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Minutes of the 83rd annual general meeting of the Economic Society of South Africa

Date: 9 September 2009

Time: 9h00

Venue: Feather Market Convention Centre, Port Elizabeth (conference venue)

1. Welcome

Prof Leibbrandt (chair) welcomed all to the AGM.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without change.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 13 October 2008

The minutes were approved.

4. Adoption of the annual report of the Council and the financial statements of the Society and of the journals for 2008

The annual report (2008) and financial statements were approved.

5. Appointment of auditors for the 2009 financial statements

H. Gordon & Partners Incorporated were appointed to audit the 2009 financial statements.

6. Annual membership fees for 2010

The annual membership fee was raised from R460 (2009) to R500 (2010) for ordinary members, and from R230 to R250 for students and pensioners.

7. Prize winners for 2009

ABSA prize for honours dissertation

Van Rensburg, Melissa (Stellenbosch)

The demand for test match – and one day international cricket in South Africa – an economic analysis

Supervisor: Mr Krige Siebrits

Founders' medal for master's dissertation in *partial* fulfilment of the degree

Fiandeiro, Maria Fatima (Wits)

Trade liberalisation and wages in South Africa

Supervisor: Dr Neil Rankin

Founders' medal for master's dissertation in *full* fulfilment of the degree

Van der Stoep, Gabrielle (KwaZulu-Natal)

Identifying Motherhood and its Effect on Female Labour Force Participation in South Africa: An Analysis of Survey Data

Supervisor: Prof Dori Posel

Founders' medal for doctoral thesis

Aziakpono, Meshach (Free State)

The depth of financial integration and its effects on financial development and economic performance of the SACU countries

Supervisors: Prof Philippe Burger, Prof Stan du Plessis

and

Zuze, Tia Linda (Cape Town)

Equity and Effectiveness in East African Primary Schools

Supervisors: Prof Murray Leibbrandt, Prof Valerie Lee

Prof Leibbrandt thanked the adjudicators for all their work and guidance given to Council in the difficult task of choosing winning papers from a diverse collection of high-quality submissions.

8. Journal of Development Perspectives

Prof Leibbrandt summarized the difficulties that had been experienced with the JDP, and reported that a proposal for taking it forward would be considered by the Journal Management Committee and the Executive Committee.

9. Election of President-elect, Vice-President, and six Council members

Prof Leibbrandt provided an explanation of the election process that had taken place. This was the first election process to be conducted in terms of the constitutional changes that were adopted in October 2008. Despite repeated calls for nominations, insufficient nominations had been received to require a vote. Council had considered the matter and had decided that if a similar situation were to arise in future, ballot papers would be sent to all ESSA members to provide an opportunity to respond to single nominations, and that in 2009 those present at the AGM would be given a similar opportunity by show of hands and comment.

Accordingly, Prof Leibbrandt announced the candidates as follows.

President-elect: Prof Stan du Plessis

Vice-President: Dr Monde Mnyande

Six Council members: Prof Malcolm Keswell; Prof Evan Gilbert; Dr Thabo Mokoena; Prof Wilma Viviers; Prof John Luiz (five nominations received)

All candidates were accepted by the AGM by show of hands.

10. Interim arrangement for president during September 2009 – September 2010

Mr Perkins reminded members that the change in the constitution necessitated an interim arrangement for president for the year ahead. Various options had been discussed at the AGM in October 2008, and in March 2009 Council had settled on requesting the incumbent to stay on as president for a further year. Prof Leibbrandt had indicated he would be available to do this.

Accordingly, the proposal that Prof Leibbrandt would continue as president during the interim period was put to the AGM, and was accepted by show of hands.

11. Expression of thanks

Prof Leibbrandt thanked Ms Pretorius (treasurer) and Mr Perkins (secretary) and the outgoing Council members for their time, effort and contributions to the affairs of the Society over the past year.

12. Presidential address: Prof M. Leibbrandt

Prof Leibbrandt delivered the 2009 presidential address: The Case for a Prioritisation of Economic Mobility in the Measurement and Analysis of Economic Well-being in South Africa.