



# Struggles faced by editors of journals in SA

CSPiSA & UCT



# Introduction

- Session @ NSEF 2021 titled “Unpacking the Question of Whether or not Research Can be Fun”.
- Discussion points raised such as community and purpose.
- Underlying is a classic question.
- CSPiSA and ASSAF want to support a vibrant and sustainable journal ecosystem by responding to the issues raised:
  - ASSAF statement.
  - Survey of NSEF members.

Who's going to pay for you to have fun?



# Analysis of minutes of NSEF 2021

## Issues raised:

- Acknowledgement of work done by editors.
- A lack of financial resources.
- Sourcing willing reviewers.
- What is the purpose of these (SA) journals?
  - Value added by editing function.



# Examples of “Acknowledgment of work done by editors”

“The participants were in agreement that time spent on running a journal was not recognised as part of the academic workload, but cut deeply and broadly into editors' teaching and research load, and that more lobbying was required around this important issue that should be addressed with management structures at universities across the country.”

“Just to note that editing/researching as a "fun" activity and getting paid or KP recognition (as discussed earlier) are not mutually exclusive.”

“My line managers still sees the 'job' an editor does as something you can do on a Saturday between two rugby matches.”



# Sounds like a performance appraisal issue

WE NEED EMPLOYEES THAT ARE MOTIVATED BY OUR VISION, NOT BY MONEY.



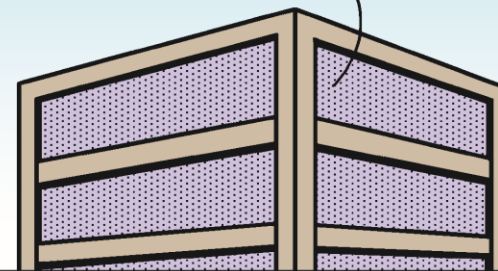
Dilbert.com DilbertCartoonist@gmail.com

ARE WE LOOKING FOR ANY OTHER MENTAL PROBLEMS OR JUST THAT ONE?



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I'M ALSO A BIG FAN OF LOW SELF-ESTEEM. IT COMES IN HANDY AT PERFORMANCE REVIEW TIME.







# Goal congruence

## Purpose of university

Creation of  
new  
knowledge

Making  
money

Journals facilitate:

- Scholarly communication.
- Filter for errors.
- Keep record of advances.
- Group formation.

Additional roles for SA journals:

- Combat helicopter science (Alice Gibson).
- Speak truth to power:
  - Encourage freedom of speech and thoughts (Nosipho Mngomezulu)
  - Space for alternatives to facsimile science (Sean Muller).
  - Non-conforming opinions to mainstream (Pierre de Villiers).



# CSiPSA initiatives as a result

- ASSAf statement.
  - Leslie Swartz, Robin Crewe and myself.
  - CSiPSA corrections to be done by December 2022.
  - ASSAf board thereafter.
  - Hoping for middle 2023.
- Survey of members of NSEF leading to a paper in SAJS.



# Ideas for the survey

- Which SA universities include editing of journals in PA? Where and how?
- Which SA universities include review of papers in PA? Where and how?
- Is editing a research or a social responsibility activity?
- What activities do an editor engage in to get a paper from received to published? How long does each activity take? Does it make sense to think of these activities on a per paper basis?
- Review activity is now easy to measure. How many papers should be reviewed per year by a lecturer/SL/AP/professor to be active in the field?
- Should an academic be promotable to professor without having edited a journal?
- Should an NRF rating of C,B or A be possible without editing experience? (can you be established without this?)





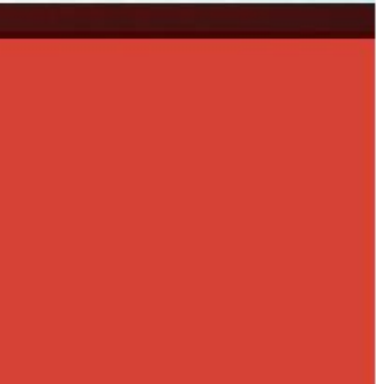
# Conclusion

- Important issue that CSPiSA wants to support with statement and survey paper.
- Questions and suggestions are welcome.



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**Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)**

**ASSAf Research Repository**

**<http://research.assaf.org.za/>**

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B. Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) Events

I. Other

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2022-11

# Annual National Scholarly Editors' Forum (NSEF) Meeting

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf)

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<http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11911/259>

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