



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2010 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA**

by Prof. Anthony Minnaar (President)

1. Introduction

This is my fifth and last president's report to CRIMSA and as mentioned in last year's report this AGM will see my handing over the reins to the new crop of academics to take over and look after the future interests of the Society. When I took over at the end of 2005 I had a vision to grow the Society and expand its activities throughout the broader criminological sciences and for the Society to be more inclusive. Accordingly I saw as one of my main briefs the growing the Society by increasing membership numbers. Secondly to be more inclusive by encouraging sister and allied disciplines to join. Thirdly one of my initiatives was to set up portfolios to manage (look after) each of the allied disciplines. Fourthly to look at the Journal editorship and the concept of mentoring new sub-editors. Fifthly to encourage closer co-operation with international societies as well as continental associations. Finally, to organize and hold CRIMSA conferences, as well as pursuing the idea of hosting one of the international society world congresses/symposiums in South Africa. Most of these aims have been achieved albeit in varying degrees of success.

2. Council

This year we have had three resignations from Council, namely Ms Harriet Kloppers, Prof Christiaan Bezuidenhout and Prof Michelle Ovens, but the last two being relatively late in the year it was decided not to co-opt additional members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Harriet, Christiaan and Michelle for all their many years of unstinting hard work on EXCO and support for CRIMSA. Both will continue being involved in the activities of CRIMSA as ordinary members.

3. EXCO

Since the last AGM (the delayed one held in beginning of February this year) the EXCO were able to hold three meetings during the year – two of which were held at the private residence of Council member, Prof Cherita Morrison, while the third one was held – for the first time ever – on the campus of Monash University in Roodepoort and kindly hosted by Dr Robert Peacock. As with previous years it was a constant struggle to co-ordinate suitable dates and make time for meetings. I was also on sabbatical for six months and between March and July I spent a total of six weeks overseas. We did, however, manage to conduct the business of the Society satisfactorily but again as in past years my own academic and management workload has made it increasingly difficult to spend time on the Society's business. 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. *Acta Criminologica*

The journal remains the only accredited journal (SAPSE & DoE listing) for the field of criminology in South Africa and has published three regular issues (the 3rd one is currently at the printers) with the editorial team under the editor, Dr Robert Peacock of Monash-SA University, and sub-editors, Prof Michelle Ovens of UNISA and Prof. Jean Steyn of Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) seeing to the smooth publishing of each edition. The mentor programme that I set up in 2006 saw the guest editing by the sub-editor Prof Steyn of the 2nd edition. The continuation of making use of a bulk posting company for the hard copies has also assisted in the streamlining and quick posting of the journal to members. The long-awaited Crimsa Conference Special Editions (No. 1 & 2) will appear this month with only final editing still to be done and the technical and pdf-ing of each article to be completed. These two special editions represent, once again, an opportunity to academics, practitioners and students to publish their conference papers as presented at the September 2009 CRIMSA conference. A total of 52 papers were presented over the three days of the conference, of which 28 papers (some student/work-in-progress papers) were submitted for publication and sent out for peer review. A number of those sent in were also those that had won awards for Best Conference Paper (student/senior academic) in the five categories of criminology, criminal-restorative justice, penology, policing and victimology. Eventually ten articles in special edition No. 1 and 12 in special edition No. 2 were published – all dealing with a wide and diverse range of topics. It is encouraging to see a number of young academics and student members being prepared to submit their conference papers, very often first-time articles, for possible publication in the Journal. Overall, both special editions of the CRIMSA conference papers clearly demonstrate that developing academics and researchers are increasingly undertaking a wide and diverse range of research projects and studies, most often on focused specialised topics within the broader

criminological sciences. Of the 22 articles published 50% (14 – divided equally with seven each) emanated directly from doctoral and masters studies.

We have also instituted the password accessing of each issue and the archived articles on the website to members only. Our income from the SABINET sale of articles has also increased for the 2009/2010 period. In addition the EXCO/Council made a decision on the recommendation of the editor to increase the page fees for both members and non-members who publish in the journal. Those of you who have published in the last few editions will shortly be receiving such invoices.

This year we also instituted honorariums for editor, guest editor/s and the sub-editors. 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 Dr Robert Peacock (Editor), Prof Michelle Ovens and Prof Jean Steyn (sub-editors). Well done.

5. CRIMSA Newsletter

After my call at the previous AGM for a volunteer to run the Newsletter (after Prof Morrison standing in for the first edition and myself for two issues in 2009) we were fortunate to be able to appoint Ms Nicola van der Merwe of Monash University, as the new editor and she has ably put together two issues which were e-mailed to everyone – in line with an EXCO decision to only send out an e-version to save on printing costs. But the newsletter is only as good as all the news that members send in. I again make an appeal to all members to support the newsletter by sending in any news to share with all members, 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 the president/secretary of the Society 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 five (5) pages for publication in the newsletter.

