

## FHSST Annual General Meeting Minutes

People present:

Mark Horner, Rory Adams, Spencer Wheaton, Sarah Blyth, Clare Johnson, Claire Horner, Karien Bezuidenhout, Frans van Eeden, Colin Anthony

1. The committee voted that there should be no changes to the current committee
2. Books status: The status of the five books was discussed as stated in the annual report.
3. Future planning:
  - a. It was discussed that it would be ideal if 2 people could be hired starting in 2006, to better administer the project and organize fundraising. These people would be full-time dedicated FHSST employees who could improve administration of volunteers, and be involved in the editing of content as well as providing a point of contact to external people such as sponsors, schools, etc.
  - b. A method suggested by Mark to increase the rate at which the books can be completed, was to hold a writing competition with sponsored prize money. It is hoped that this will significantly decrease the time needed to finish the raw content. All current members of FHSST (excluding the admin committee) will be eligible to participate as well as new volunteers.
  - c. In 2006, it is planned to distribute content to the Moodle project (at Hermanus Magnetic Observatory), Ikamva and Teach Out (UCT-based tutoring programmes), to be used in those projects and to facilitate feedback for improvement of the content.
  - d. It is also planned to continue distributing content to the SOCKS project run by the Shuttleworth Foundation.
  - e. Challenges to new volunteers were discussed. It was agreed that probably the biggest hurdle in attracting authors and gaining contributions, is a lack of LaTeX knowledge. Frans volunteered to try and find a MS Word-to-LaTeX converter to make the conversion of contributions easier and more automated. He also said that he may know a potential volunteer who would be able to do the conversions manually.
  - f. In order to make contribution by volunteers to FHSST easier in future, in particular for the upcoming Biology, Geography and Computer Literacy books, there is a plan to create these

books directly in Wiki format using a Plone-based framework. This will allow moderation of contributions, in a hierarchical manner and reduce administration by the admin team. It will also be easy for people to contribute since no knowledge of LaTeX would be required. Mark has already experimented with setting up a site and will continue to research the options available.

4. The meeting was also attended by Karien Bezuidenhout from the Shuttleworth Foundation (TSF) and she provided some information and feedback on the SOCKS (Shuttleworth Open Source Content for Knowledge Sharing) and tuxLabs projects. There is great potential for the SOCKS project to incorporate the FHSST content. FHSST content (for Physics) has already been supplied to TSF last year, and this will continue and increase to include Chemistry and Maths content as it becomes ready for release. SOCKS originally tried to work with Wikibooks to gather content and set up a virtual bookshelf for South African-related content but this did not work out and they have since built their own Wiki site which will incorporate content and lesson plans from various contributors including FHSST. All content on the SOCKS portal will be released under a Creative Commons License where anyone can use the content as long as they do not sell it.