

Actuarial Society Update – March 2020

ASSA 2020 Calendar

With the national lockdown that will continue for at least the next two weeks with probable restrictions on assembly after that, we cannot guarantee events will happen as scheduled in this update or on our online calendar.

| Event | Cape Town | Johannesburg | Other venue | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Seminars | | | | |
| Life | 8 May | 5 May | | |
| Health | | Postponed | | |
| Investments | | Postponed | | |
| Retirement | | 27 July | | |
| Short term | | 28 August | | |
| Risk Mgt | | 6 August | | |
| Banking | | 14 July | | |
| Education | | | | |
| Wider fields | | 11 June | | |
| Alternative investments | | 19 August | | |
| Public interest | | 10 June | | |
| Insurance data science | | Postponed | | |
| IAA meetings | | | Brussels | Online 15 Apr – 12 May |
| | | | Ottawa | 19-23 Nov |
| AGM | TBC | TBC | | |
| Convention | 7-8 October | | | |
| Africa seminar | 6 October | | | |
| A1/A2 & F106 exams | A211 moved to 18 May; A213 moved to 22 May / Check IFoA communication for other semester 1 dates Semester 2: 21 September to 06 October | | | |
| A311 exams | 5-6 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 | | | |

Arrangements for the Life seminars will be made available shortly. Members interested in attending are requested to follow ASSA communications over the next two weeks as the ASSA office and LAC committee agree the way forward for running these seminars.

As arrangements are finalised, we will issue further communications to students concerning the forthcoming exams (more comment below)

ASSA staff changes



With effect from 1 April 2020, **Michelle Abrahams** has been promoted to the position of Member Engagement Executive. Operationally she will report to the chief executive and her role will be governed through the newly established Member Engagement Board.

This is a critical new role that will help cement ASSA's strategic pivot from being an organisation focused on processing transactions with members to a truly member focused organisation.

Over the last 8 years, the staff actuary role has grown in scale and scope as committees have expanded their services and the number of committees has grown. In addition, the staff actuary provides management oversight for the public policy actuary function. To boost the role and improve business continuity, **Sandy Govender** has been appointed in a part time consulting capacity to work with the staff actuary, Niel Fourie.

I wish Michelle and Sandy every success in their new roles as they strive to make ASSA more effective and responsive to member needs and serving the public interest.

actuvview

In the most recent Corona Update I announced that ASSA has signed an agreement with actuvview for ASSA members to have access to content on the platform. actuvview was initially launched as VICA to provide a virtual experience of the 2018 ICA held in Berlin. It has since been rebranded and relaunched as a digital hub of actuarial CPD content.

All members will receive an email over the next few days detailing how you can access actuvview.

During the current lockdown and probable subsequent period of restricted assembly, ASSA is investigating whether actuvue can be used as a platform for delivering our seminars.

CPD declarations

Considering the operational disruptions to all our lives as a result of the lockdowns and related business challenges, the deadline for CPD certifications has been extended to **30 April**.

Academy sessional

The ASSA Academy and Student Liaison Committee will be hosting a virtual sessional meeting on **7 April** titled **Having it All**. This session is aimed primarily at members who are trying to retain balanced lives while working and studying for exams but is open to all members. For further information contact Wim Els (wels@actuarialsociety.org.za).

Their previous virtual sessional meeting – Bouncing Back – aimed at students who had recently failed an exam, was very favourably reviewed by attendees.

Exams

ASSA is still striving to offer exams for all ASSA administered subjects¹ virtually using an online invigilated solution. Wherever possible, examinations will take place on the dates originally scheduled. The exceptions to this are the A211 and A213 exams that have been rescheduled from April to 18 May and 22 May respectively. Details of exactly how the process will work will be given to students as they become available.

Any student unable to write the exam or wishing to change their registration to another subject may do so without penalty. The exam registration and deregistration system will remain open for changes until 10 days before each exam. ASSA will not financially penalise any student unable to write ASSA administered exams for any reason during this session.

The IFoA has announced that the following exams have been cancelled for this session – A111, A212 and A214. Other exams (A112, A113 and F106) will continue and they will provide details as to how these will work. The IFoA will shortly make an announcement concerning refunds for cancelled exams as well as arrangements for those unable to sit the virtual exams.

¹ A211, A213, N211, A311, All F1 except F106, All F2, All normative assessments

Corona virus and the resultant lock down have introduced new challenges for everyone. At ASSA we are striving to continue to deliver all services and to do what we can to continue to support members in their professional development through our education and CPD offerings. Thank you for your support and co-operation during these times. In particular, I would like to thank members of practice area committees and education volunteers for their support as we strive to find virtual solutions to delivering our key CPD and education services.

Look out for the next edition of SA Actuary as well as the call for papers for the 2020 ASSA convention coming soon to a computer near you.

Regards



Mike McDougall