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 another request, this time from EBSCO Publishing, to include *Acta Criminologica* articles in their electronic databases, at no cost to us for partnering with them, and we would receive royalties. This would be a non-exclusive license to reproduce the articles. But this would mean them establishing a duplicate database of our articles on their database. Our licensing agreement with SABINET does seem to exclude such sharing and I quote from the Agreement

“CRIMSA grants Sabinet Online the non-exclusive world wide right to host the licensed material on its secure system and to facilitate access thereto for licensed institutions and their authorised users and ad hoc users”.

I am, however, in discussion with Bronwyn Engelbrecht at SA e-publications at SABINET, to see whether our agreement with them would allow for such dual sale of our articles. A link-up with EBSCO would considerably improve our international profile and increase our income. The EBSCO article database receives about 1.5 billion hits per month through the EBSCOhost(tm) interface. Because of their large market share, they offer us very good exposure through our aggregated databases. SABINET have taken it under advisement and will in due time get back to me. I, with the approval of the incoming EXCO, will continue to see if some sort of joint agreement can be negotiated.

In addition, the same kind of request has also been received from ProQuest. Both offers will be examined and negotiated in consultation with the current host SABINET in 2011. If the new Council is agreeable to that I will continue with the discussions and negotiations and present the results to EXCO for their further action.

The website, besides the listing and archiving of *Acta Criminologica* articles also archives the newsletter, president’s reports, and conference announcement etc. We are looking to improve access by establishing an open abstracts listing portal (i.e. not one closed to members via a password access) of every article but this will take some time to implement. There is also talk of instituting a counter for the number of daily hits (accumulated total).

7. Finances

The treasurer, Dr Marelize Schoeman will be presenting a short outline of the state of our finances. Suffice to say that we have appointed an auditor/bookkeeper to prepare our financial statements. These will only be ready in detail by the first EXCO/Council meeting after this year’s AGM. The innovation this year has been the registering of the CRIMSA account on the internet so we are now able to access our statements electronically and can monthly check and make payments to printers, language editors, bulk posting company, honorariums and a host of other accounts electronically. This has eased the time spent by the treasurer on our financial business.

2010 was also the first time that honorariums were paid, specifically to *Acta Criminologica* editor, guest editor/s and sub-editors. In addition, an honorarium was paid to Prof Beaty Naude for her many years of hard work in support of the Society’s activities specifically for her work on the SGB. In the Constitutional Amendments to be presented to this AGM you will notice that proposed honorariums are also being mooted for the EXCO office bearers of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. My personal opinion that

this is a small enough compensation for all the hardwork, energy and time spent on the professional activities of the Society.

8. 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 2011 membership form will in the new year be available electronically on the CRIMSA website for your renewal. We have also instituted a situation whereby if existing members on the database have not paid by end of March, they will be removed therefrom with immediate effect. Membership fees were not 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 2010 are as follows:

Active	93
Students	52
Institutional	35
Honorary	3

Institutional membership does include compulsory deposit libraries like the State Library. It is good to see the increase in student membership although 31 of them opted for the cheaper e-journal option. Despite this student number increase I again make a call on all academics to publicise membership with their students, in particular at postgraduate level – as these are the future of the Society. There have been a number of very late payments but I have included those in the totals as well.

9. Regional Colloquiums

None were held this year although UNISA/TUT did put in a request to host a policing colloquium but this has been postponed to early 2011.

10. Bi-annual CRIMSA conference

The bi-annual conference is due for 2011 and this will be one of the main activities for the new Council to organize. I am here making my services available for rendering any assistance in organizing such.

11. CRIMSA and the hosting of the International Criminology Society World Congress in South Africa in 2014

While CRIMSA formally submitted their 'expression of interest' to host in South Africa the 2014 ISC Congress at the ISC Board meeting in Paris on 23 May 2009 the allocation of such to CRIMSA was only communicated to the President by the Act. Secretary, Stephan Parmentier, early in March 2010. The EXCO immediately set about getting quotes from both suitable venues and Professional Conference Organisers (PCO). With these submitted quotes and budgets the Society's President made a presentation in Leuven, Belgium on 2 July 2010 to a full board of the ISC. However, this meeting put certain financial conditions on our hosting, inter alia limiting registration fees to €300 with an additional €50 discount for paid-up ISC members to the conference. After my return and redoing all budgets which were then presented to the EXCO/Council meeting at the end of July the decision was made to withdraw the offer to host the 2014 ISC Congress in South Africa. ISC were formally informed of this decision soon after. This decision was primarily based on the large gap between projected income and costs, even after the PCO and preferred venue had revised their budgets down to try and accommodate us. So to avoid placing the Society in potential financial jeopardy the decision to withdraw the hosting offer was made.

