

SACLA 2006 Chairmans Report

The Southern African Computer Lecturers Association (SACLA) for 2006 was held over 26 and 27 July at the Lord Charles Somerset Hotel in Somerset West, Western Cape, South Africa.

The conference was anticipated to be a well-attended one (previous conferences has good attendance), and in view of this, 140 room nights were booked in advance by the then-organisers. However, it seemed that half the anticipated attendees answered the call for papers and subsequently only 72 room nights were needed. The decline in numbers seems to be as a direct result of lack of funding, and this result meant that the SACLA budget would incur a penalty charge for failing to adhere to the original contract.

As far as sponsorship for the conference was concerned, it is noted that Industry is not very prepared to offer sponsorships. Whilst the SACLA 2006 organising committee was able to extract some funding from companies like Microsoft, ORACLE, DVT, and NBN, it had to supplement income by selling advertising space to Bull Computers, Wiley Publishers, Pearson Publishers, Thompson Education, UCT Information Systems, Van Schaik Publishers, Heinemann Publishers.

The conference turned out to be very successful, attracting researchers from as far abroad as the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Furthermore, the conference was well catered for and enjoyable, and made a good impression on the attendees. While the cost of running the conference was steep, with penalties constituting R12 437.00 and SACLA 2007 seed money amounting to R15000.00, we were able to make a net profit of R436.00.

A great thanks to all who assisted in the running, planning, sponsorships and attending of a very attractive and successful conference.

F. Mosoval

Chairman: SACLA 2006 Organising committee