



**REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 2 FEBRUARY 2010
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

by Prof. Anthony Minnaar (President)

1. Introduction

This is my fourth president's report to CRIMSA and as I enter my fifth year of tenure as president I intend to make the forthcoming year one of handing over the reins to the new crop of young academics to take over and look after the future interests of the Society. I am therefore giving early warning of my intention of not making myself available for re-election in 2011, largely due to the organisational demands on my time with the prospect of assisting in the organising of the 2014 ISC World Congress to be held in South Africa. At the last AGM held in November 2008 in my Annual Report I pertinently stated that I felt "it is not quite the opportune time of the academic year for an AGM when most academics are struggling to meet marking deadlines" and inputting of exam marks etc. I also from the Chair advised the incoming Council to "consider a much earlier date and shift the AGM to possibly mid-October". However, 2009 end of year activities necessitated the postponement from end of year to this date in February of today. This a point I will be placing on the agenda for discussion.

CRIMSA has been more active in 2009 than 2008 in that not only was a CRIMSA supported Colloquium held in May but we also held our bi-annual conference in September, three editions of Acta Criminologica were published and our members were involved in numerous domestic and international conferences with a number also being approached for media comment on a wide range of issues.

2. Council

This year we have had two resignations from Council, namely Dr Joep Toebosch and Mrs Laetitia Campher. Since their appointment of tenure is for a period of two years, the EXCO will at their first meeting in 2010 co-opt two new members to fill these two vacant Council positions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Joep and Laetitia for their many years of unstinting hard work and support for CRIMSA. Both will continue being involved in the activities of CRIMSA as ordinary members.

3. EXCO

Since the last AGM the EXCO were able to hold only three meetings during the year, with many Council members simply not able to make meetings due to other commitments, and it was a constant struggle to co-ordinate suitable dates and make time for meetings. However, a number of issues were managed and discussed with decisions being made via a method of email roundrobin consultation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of EXCO and those Council members who often travelled from far to attend the Society's meetings.

4. Application for professional body status

There has been some slight movement regarding the Society's application for the establishment of a regulatory board for criminologists to the SA Council of Social Service Professions (SACSSP) (submitted on 14 March 2006).

To move a step back, after requesting additional information on our application the SACSSP Council in October 2008 informed CRIMSA that our application would be taken under advisement since the SACSSP was at the time moving towards opening registers for some of the other social science occupations under its auspices as proposed in the new Social Service Professions Bill that was then currently under review. In addition, the SACSSP requested the opinion of CRIMSA with regard to the opening of a register for criminologists first as opposed to a professional board for criminologists, i.e. no decision had therefore been made regarding the establishment of a Professional Board for Criminologists.

In response to these decisions the CRIMSA EXCO, at a meeting held on 10 October 2008, discussed the issue of the application for a Professional Board for Criminologists, in particular the SACSSP request for an 'Emerging Professions' Register (within the context of SACSSP opening registers for occupations under its auspices). A number of other allied issues were also discussed inter alia the small pool of 'professional' working criminologists other than academics; exclusivity of the criteria for registering on the proposed professional board; the need to train future criminologists to be able to apply

criminological and allied skills in the workplace; the lack of job opportunities; for criminology to be more inclusive and look at sub-disciplines and allied vocational skills qualifications; the costs of running a Criminology Professional Board outside of CRIMSA; the problem of sanctions to be applied to transgressions by any registered criminology professional; and the allied problem of non-registered transgressors; finally what benefits/value would a SACSSP register/professional board bring to CRIMSA.

Eventually, at the SACSSP Council meeting held on 30 October 2008 (where the researcher's report investigating various occupations was tabled and the CRIMSA application for establishment of a professional board was considered) a decision was taken to "register criminologists with the [SACSSP] Council" but in a so-called "emerging professions register". However, the implications of this decision being that the SACSSP had in fact decided that criminologists "would not have a separate Board, but be accommodated within the professional board for emerging occupations". The SACSSP rationale for this decision being that "Criminology is registered with Department of Education and SAQA but not as a professional degree.". (This was an incorrect assumption since the new four-year BA in Criminology registered with SAQA in 2006 was in fact just that – a professional degree. CRIMSA immediately informed SACSSP of this fact on receipt of the SACSSP letter of 4 November 2008).

