

MERGA Annual General Meeting

July ?, 2000

1. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from the following members—Clive Kanen, Vince Geiger, Di Siemon.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

A motion was passed to accept the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in July 1999 at MERGA 22 in Adelaide. Moved by Andy Begg and seconded by Dawn Bartlett.

3. Business arising from minutes

Business arising from the previous meeting was to be considered after the VP reports were presented.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence was forwarded to the secretary.

5. Reports

5.1 President's Report (Peter Galbrieth)

The President's report was available at reception at the beginning of the conference.

5.1.1 The president noted that the association had three main responsibilities with respect to the service it provided to the community and its members. These responsibilities included: 1) a servicing/nurturing role; 2) a dissemination role; and 3) a capacity to create new innovations.

5.1.2 The president provided an example of how MERGA was responsible for dissemination in a project that involved the ACER. In this case, the association became an important broker in the development of the project.

5.1.3 The president thanked the executive and all the members of the association for their support and willingness to support the association over the past twelve months.

The report was moved by Peter Galbrieth and seconded by David Haynes.

5.2 Treasurer's Report (Merrilyn Goos)

The Treasurer's report was published in the conference program booklet.

5.2.1 The MERGA accounts had been audited by John Ladbroke and Mike Mitchellmore.

5.2.2 The transfer of funds from MELA accounts to MERGA accounts had now been completed. In previous years, these additional funds were used to support the development of the new journal (MTED).

- 5.2.3 The accumulated funds of the organisation at the end of the financial year totaled \$66 897-33. Some of the money in cash deposit accounts would be moved to term deposits in the near future in order to secure higher interest rates on these funds.
- 5.2.4 It was projected that subscription fees for the organisation would need to increase in 2001 in order to cover the costs of sustaining two journals (ie. MERJ and MTED). At present each issue of MTED costs \$4300 while each issue of MERJ costs \$3000.
- 5.2.5 The proposed budget for the 2000-2001 financial year was projected.
Income: \$37 915
Expenditure: \$36 852
Net Surplus: +\$1 063
The proposed budget included funding for three issues of MERJ and one issue of MTED.
- 5.2.6 Gilah Leder suggested that there could be alternate ways of publishing important articles associated with the goals of the association without having a second journal. Robyn Zevenbergen supported this thesis particularly in light of the fact that membership fees would need to increase in order to support MTED. It was suggested that the Executive revisit the issue of the association supporting two journals. Other members argued that a great deal of time and effort had been devoted to creating the new journal and as a consequence decisions about the journals viability should be considered after a more extended "trial period." After further discussion, the Executive was asked to look at the feasibility of maintaining two journals in twelve months time.
- 5.2.7 On behalf of the members of the association, Helen Chick formally thanked Marilyn Goos for the way in which the MERGA financial statements had been professionally audited over the past twelve months. There was strong support from all those members present at the AGM, especially in light of the fact that the accounts were in disarray when Marilyn took over as Treasurer of the association.

The report was moved by Marilyn Goos and seconded by Helen Chick.

5.3 VP Membership (Helen Chick)

The VP Memberships' report was published in the conference program booklet.

- 5.3.1 It was noted that there was a decline in membership of the association during the past twelve months. Helen predicted that the membership of the association would increase when individuals who paid membership fees with conference registration were considered.
- 5.3.2 Members were encouraged to renew their membership early in order to ensure that second and third reminders of subscription fees would be kept to a minimum.
- 5.3.3 It was suggested that members should be proactive in attempting to attract new members to the association.

The report was moved by Helen Chick and seconded by Jane Watson.

The following motion was proposed by the VP Membership and seconded by Gregor xxx..

Motion: That members who are fully retired may choose to subscribe to MERGA at the discounted rate of three-quarters of the regular membership rate, rounded to the nearest five dollars.

Several members were not happy with the wording of the motion with some members suggesting that such considerations should only be given to individuals who were previously full members of the association. It was decided that the word subscribe should be replaced with the word renew.

As a consequence, Gilah Leder proposed a new motion that was seconded by Merrilyn Goos.

Modified Motion: That members who are fully retired may choose to subscribe to MERGA at the discounted rate of three-quarters of the regular membership rate, rounded to the nearest five dollars.

The motion was carried.

The report was moved by Helen Chick and seconded by Jane Watson.

5.4 VP Teaching (Judy Mousley)

The VP Teaching report was published in the conference program booklet.

