



09/06/2025

CASA meeting June 2025

FS 2025 exams

## **1. Feedback Mechanisms for Examination Concerns**

The CMSA has a formal feedback process in place for candidates wishing to raise concerns immediately following an examination. All candidate emails are initially received by a CMSA administrative intermediary. The content is anonymised before being forwarded to examiners, ensuring full confidentiality and eliminating any risk of retribution. CASA encourages open feedback to support continuous quality improvement.

## **2. Examination Image Quality on Speedwell**

Concerns were raised regarding the quality of images presented in the Speedwell examination platform. Moderators have acknowledged this issue and committed to reviewing and enhancing image clarity for upcoming exams to ensure fairness and accessibility for all candidates.

## **3. Examination Venues**

Significant infrastructure upgrades are underway:

- **KwaZulu-Natal:** Purchasing of a new examination venue is in progress.
- **Johannesburg:** The existing venue is undergoing upgrades to improve candidate experience and accommodate growing logistical needs.

## 4. Oral Examination Group Rotation

Prof Mrara has flagged this as a matter of the highest urgency to ensure fairness of the waiting times for all oral exam candidates.

## 5. Examination Results Turnaround Time

The current delay in releasing results—approximately six weeks for both written and oral examinations—was discussed. Members were reminded that:

- All examiners are volunteers who contribute outside of their full-time professional commitments.
- The moderator and convenor meticulously review each examination script (~50 candidates) to ensure that all possible marks are awarded.
- Final marks are submitted to a single statistician responsible for multiple Colleges within the CMSA.
- Results are then reviewed by the College to avoid the risk of incorrectly informing a candidate that they have passed, only to later retract the outcome.

While the process is lengthy, it is critical for maintaining accuracy and integrity. The College acknowledges the frustration this may cause but emphasises that result waiting times are unlikely to be shortened under current constraints.

## 6. Examination Fees and Financial Transparency

The issue of exorbitant examination fees was revisited. Key points discussed included:

- **Cross-subsidisation:** Fees paid by candidates in larger centres are used to cover costs in smaller venues, ensuring equitable access across regions.
- **Operational Costs:** Staff salaries, internet access, and venue maintenance were cited as key contributors to overall expenditure.
- **Legal Expenses:** Costs associated with legal action following leaked exams have significantly increased the financial burden.

Some CASA examiners have independently raised concerns about the high fee structure during the CMSA Senate meeting. Unfortunately, the response received was non-specific and vague. Considering this, I have requested the development of an **infographic** by the CMSA detailing the complete cost breakdown across all examination venues—both written and oral—to justify the current fees and enhance financial transparency.

Kay Barnard  
SARFA chairperson 2024-2025