In line with this decision the CRIMSA application would only become operational once the new Social Service Professions Bill was enacted in 2010. However, the SACSSP office undertook to start working with CRIMSA to set up a board, inter alia by "opening a register for criminologists". However, the formation of a separate board to be dependent on the number of criminologists registering with the Council and with the requisite funding being forthcoming – such funds to be deposited into the SACSSP' bank account "before the actual establishment of the board", which again would be dependent upon, firstly: the demonstration that there existed an up-to-date register of all persons active in the specific occupation; and secondly: the ability to fulfil the regulatory process (i.e. sufficient funding to maintain a professional board, etc.).

On receipt of this letter and after discussions it was decided to have a meeting with the Registrar of the SACSSP, Mrs Iveda Smith. However, due to work commitments and the CRIMSA President being out of the country, such meeting was rescheduled for early in 2009. At the first CRIMSA EXCO meeting in 2009 the task of continuing the negotiations with the SACSSP, particularly in terms of the opening of a register was delegated to the CRIMSA vice-president, Prof. Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Prof. Beaty Naudé.

The process of further negotiations included a workshop style meeting with the Registrar of the SACSSP, Mrs Iveda Smith and her team on 14 April 2009. After this date further negotiations and discussions with relevant role-players, correspondence and fact-finding talks with interested parties also took place.

In the mean time Prof. Naudé resigned from the professionalisation steering committee because of personal reasons. And by the end of 2009 the onus had reverted back to CRIMSA for the organising of a National Workshop to get buy in from all academic institutions in South Africa that teach the discipline of criminology and its sister and sub-disciplines. (The organising of such a workshop to be discussed in this AGM meeting).

5. Acta Criminologica

The journal remains the only accredited journal (SAPSE & DoE listing) for the field of criminology in South Africa and has had a very full publishing year with three regular issues coming out in 2009 with the editorial team under the editor, Dr Robert Peacock of Monash-SA University, sub-editors, Prof Michelle Ovens of UNISA, Dr Jean Steyn of Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and Dr Cherita Morrison (formerly of Vaal University of Technology (VUT) – retired) establishing a smooth running operation with an effective and strong quality control programme in place. Problems and delays in the posting of hard copies continued for the first two issues but the EXCO approved of handing of the entire posting process over to a commercial company and the 3rd edition was despatched smoothly over a two week period towards the end of 2009. The editor has also instituted a system of appointing a guest editor for one edition every year. This does lift some of the work load from his shoulders. In addition, the new CRIMSA editorial policy (which follows the APA framework of referencing with our own additions and customising. This is available for perusal to any potential authors on the CRIMSA website and is in the foreword of each edition. I make an appeal to all potential authors of ACTA articles to follow these guidelines before submitting their articles to the editor as the policy is to return all articles without any editing if such articles do not follow Acta editorial, referencing and technical format conventions. The editor will be presenting his report later during the AGM meeting but I take the opportunity of my annual report to publicly thank the editorial team of Robert, Michele, Jean and Cherita. Well done.

6. CRIMSA website

The CRIMSA Website is still being managed and operated by SABINET which includes the management of the sale of articles to institutions. This sale of articles is a considerable chunk of our annual revenue. We have had a request from Pro-quest for them to also list our articles for sale but this offer is still under advisement as we have a contract with SABINET which implies that it is an exclusive right to them of the sale of Acta articles. I and your EXCO are in negotiations with both SABINET and ProQuest regarding possible joint handling of the sale of our articles.

The website, besides the listing and archiving of ACTA articles also archives the newsletter, president's reports, and conference announcement etc. It is well

worth a visit but in 2009 we instituted a password system for accessing the article archives of ACTA and for receipt of the e-journal (if that was your membership choice) for all members. Non-members will have to pay SABINET for that access.

7. CRIMSA Newsletter

In the beginning of 2009 Dr Brenda Beukman of Walter Sisulu University, Mthatha, resigned as editor and the first edition was edited by Dr Cherita Morrison while I edited the last two editions. The EXCO approved of the decision to make the newsletter available only as an e-newsletter which was the case of No. 3 that went out at the end of 2009. This is our contribution to cutting our carbon footprint in a more environmentally manner. I will be calling for a volunteer to take over the e-newsletter for 2010. But I again make a request for all members to send 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.) to the new editor or to me to pass on. Post-graduate students are also welcome to send in short (work-in-progress) articles on their current research studies of not more than 5 pages for publication in the newsletter.

