

# Proceedings, Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy was held at Kelvin House, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, 20th August, 1986. Mr H.E. James (President) was in the chair and declared the meeting open at 15h45.

## Background

The Chairman explained that the meeting had been called to consider a number of amendments to the SAIMM constitution. The proposed changes had been set out in detail in a document that had been mailed to all members on 4th July, 1986. He then briefly reviewed the background to the proposals, which is outlined in the Preface to the Annual Report (page 357 of this issue).

The Chairman added that the Executive Committee of SACPE at its meeting on the 8th August, 1986, had resolved that the proposed amendments to the SAIMM constitution did comply with the requirements of Regulation R1525 dated 17th July, 1981, regarding the recognition by SACPE of a society as a Professional Engineering Institute.

## Constitution of Council

The Chairman reported that a detailed analysis of the workload and responsibilities of the President, the Office Bearers, Council members, and the SAIMM Secretariat had indicated the need for an additional Vice President. The proposed amendments to the constitution therefore included a provision for the number of Vice Presidents to be increased from 2 to 3. This was embodied in the new clause 3.2, on page 5 of the document circulated to members, which stated that the Council shall consist of a President, a President Elect, a Senior Vice President, a Junior Vice President, an Immediate Past President, an Honorary Treasurer, 14 Corporate members, and 2 members elected by members in the grades of Associate and student.

As there were no objections to this amendment, it would be incorporated in the constitution.

## Membership Grades

There were no objections to the amendments that made provision for Student members to become Associates automatically once they ceased to be students, and for the elimination of the grade of Graduate Member so that Associate became the holding grade until a member qualified for corporate membership. These clauses were embodied in the new clauses 2.10 and 2.11, on page 4 of the document. These changes were therefore approved and would be incorporated in the constitution.

## Membership Requirements

The changes in membership requirements were embodied in the new clauses 2.4 and 2.5 on page 2 of the document.

Clause 2.4 read as follows: 'A candidate for admission into the grade of Fellow, or for transfer into that grade, shall be not less than thirty years of age and shall have been for at least five years in a senior technical position in important mining or metallurgical undertakings, or in government, educational, or research organizations concerned with those undertakings. A candidate shall be practising his profession at the time of his application, shall satisfy the Council that he is a fit and proper person to become a Fellow, and Council shall be satisfied that his qualifications, training, and technical experience justify such professional status'.

Clause 2.5 read: 'A candidate for admission into the grade of Member, or for transfer into that grade, shall be not less than twenty-five years of age and shall have been for at least two years in a responsible position in important mining or metallurgical undertakings, or in government, educational, or research organizations concerned with those industries. A candidate shall be practising his profession at the time of his application and shall also satisfy the Council that he is a fit and proper person to become a Member, and Council shall be satisfied that his qualifications, training, and technical experience justify such professional status'.

Coupled with these clauses were the new clauses 2.6 and 3.2.9, which related to the question of continued recognition of the SAIMM by SACPE as a Professional Engineering Society. Clause 2.6 read as follows: 'Only Corporate members who are registered or registerable as Professional Engineers with the South African Council of Professional Engineers (SACPE) will be entitled to vote on matters deemed by the Council to relate to the affairs of Professional Engineers.' Clause 3.2.9, relating to the composition of the Council, read: 'Members of Council who are not registered or registerable with SACPE as Professional Engineers shall not be entitled to vote on matters deemed by Council to relate to the affairs of Professional Engineers.'

As there were no objections to these amendments, they were duly approved and would be incorporated in the constitution.

## Closure

The Chairman then declared the Special General Meeting closed. The meeting ended at 15h55.