

Letter of Welcome

Dear SASFF Conference Delegate and Exhibitor

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the 2023 annual conference and AGM of SASFF and the second AGM of the SA Student Finance Forum NPC here at the Coastlands Umhlanga Hotel in the pretty setting of the coastal town of Umhlanga Rocks in KZN.

We must assume that the SASFF is just growing from strength to strength, as in 2022 there were 116 delegates and speakers, whereas this year we have pre-registered a record of 140 delegates and speakers, representing 29 higher education institutions, one gold sponsor, six silver sponsors and associate members.

The theme for this year, i.e., “Analysing the current operational challenges that student finance administrators are facing”, was because of a few delegates at the 2022 conference requesting that SASFF should focus on one of its main objectives which is the formulation of best practices. A few delegates at 2022 conference also expressed their concerns that SASFF should not become another FAPSA conference, which will not be the case, as SASFF provides a unique platform for staff from the broader student finance functions at universities and TVET colleges to interact on best practices and with many private service providers in student funding and collections.

Delegates will find all the conference documentation and the constitution published on the conference webpage at <https://www.sasff.co.za/conference/>

If you have a problem with your accommodation or the catering, please take it up directly with the hotel's staff. We are not responsible for that part of the conference.

You are also more than welcome to engage with us, the members of the elected Board of Directors, to address any concerns, make contributions or proposals on the format and organisation of future conferences.

Whilst referring to the Board of Directors, the current members have reached the end of their first term of serving on the Board. It is with a lot of gratitude to them for voluntary serving as Directors of the Board of SASFF NPC since its inception in 2019, There will therefore be a nomination for a new Board of Directors to be announced at the AGM. The chair will indicate who of them have made themselves available for a second term to serve and who of them will be stepping down.

A special word of thanks must again go to our Associate members and Exhibitors who have such an important role to play in the function of student fees and the financing of study fees and provision of financial services to our higher education institutions and the students. This is indeed a fruitful partnership between higher education and the private financial sector. University and College delegates are encouraged to engage with them and to find out more about the services they render to the higher education sector.

The sponsors/ exhibitors who participate this year are:

- Gold Sponsor package: FNB
- Silver Sponsor packages: Adapt IT Education Division
Ekhaya Search
Alefbet Collections
Feenix
Nimble Credit Solutions
Vericred Collections

Every delegate is encouraged to participate during the two-day program, and wherever it is possible, and time allows, the session chair and facilitator will give opportunities for questions and comments. However, please also remember that we have a pre-determined schedule that should be kept to, as most delegates have planned their attendance according to this schedule, and the venue staff also needs to be considered in terms of their services.



There are several opportunities in the program for social networking to be enjoyed and utilised to meet colleagues from other institutions. Please try to make a point of meeting other delegates that you have not engaged with before.

We trust that you will leave from here on Friday afternoon, feeling rejuvenated and that you again had the opportunity to take something useful back to your institution to contribute to a more effective and efficient administration of your institution, and that you also made some new friends.

Board of Directors

Chairperson of the Board

Deputy Chairperson:

Additional members:

TVET Sector Representative:

Mr Mzwakhe Matukane, UJ

Dr Frans Kgomo, TUT (Tendered his apology due to overseas travel)

Dr Nonhlanhla Mabuza, UNISA

Mr Ismail Soobader, Wits

Ms Mercia Leeson, Ikhala TVET College