8. Finances

The treasurer, Dr Marelize Schoeman will be presenting a short outline of the state of our finances. There will also be some financial decisions placed before the AGM for approval of the meeting. Just to mention we have only recently been able to register the CRIMSA account on the internet so are now able to access our statements electronically and can monthly check payments.

9. CRIMSA membership

We have now instituted a pro-forma system of sending out receipts but also if anyone needs an invoice these can also be sent to your institution (if they pay for your annual membership). The 2010 membership form is available electronically on the CRIMSA website. Hardcopies are available in this meeting. Membership fees for 2010 are due right now and for your membership to be continued payment must be received by the end of March. Unfortunately if not received by then your name will be removed from the database and you will no longer receive Acta journal. Membership fee has not been increased but in 2011 the new Council might need to review the current rates which are very reasonable with student as well as full member and institutional options available. Membership includes subscription to the Society's journal Acta Criminologica and there is also the option of receiving the journal in hard copy or as an e-journal. For those of you wanting to renew or to new members

please remember to insert your surname in the reference box when you make any payment into the Society's account. This helps us to track payments and link them to specific persons or organisations. I also make a call to all that if you are filling in your details on a hard copy to please print clearly and insert both a postal as well as an email address on the form, and if making a payment to fax or email proof of such payment to the fax number provided.

Currently our member numbers for 2009 are as follows:

Active	92
Students	14
Institutional	46
Honorary	3

While institutional membership has declined it is again a concern that our student member numbers remain so low. I again make a call on all academics to publicise membership with their students, in particular at postgraduate level.

Furthermore, we found a large number of dormant (unpaid) members when we updated the membership database.

10. Regional Colloquiums

Only one regional colloquium was held in 2009, namely the Monash-SA University organised one on the 6th of May 2009 Monash University South Africa hosted the CRIMSA Victimology colloquium: Advancing Victimology on the African continent. The invitation of this colloquium was widely circulated and drew in presenters, attendees and students from different levels of academia, Victim Assistance Providers and Governmental departments (local and international).

The colloquium was opened with a presentation by Mr. Frederich Affolter of the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime. His presentation dealt with the Institutional capacity and developmental needs of government departments supporting the government of South Africa's 'Victim Empowerment Program'.

This thought provoking presentation was followed by Anneke Meerkotter, who is director of the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre. Her presentation focused on women's help seeking in Acornhoek, Mpumalanga.

In all there were six presentations and given the level of scholarly debate all presentations could have been as easily part of an international discourse on victims and victim. During this colloquium, current bonds between academia and victim service providers as well government was solidified and new bonds and ideas were also developed. During the closing ceremony of the colloquium

all that attended and presented agreed that more of such one day discussion/presentation colloquiums should be held on victimology. The small number of members who attended this colloquium was disappointing with most attendees being non-members. I make a call again for members to support and attend such regional colloquiums. In addition, as 2010 is again a colloquium year (in-between the bi-annual conferences years) any university or organisation wanting to host such regional colloquium (which are supported by a grant of R5 000 from CRIMSA) to send in their expression of interest early for approval by the EXCO.

11. Bi-annual CRIMSA conference

The Department of Criminology & Security Science in conjunction with the Criminological & Victimological Society of Southern Africa (CRIMSA) organised and hosted the biennial CRIMSA conference held on the UNISA Muckleneuk Campus from 28-30 September 2009. More than 70 criminologists, victimologists, penologists, policing experts and practitioners in the criminal, justice system from all over South Africa came together to listen to papers on a wide variety of topics. Among these were such diverse papers as: *Black female criminality in post apartheid South Africa; Facilitators and inhibitors of violence at schools; Doing justice differently: prosecutors as 'gate-keepers' of Restorative Justice; Understanding the best interests of the child offender during sentencing: a South African perspective; Raising awareness about sexual assault and rape in a correctional centre: A practical illustration by means of the Offender Sexual Assault Awareness Project; An investigation of the treatment and protection of child refugees in the Durban Metropolitan area: The illicit trade in heritage objects: fact or fiction? The illicit trade in heritage objects; Multiple victimisation: Refugees, asylum seekers, foreign migrants and xenophobic violence in South Africa; Sex-workers, soccer and the SAPS; ATM bombings in South Africa; Piracy and maritime terrorism: Is South Africa ready to deal with these challenges? What has happened to 'Community Policing' in South Africa post-1994?*

In total 53 presentations were made in plenaries and breakaway sessions over the three days of the conference (the abstract booklet can be perused on the CRIMSA website).