5.4.1

5.4.2 Peter Sullivan questioned whether “MELA type” papers had been given consideration in the present conference proceedings. Judy indicated that the “guide to authors” criteria for accepting papers at the annual conference clearly identified the importance of such papers. It was also recognised that it may take some time to change the research culture with respect to teacher education issues. Judy suggested that a reminder should be placed in the next newsletter that stressed the notion that teacher education research was a component of research undertaken by members of the association.

5.4.3 It was suggested that members of the Executive should look at the type of papers published in the conference proceedings and consider the extent to which teacher education issues were represented in the research published.

5.4.4 Expressions of interest were being sort to employ a research assistant to collect and collate longitudinal data on numbers of teacher education students studying mathematics minor and majors. \$1000 was to be made available for approximately 20 hours work.

5.4.5 Gilah Leder suggested that perhaps a small amount of money could also be set aside to support the Executive with managerial responsibilities. Members present at the meeting endorsed this notion.

The report was moved by Judy Mousley and seconded by Alan Bishop.

5.5 VP Research (Clive Kanes)

The VP Research report was published in the conference program booklet.

5.5.1 Alan Bishop suggested that the Executive should monitor trends in membership rates once Web-site details had been put into place.

The report was moved by Peter Galbrieth on behalf of Clive Kanes and seconded by Robyn Zevenbergen.

5.6 VP Conferences (Helen Forgasz)

The VP Conferences report was published in the conference program booklet.

5.6.1 It was reported that the MERGA 23 conference committee had worked very well as a team.

5.6.2 The manner in which Special Interest Groups (SIG's) operated at MERGA Conferences was given special attention this year. There was a commitment to develop new ideas to cater for the special interests of members with all SIG leaders asked to consider the role of their respective SIG and report back to the VP Conferences.

5.6.3 Symposiums were introduced to MERGA for the first time this year.

5.6.4 Several members indicated that research papers at conferences should be linked more closely to SIGs.

5.6.5 Venues and dates for upcoming conferences include:

- Sydney, 2001—July 1- July 4.
- Auckland, 2002—July 7 – July 11.
- Geelong, 2001—Dates to be confirmed.

5.6.6 It was noted that the Auckland conference dates classed with the International Statistics Conference in Durban.

The report was moved by Helen Forgasz and seconded by Steve Nisbett.

5.7 VP Publications (Kay Owens)

The VP Publications report was published in the conference program booklet.

5.7.1 Kay thanked Mike Mitchelmore on behalf of the members for the outstanding contribution he made as editor of MERJ for the past two years. It was recognised that Mike's professionalism enhanced the international status of the journal.

5.7.2 Bill Barton will be the new editor of MERJ with Beth Southwell and Marj Horne associate editors.

5.7.3 Publication's committee (Help Kay)

5.7.4 Interested people were encouraged to speak to Kay about editing the next four-yearly review of research.

The report was moved by Kay Owens and seconded by Judy Mousley.

6. Elections

6.1 VP Teaching—Judy Mousley was elected to the position of VP Teaching unopposed. This is Judy's second term in the position.

6.2 VP Research—Helen Forgasz was elected to the position of VP Research. Helen will take over from Clive Kanes in January 2001.

6.3 VP Conferences—An additional election was required to fill the position vacated by Helen Forgasz (see 6.2). Ken Carr was elected to the position of VP Conferences unopposed. Ken will begin his term in January 2001 but will be invited to participate in Executive meetings for the remainder of the year.

7. New Business

- 7.1 It was suggested that the Policy Meeting should be before the AGM however it should be scheduled at least 24 hours before the AGM. The president indicated that he would ensure that the Sydney programming committee would be made aware of this timeframe.
- 7.2 Peter Sullivan commented that the members of the association should be aware of implications of the white paper on research. In particular, he argued that issues associated with student completion rates, research students and publications would be of interest to many members. Peter agreed that he would develop a brief dot-point summary for distribution through the newsletter.
- 7.3 Peter Galbrieth expressed appreciation to the Executive and members of the association for their help and support during the first year of his role as president of the association.

The meeting was closed at 5:15 pm.

Action Sheet

Action	Name	Date
The Executive will look at the feasibility of maintaining two journals (MERJ and MTED) over the next twelve months.	Executive	Next 12 months
Members of the Executive will look at the type of papers published in the conference proceedings and consider the extent to which teacher education issues were represented in the research published.	VP Teaching Executive	October
Members of the Executive should monitor trends in membership rates once Web-site details had been put into place	VP Membership Executive	When site is established
The Policy Meeting should be before the AGM however it should be scheduled at least 24 hours before the AGM.	President	October
Peter Sullivan to develop a brief dot-point summary for distribution through the newsletter.	Peter Sullivan	October