Voorwoord

Na my emeritaat in 2010 het ek aan die begin van die huidige akademiese jaar kennis gegee van my bedanking as die Redakteur van *Acta Academica,* 'n taak wat ek sedert 1992 verrig het. Ek is die laaste lid van 'n span van kollegas (destyds met wyle Dirk du Toit as leier) wat sedert 1989 'n nuwe bedeling vir UV wetenskaplike joernale help vestig het, gerig op die uiteindelike totstandkoming van 'n onafhanklike universiteitsuitgewery. Hierdie ideaal is gedeeltelik in 2009 bereik met die stigting in van SUN MeDIA Bloemfontein (SMB) as 'n gesamentlike onderneming van die UV en SUN MeDIA in Stellenbosch.

Die finansiering van hierdie samewerking van die afgelope vier jaar word tans opnuut bedink, na aanleiding van 'n besluit van SUN MeDIA dat die bladfooie van UV joernale hulle toekom, eerder as die redaksies van die joernale. In die voorwoord van die eerste SMB uitgawe van *Acta Academica*, 41(2) van 2009, het ek die joernaal se elektroniese argivering op die UV bedienaar as 'n belangrike stap in die rigting van volledige *Open Access* aangekondig. Die verlies van bladfooi-inkomste en die beperkings van die UV bedienaar gaan spoedige oorskakeling na *Open Access*-programmatuur en die daarmee gepaardgaande gedigitaliseerde redaksieprosesse noodsaak. Vir die huidige gaan gedrukte uitgawes slegs beskikbaar wees vir Suid-Afrikaanse navorsingsbiblioteke, die outeurs en redaksielede.

Die proses van die langdurige soektog na 'n nuwe redakteur vir *Acta Academica* is vanjaar deur die UV Rektor en Visierektor: Akademies oorgeneem. Huidiglik is die uitkoms daarvan egter nog nie bekend nie. Ongelukkig neem ek dus afskeid sonder om die naam van 'n opvolger te kan aankondig.

Dit was vir my 'n besondere voorreg, en ook 'n groot eer, om oor die afgelope twee dekades met 'n groep uitsonderlike mense en vriende te kon saamwerk – geleerdes wat ons as outeurs kon bedien, kollega's van hoogstaande integriteit wat as medewerkers op verskillende redaksionele spanne gedien het asook verskeie akkurate en betroubare operateurs in publikasiekantore en -prosesse. Ek groet julle met groot dankbaarheid en waardering.

Dirk van den Berg
2 Julie 2012

Preface

Following my emeritation in 2010, I gave notice at the beginning of the 2012 academic year of my resignation as Editor of *Acta Academica*, a task I have been performing since 1992 as the last member of a team (at that time with the late Dirk du Toit as leader) that established a new dispensation for UFS scholarly journals. Its aim was gradual progress towards the future establishment of an independent UFS university press. This ideal was partly realised in 2009 with the launching of SUN MeDIA Bloemfontein (SMB) as a joint enterprise of the UFS and SUN MeDIA in Stellenbosch.

The financing of this co-operation of the past four years is currently being reviewed following SUN MeDIA's decision to keep the page fees of UFS journals, rather than transfering it to the journals' editorial boards. In the preface of the first SMB-published issue of *Acta Academica*, 41(2) of 2009, I announced the journal's electronic archiving on the UFS server as a decisive step in the direction of complete Open Access. The loss of page fee income and the inadequacies of the UFS server dictate urgent steps to accomplish a switchover to Open Access programming and associated digital editorial processes. At present printed copies of the journal will only be made available to South African reserach libraries, the authors and members of the editorial team.

This year the UFS Rector and Vice-rector: Academic assumed control of the process in the protracted search to find a new editor for *Acta Academica*. At present, however, the outcome is still unknown. I thus have to say farewell without being able to announce the name of my successor.

It was an singular privilege as well as a great honour to have been able to work together with a group of extraordinary people and friends during the past two decades – scholars we were able to assist as authors, colleagues of outstanding integrity who served as co-workers on several editorial teams as well as a number of accurate and trusted operators in publication offices and processes. I salute you with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation.

Dirk van den Berg
2 July 2012