All the plenary sessions were held in the Senate Hall and on the first day in the opening plenary the contentious issue of establishing a Professional Board for Criminologists was dealt with in presentations which elicited a great deal of discussion and debate on the future of the discipline of criminology and its allied disciplines of victimology, penology, restorative justice, criminal, justice and police science.

It has also been decided to publish a special edition of CRIMSA's journal, *Acta Criminologica* of selected papers presented to the conference.

At the conference dinner the conference awards for best papers were presented (book prizes were sponsored by Brian Willan of Willan Publishers). The following awards in the various categories were made:

Best paper on South African Criminology at the CRIMSA Conference 2009 awarded to: MICHELLE OVENS & JOHAN PRINSLOO. Title of paper: *The significance of "Africanness" on the development of contemporary criminological propositions*

The best student/W-I-P paper on South African Criminology at the CRIMSA Conference 2009: NICOLA VAN DER MERWE. Title of paper: *A quantitative study on the pro-violence attitudes among learners in South Africa*

The best paper on South African Penology at the CRIMSA Conference 2009: MARELIZE SCHOEMAN. Title of paper: *Recidivism: A conceptual and operational conundrum*

The best paper on South African Criminal Justice at the CRIMSA Conference 2009: HEMA HARGOVAN
Title of paper: *Doing justice differently: Prosecutors as gatekeepers*

The best student/W-I-P paper on South African Criminal Justice (Crime Prevention focus) at the CRIMSA Conference 2009: JOHN KOLE. Title of paper: *How effectively is the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA) regulating the security industry in South Africa?*

The best paper on South African Police Practice at the CRIMSA Conference 2009: MONIQUE MARKS & DEBBIE BONNIN. Title of paper: *Generating safety from below: Community safety groupings and the policing nexus in Durban*

The best student/W-I-P paper on South African Police Practice at the CRIMSA Conference 2009 awarded to: DORAVAL GOVENDER. Title of paper: *Policing a changing society in South Africa: Challenges for the police officer*

The best paper on South African Victimology at the CRIMSA Conference 2009: LORRAINE WOLHUTER & ABRAHAM HAMMAN. Title of paper: *A comparative analysis of protective measures for vulnerable and intimidated victim-witnesses in South African and English Law*

The best student/W-I-P paper on South African Victimology at the CRIMSA Conference 2009: TARIRO MUTONGWIZO. Title of paper: *Foreign fears? An exploratory study of perceptions and fear of crime in South Africa amongst international students at the University of Cape Town*

12. CRIMSA expression of interest to host the International Criminology Society World Congress in South Africa in 2014

At the 2007 AGM a decision in principle was made to explore the possibility of hosting the ISC Congress scheduled for 2011. In communications with the President of ISC, Prof Tony Peters, CRIMSA was informed that 2011 had already been allocated to the Japanese Criminology Society to host. However, CRIMSA were invited to formally submit their 'expression of interest' to host in South Africa the 2014 ISC Congress. This hosting offer was formally submitted by CRIMSA's president, Prof Anthony Minnaar, to the ISC Council meeting at the end of the International Society of Criminology conference held in Barcelona, Spain in July 2008.

At this Council meeting the Japanese Criminology Society were confirmed as hosts of the 2011 ICS conference to be held in Kobe, Japan. Some discussion on practical details ensued. After this discussion CRIMSA submitted their formal 'expression of interest' to host in South Africa the scheduled conference of 2014. This was accepted by the Council. However, unknown to CRIMSA the Chinese delegation, also attending the Council meeting, promptly verbally submitted their own expression of interest to host the 2014 conference in Beijing. As a result the ISC Council resolved that both CRIMSA and the Chinese Association/s would need to make detailed presentations on their respective plans for hosting such conference at the next ISC Council meeting due to be held in Paris in May 2009.

