

Actuarial Society Update – August 2020

ASSA 2020 Calendar

ASSA events are continuing in the virtual format.

Seminars run virtually will be spread over two to three sessions. These sessions will usually be held in the morning but will vary between committees. The Short-Term insurance seminar has been changed from 3 x 2-hour sessions to 2 x 3-hour sessions. They will no longer have a session on 14 September 2020.

The Convention will be virtual this year and held over 3 days.

Event	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Other venue	
Seminars				
Life	19 May, 9 June and 24 June			
Health	13 August, 17 September & 22 October			
Investments	19 November (Johannesburg)			
Retirement	27 July			
Short-Term	21 & 28 September			
Risk Mgt	6 August			
Banking	14, 21 & 28 July			
Education				
Wider fields	12 & 25 August and 9 September			
Alternative investments	26 August and 2 September			
Public interest	19 & 10 November			
Insurance data science	10, 17 & 23 June			
	Postponed			
IAA meetings			Brussels	Online 15 Apr – 12 May
			Ottawa	Online – 21 Sept to 20 Nov
AGM	Online 24 June			
Convention	6-8 October*			
Africa seminar	5 October			

Event	Cape Town	Johannesburg	Other venue
A1/A2 & F106 exams	A211 moved to 18 May; A213 moved to 22 May Semester 2: 21 September to 06 October		
A311 exams	14-15 May and 8-9 October		
N211 exam	13 May and 23 October		
F2 exams	19 May and 20 October		
F1 exams (excl. F106)	27 May – 5 June and 30 October to 11 November		

Convention

The early bird rate for convention registration expires on **31 August**. Members who have not yet registered are urged to do so urgently at <https://www.actuarialsociety.org.za/convention/>.

As the convention will be hosted virtually, attendance will not be limited by the capacity of the venue. Viewing this in conjunction with the reduced costs of attendance and the absence of travel and accommodation costs, members who do not usually attend the convention as well as your colleagues working in associated fields are urged to register.

The convention will consist of a combination of plenary and parallel sessions with papers, presentations and workshops as well as plenary speakers.

Corona virus related

We have received a combination of positive and negative feedback following our distribution of an advertisement for a sessional meeting run by Panda – an independent multidisciplinary organisation.

This is not an ASSA event. The content and views are not endorsed by ASSA. The event is hosted with a view to promoting robust debate on issues that gave rise to a measure of polarisation in the profession. Any queries concerning this event can be addressed to Nick Hudson, a Fellow member of ASSA, at Panda.

Exams – semester 2

There is now less than 1 month until the commencement of the second semester exams (including ASSA subjects administered by the IFoA). Following a review of the successfully completed first semester exams as well as changes to the lockdown regulations, some changes have been made to the ASSA administered exams for the second semester. Members are urged to make themselves fully aware of the conditions for the exams in their particular subjects.

The default mode of delivery for exams will be online exams with proctoring similar to the first semester. We are also encouraging students and employers to arrange invigilation by Fellow members in the work setting. ASSA will also make available a limited number of slots for candidates to be invigilated in central venues. Candidates who wish to use this option will need to provide evidence that they lack an appropriate environment (at home or in the office) or equipment that is conducive for sitting an exam. These limited slots will be allocated on a need basis. Candidates must note that, although there will be different invigilation options, candidates will submit their exams in the prescribed method. There will be no handwritten exams for N211, A311 or the F1 and F2 subjects administered by ASSA.

Students and employer representative with queries should contact Michelle Abrahams (mabrahams@actuarialsociety.org.za).

Disciplinary outcome

The Disciplinary Committee investigated a complaint of unacceptable conduct against a member of the Society, emanating from some gender-specific comments made during a presentation at a Society event. Some members experienced the comments as offensive. The Committee accepted that the presenter made these comments to add humour to a very theoretical discussion and that no offence was intended. It also accepted the member's expression of regret and regards this as an unfortunate mistake. In the context of the Society's attempts to create an inclusive organisation in which all members feel welcome and appreciated, however, the Committee agreed that the comments were unacceptable. It recommended that Council draw the attention of members to the need to be mindful of the manner in which comments made during presentations can be interpreted.

Supporting school education

With the delay in the matric exams for 2020 and the loss of many months of teaching time, there is an urgent need for assisting students with the high-quality learning support offered by Paper Video. To support this, Paper Video have launched a drive to provide resources to under resourced schools that want and need the additional support. Schools are being asked to state their case for the support and will be selected based on those where the resources are most likely to be used appropriately and bring success for the students. Members of ASSA are encouraged to contribute towards the funding of specified schools or provide general funding for the programme with either lump sum or monthly contributions. Members wanting to financially support

this initiative through ASET are encouraged to contact Wim Els
(wels@actuarialsociety.org.za)

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Kwanda Ngwenduna** (left) and **Rendani Mbuva** (right) on being awarded the prize for the best paper submitted to the recent IACA virtual colloquium. IACA is the IAA section for consulting actuaries.



A version of their award winning paper: “*Generative Adversarial Networks for Actuarial Use*”, was published in the most recent edition of SA Actuary.

Congratulations also to **Asim Gani** who was recently elected to the IACA board.

All members are reminded to register for the convention before Monday, 31 October 2020, to take advantage of the early bird fees and I wish all candidates every success with the forthcoming exams.

Regards

Mike McDougall