12. International co-operation

A co-operative agreement with the Australian & New Zealand Society for Criminology (ANZSOC) was signed between myself and Russel Smith (chair ANZSOC) yesterday (it will be laid before the meeting for ratification).

13. Professional Board

The last point I would like to mention in this report is that of the proposed Professional Board for Criminologists (PBC) with the SA Council of Social Service Professions (SACSSP). While this has been a perennial issue it has become considerably more contentious and divisive in 2010 with allegations and accusations being bandied about and directed at me personally, as well as blaming the role of UNISA in the perceived delays. One of these delays was in fact the problems around finalising of the legislation for setting up professional boards which was only drafted in 2009 and was supposed to be finalised for roll out in 2010 but the SACSSP were busy also relooking at sectorial and professions' demarcation and clarifications at a workshop only held in June

this year. Be that as it may my intention since taking over as President was that any such Board must be more inclusive to reflect the changing membership profile of the Society and specifically not to be seen to serve merely a relatively small band of criminologists. That inclusivity specifically to cater for developments, not only locally, but internationally, of increasing specialisation throughout the broad criminological and allied sciences. This was a very deliberate objective on my part in order to broaden the potential membership base as well as to ensure the financial viability not only for start up costs (of approx. R350 000) but also annual operating costs of the PBC. Agreement had broadly been reached that such Board would cater in specific categories for such disciplines not only of criminology but also of Penology, Victimology, Policing Studies and Criminal Justice (Crime Prevention/Restorative Justice practitioners etc.) (registration in multiple categories was also envisioned). At the first EXCO meeting of the year end of February, a decision was taken to organise a National Workshop to put such all-inclusive type of Board to all roleplayers and make a start on a Code of Ethics for each category. Such workshop to also apply to the National Research Foundation (NRF) for support funding. At the beginning of March I went to Europe with the expectation that the Vice-President Prof Bezuidenhout – who had been delegated early in 2009 to try to drive the process forward – would make a start on the process in applying to the NRF for funding. Unfortunately Prof Bezuidenhout made a late conference application and was accepted to attend the same conference I was attending so no application to the NRF for funding was made at the time. On my return new developments arose around the professional 4-year degree for Criminology where it was clearly being stated that while initial membership could be done on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) any future new members would have to be in possession of the professional 4-year degree. UNISA, from their own experiences regarding registration of such degree not only with the Academic Director of the University but also to get approval from the Dept. of Higher Education & Training, the Council for Higher Education (CHE) and the Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC), raised this as a stumbling block to opening registration to the PBC. In essence this revolved around a number of practical academic and financial issues, namely:

1. Higher subsidies for an honours degree
2. The problems of research articulation directly to a masters degree from the four-year professional degree within the new CHE research output requirements at honours, masters and doctoral levels
3. The defining of new Categories of Educational Subject Matter (CESM)
4. New HEQF policies inter alia the CHE requirement that for any new degree to go beyond a three-year provisional registration period each university offering that qualification must show future sustainability by the end of such temporary registration period of three years that there were a minimum of 500 students registered for the degree. In addition,

the new policy documents removed all standard setting functions from SAQA and the SGBs.

5. Tightening up of definitions of what constitutes a “profession”

Furthermore, while such a four-year professional degree has been registered with SAQA – who no longer have any standard setting or accreditation powers since these have all been delegated to the CHE and HEQC – no university has in fact received accreditation for any such four-year professional degree in criminology/victimology. Again from UNISA experience in getting other new degrees accredited this would at best be a five-year long process. So no accredited four-year professional degree in criminology is any where near up and running and being offered in South Africa – a degree on which the PBC is solely premised.

