the two external referees agree, the editor (Prof. Prinsloo) would then communicate this to the author and if there are suggested changes these would also be communicated. If the article is rejected the current journal policy merely provides for this to be communicated to the author directly by the editor, i.e. the decision of the external referees. There is no requirement for the editor in any way to provide the reasons for such rejection. However, the editor has the discretion, if so requested by the author, to provide or not to provide these reasons (without identifying the names of either of the two external reviewers) to the author.

No where in this process has the editor any opportunity to make these decisions on his/her own since the final decision is clearly based on the recommendations of the external reviewers. A further constraint to this decision is the journal policy that no one institution/organisation may have more than 50% of the articles in any issue.

I hope this clarifies some of the workings of the article acceptance process of our journal and would also prevent any future criticism of certain editor communicated acceptance decisions, as well as deflecting attacks on the integrity of the journal's editors.

In 2006 two issues (with the third currently at the printers) of the journal were published.

Article analysis: Acta Criminologica (December 2005-December 2006)

| Volume | Unisa author | Unisa + outside | Other universities/orgs | International | Total no. articles/issue | No. Pages |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 18(3) | 3 | | 5 | | 8 | 114 |
| 19(1) | 4 | | 6 | 1 | 10 | 136 |
| 19(2) | 4 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 11 | 171 |
| 19(3) | 2 | 3 | 6 | | 11 | 213 |

With the resignation of Prof. Prinsloo as editor, and in consultation with him and the co-editor of the journal, Prof. Jan Nesor, and members of CRIMSA EXCO, it has been decided to appoint Prof. Michelle Ovens (Department of Criminology, UNISA) and Mr Robert Peacock (School of Arts, Monash University (South Africa), as sub-editors. Prof. Nesor has agreed to mentor them for a period of two years with the aim that they would then takeover joint editorship of the journal. I congratulate both on their appointment.

Acta Criminologica, being the only accredited journal for criminology in South Africa, and since such accreditation makes each published article DoE subsidy bearing (currently R85 000 per article) (see CRIMSA Newsletter No. 42 for more detail on this issue) all members are requested to continue supporting the journal by sending in articles. The more articles sent in the better and wider range of choice the editors have which indirectly also impacts on quality of submitted articles, i.e. making it more competitive to get acceptance. Furthermore, no one institution or organisation (as mentioned above) can have more than 50% of articles in any issue. So keep the articles coming, and lecturers encourage your post-graduate students to submit their research as articles to Acta.

6. CRIMSA website

CRIMSA Website has been re-engineered and linked to the sabinet banner. We are in the process of populating the website with linkages to Acta article and CRIMSA newsletter archives and other websites like the NCJRS. The website address is: www.sabinet/journals/crim.

7. CRIMSA Newsletter

Since the 2005 AGM four newsletters have been produced (Nos. 39-42) and have been posted to members with the journal issue. I remain editor of this newsletter and in that capacity make a request for all members to send me material, in particular news of their department's/university's activities relevant to the Association (such as attendance at international conferences, papers delivered, promotions, new research projects, and post-graduate

students graduating, i.e. details of dissertation/thesis topics etc.). I also make a call on all criminology honours, masters and doctoral students to send me short (work-in-progress) articles on their current research studies of not more than 5 pages for publication in the newsletter.

8. Finances

Unfortunately the Treasurer Ms Karen Booyens resigned at the beginning of the year and Prof. Johan Prinsloo agreed to take over as acting Treasurer. The financial statements are still in the process of being audited and will be circulated to members at a later stage. I can however, report that the balance in the CRIMSA account is an amount in excess of R200 000.

9. Biennial CRIMSA conference

It has long been the aim of the EXCO to re-institute a Bi-ennial CRIMSA conference. However, with the protracted absences (for various reasons) and other work pressures the current EXCO has not been able to organise such a conference in 2006. But I strongly recommend that the new EXCO be tasked by this meeting to investigate the possibilities of holding such a conference in 2007. This is doubly important in the light of the whole discipline and its sub-disciplines being under attack (so to say) from such diverse quarters as dwindling membership numbers, fewer and fewer young academics and researchers entering the field, falling student numbers, lack of institutional co-operation and senseless regional rivalries. Such a conference will further serve the purpose of stimulating interest in the academic discipline of criminology.

10. Quarterly seminars

This year the Association have also not been able to hold any regional seminars under their banner. I therefore place a further obligation on the incoming EXCO for them to again try and organise a number of such seminars in the course of 2007.

11. CRIMSA membership

Currently our paid up numbers are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|----|
| Active | 28 |
| Students | 21 |
| Institutional | 17 |
| Honorary | 1 |

In the light of our dwindling paid-up membership numbers I again make a heartfelt and earnest call to all members to make a concerted effort to recruit new members, in particular students (there is a special rate for this member

category!) and for existing members to renew early their 2007 membership. Every newsletter has a membership form and I can also forward an electronic version to all which can then be circulated to prospective and potential new members. We need all of your active support in this vital for our future matter.

External co-operation: other associations, research NGOs and government departments

For some time it has been my own opinion that the Association should cultivate stronger relations and co-operation with allied Associations like POLSA as well as have better links and communication with various government agencies like the NPA and Departments of Justice and Correctional Services. In addition, research NGOs like the Institute for Security Studies and the Centre for the Study of Violence & Reconciliation would also be advantageous to disseminating the aims and objectives of the Association.

Conclusion

In conclusion I would like to once again thank all my fellow EXCO members for their support and hard work during my three-quarter year in office.

Finally, I do apologise if this annual report has come across as being a bit 'thin' on hard facts and 'big' on emotive calls to action and support but I have a deep concern as to the future of our Association and its continued existence. But I answer that criticism by saying: Long may we continue the work of the Association with renewed enthusiasm!!