

Workshop on Cape Town/Vanderbilt Collaborations in Astronomy and Physics Meeting Agenda

Monday 5 March

Venue: UCT RW James Building Duncan Elliott Room

09:00 Welcome UCT: Dean of Science Kathy Driver (UCT)

09:15 Opening the Workshop: Chancellor Gordon Gee (Vanderbilt University)

09:30 Introductory Remarks: Patricia Whitelock (UCT/SAAO) and Keivan Stassun (VU)

I. Physics research collaborations

9:40 Overview of physics at UCT [Craig Comrie UCT]

10:00 Physics at the University of the Western Cape [Daniel Adams UWC]

10:20 UCT research in solid state physics [David Britten UCT]

10:40 Cosmology at UCT [Peter Dunsby UCT]

11:00 tea/coffee

11:30 Vanderbilt research presentation [James Dickerson VU]

12:00 Theory at Vanderbilt [David Ernst VU]

12:30 Fisk research presentation [Eugene Collins FU]

13:00 lunch

14:00 Group discussion and brainstorming on possible research collaborations

II. Student programs and exchanges:

15:00 The Fisk-Vanderbilt Masters-to-PhD Bridge program presentation
[Keivan Stassun FU]

15:30 National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme (NASSP)
[Patricia Whitelock UCT/SAAO]

16:00 tea/coffee

16:30 Group discussion and brainstorming - establish the following:

- ★ Criteria by which UCT NASSP (or Vanderbilt) courses would be judged if students are to use them towards their final degree from Vanderbilt (or UCT)
- ★ Which courses currently offered would be suitable for students from the partner institutions
- ★ Potential NASSP courses which might be offered by Vanderbilt Faculty

17:30 Summary and Next Steps [Patricia Whitelock, Keivan Stassun, David Weintraub]

18:30 Braai at SAAO hosted by the Director Phil Charles

Tuesday 6 March

Venue: SAAO UCT Auditorium

III. Astronomy research collaborations and facilities

9:00 Vanderbilt Initiative in Data-Intensive Astrophysics (VIDA) [Keivan Stassun VU]

9:20 Time domain astrophysics in SA 1 [Stephan Potter SAAO]

9:40 Time domain astrophysics in SA 2 [Thebe Medupe UCT/SAAO]

10:00 WKU presentation [Charles McGruder WKU]

10:30 coffee/tea

10:40 Vanderbilt Astronomy PhD program [David Weintraub VU]

11:20 SAAO and SALT [Philip Charles SAAO]

11:50 KAT and SKA [Catherine Cress KAT/UWC/UKZN]

12:10 Astronomy research at UCT [Renée Kraan-Korteweg UCT]

12:40 Observational cosmology [Bruce Bassett SAAO/UCT]

13:00 Lunch: SAAO Auditorium Foyer

IV. Outreach programmes in SA

14:10 Astronomy outreach in South Africa and the potential for involvement by visiting students from USA [Kevin Govender SAAO]

14:40 Group discussion on outreach

15:00 Group discussion and brainstorming on possibilities for joint degrees with brief presentations from Joel Harrington (VU) and Kathy Driver (UCT)

16:00 tea/coffee

16:30 Summary and Next Steps [Keivan Stassun, Patricia Whitelock]