In an effort to accommodate the four-year professional degree requirement UNISA have made a start in implementing far more practical modules in selected specialisation fields linked to internships from the various industries their specialist degrees serve. With the rejection of any new professional four-year degree by the Top Management of UNISA and the difficulties of registering such with the CHE (a minimum of a five-year period has been mentioned), the School of Criminal Justice departments at UNISA did not see their way to continue supporting the roll out of a Professional Board for Criminologists at the SACSSP. At an EXCO/Council meeting on 12 May a UNISA supported proposal by the Chair for an inclusive Professional Board serving all the different categories be set up directly under the auspices of CRIMSA (i.e. independently of SACSSP). Such a CRIMSA Professional Board would inter alia have to apply to parliament to be accepted (for e.g. like the new proposed Board for Fraud Investigators). This Professional Board proposed to have a broad umbrella category of ‘Criminal Justice Practitioners’ with different specific categories of registration. E.g. Criminologist; Police Practitioner/crime analyst, Penologist; Victimologist; Restorative Justice; crime prevention specialist; forensic investigator; etc. with the possibility of a professional being registered in multiple categories. Furthermore, there to be a specific code of conduct for each category. A detailed outline of functions and focus of each category, with the operative theme being “professionalisation through specialization”. A person could still become a member of Crimsa but would then pay an additional annual registration fee for registration with the CRIMSA Professional Board. This meeting, after lengthy discussions of pros and cons agreed that such new proposal be discussed at a CRIMSA organised national workshop later on in the year.

At a subsequent EXCO/Council meeting a counter proposal was placed before the meeting that either an Interest Group (of Criminologists) or the Chair: Portfolio for Criminology go ahead with getting a Professional Board solely for the category ‘Criminologists’ only (with the possibility of sub-disciplines forming sub-groups or sub-committees and push for professionalization in

their own right). However, the funding for setting up such exclusive Professional Boards would then be the responsibility of each such specific interest group, i.e. to go out and raise either funding from the interest group members themselves or find additional sponsorship. CRIMSA cannot be seen to be funding such big expenses for the benefit of only a relatively small group. If any such big expense be undertaken by CRIMSA it should procedurally have to be approved by the majority of the current paid up members in that year of expenditure. This is only fair if one analyses the discipline affiliations of current members where criminology (inclusive of criminologists/victimologists) make up only 30% of the membership total.

Subsequent to this decision the Chair of the Criminology Portfolio declined to become involved in the process and this responsibility was delegated to Dr Robert Peacock of Monash University. That then is the current status of the Professional Board for Criminologists.

My last opinion on the matter is based on a number of discussions I have had with international leading criminologists, and the consensus of their opinions, which coincidentally coincide with my own view vis a vis an exclusive narrow membership base versus a more inclusive membership extended to all the sub- and allied disciplines is that:

Criminology has, in most countries, been a porous, multi-disciplinary subject which has benefited from the diversity of views and interests which it has incorporated. Entry into a “regulated” criminology by means of policing such entry through one specific professional degree would deny access through other routes into the wider discipline itself. The discipline criminology has over the years been enriched immensely by the contributions of researchers in, for instance, the history of crime and justice; social policy; legal matters; social anthropology and social psychology of crime and control; and so on. Here I look at my own case of entry into the discipline from political science and history. A Professional Board for Criminologists will not ensure the survival of the broad criminological sciences per se and this Society would be remiss in its stated vision and objectives if it neglected to concentrate on other matters and growing student numbers through the diversity and specialisations of its study offerings. One of my objectives early on in my presidential terms was to try and set up a second accredited Society journal say for Criminal Justice or crime studies. Are these not more important matters from an academic perspective and in the continuing struggle to make the broad discipline more relevant to the whole of Society in dealing with such societal problems as crime, incarceration, rehabilitation, policing shortcomings, criminal justice etc.? A last rhetorical question – how would a narrow Professional Board control or sanction those who refuse to become members or to whom the entry criteria refused membership?

14. Conclusion

In conclusion I would like to once again thank all my fellow Exco/Council members for their support and hard work during 2010. I extend those thanks to all members who have shown their support for my endeavours to raise the profile of the Society, lift the quality of the Journal, increase membership numbers and support the other activities of the Society like the holding of seminars, colloquiums and conferences – all for the benefit of the broader discipline of the criminological sciences as a whole.

A number of challenges face the Society for 2011, but I have the fullest confidence that the incoming Council will face all challenges head on with integrity and courage. I will obviously be writing a comprehensive ‘hand-over’ report to my successor, whoever that may be, and I here publicly offer my support and assistance in the future activities of the Society, whatever they may be.

I would also appeal to all members to give their support to the new incoming Council, and further appeal to members who have any concerns, complaints or suggestions for improvement to submit them through the correct channels, i.e. directly to the President, so that it can then be laid before the Council and EXCO for discussion and to be dealt with in the correct procedural manner. There has been a worrying tendency for complaints, accusations and allegations, often of a personal nature, sent out on a general email to multiple addresses – this is not only unethical and manipulative but un-procedural and contrary to the spirit of the Society as embodied in the Constitution and the Society’s Code of Ethics. Personal e-mails remain that – private and between the two parties involved.

As I did in last year’s President’s Report 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 workloads 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 Council/EXCO so that they can deal with them and make the organisational activities run more smoothly and better.

Thank you.

Anthony Minnaar
President (2005-2010)