At meetings of the CRIMSA EXCO and Council on 12 & 14 August 2008 this matter was discussed in considerable detail. Thereafter the following President's Resolution was put to the meeting for a vote (and circulated on e-mail to Council members unable to attend for their vote as well):

“TAKING IN TO ACCOUNT ALL OBSTACLES AND OTHER CONSTRAINTS (FUNDING, PERSONNEL, ORGANIZATIONAL BURDEN, VENUE CHOICE, ISC DATE CHOICE, INFRASTRUCTURE (TRANSPORT & FACILITIES) AND SAFETY CONCERNS IN SOUTH AFRICA) CRIMSA COUNCIL TO DECIDE IN PRINCIPLE WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE APPLICATION TO HOST THE ISC 2014 CONFERENCE IN SA OR TO DECLINE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HOST THE 2014 ISC CONFERENCE?”

Based on the almost unanimous support the go-ahead was given to the CRIMSA President, Prof. Minnaar, accompanied by the vice-president, Prof Christiaan Bezuidenhout, to attend the ISC Board meeting in Paris in May 2009. A presentation (printed hard copies and a powerpoint) was developed and presented to the full ISC Council meeting on the morning of 23rd May and to the full ISC Scientific Committee in the afternoon. The Chinese delegation had decided to withdraw their offer to host 2014 ISC congress (and to become an associate society in the organising of the 2011 congress in Japan) but the

Mexican Society of Criminology also submitted a written offer to host the 2014 Congress. Informally, members of both the ISC Board and Scientific Committee complimented CRIMSA on the advanced planning and detail of our presentation.

In the light of the Mexican proposal the ISC Board requested that the full presentations be e-mailed to them for further discussion. After the President of the ISC, Prof Tony Peters, had further talks with the Paris Secretariat, the ISC were able to confirm that they (ISC) “approve these proposals and accept them as the basis for further collaboration for the organization of the XVIIth World Congress for Criminology of the International Organization of Criminology in South Africa in 2014”.

Furthermore the ISC informed CRIMSA that: “As you yourself plan we will be in contact and will collaborate with you to define the place where the event finally will take place and how the general theme and subthemes will be further developed and outlined. Therefore we have plenty of time and will have several opportunities to meet with the Board and exchange ideas. The ISC will also take care to inform members, visitors and participants in ISC activities directly and through the ISC website. We wish you all the best in the further development of this important project.” From this ISC communication it appears that CRIMSA have to give annual progress reports updating the status of our organisation of such congress and that final approval (official announcement) will be made at the 2011 congress in Kobe in Japan.

The hosting of the 2014 ISC Congress in South Africa will no doubt take a huge organisational effort and co-operation from all members. Advance planning is already underway in terms of developing an Action Plan, making a final decision regarding a suitable venue, setting up a planning/organising committee, soliciting sponsorships, government support and buy-in etc.

The full presentation can be read on the CRIMSA website at www.crimsa.ac.za.

12. Conclusion

In conclusion I would like to once again thank all my fellow Exco members for their support and hard work during 2009. A number of challenges face the Society for 2010. Among these being setting up an operational organising committee for ISC 2014; hosting and organising the national workshop on the professionalisation of criminology; growing our membership numbers; and getting younger generation of criminologists involved in the running of the Society.

On a more sombre there have been a number of rumours and innuenda circulating in certain circles concerning my and the Society’s EXCO’s leadership and management in running the affairs of CRIMSA. I appeal to any

unhappy members to bring their concerns to the table. And if such concerns cannot be resolved that such persons show the courage of their convictions and institute a formal motion of no confidence by requesting the holding of a Special General Meeting. I can assure you all that the running of this Society is not done for any monetary or academic advantage let alone ego or status. Unfortunately by the nature of everyone's heavy work loads and academic commitments the Society's business is often put on the backburner until such time that the incumbents find the time to turn their attention to the Society's needs. So I again say to all, if you have any concerns about the Society's management that these be brought to the EXCO so that we can deal with them and make the organisational activities run more smoothly and better.

Thank you.