

AGM Minutes

Townsville, 29 June, 2004

1. Present:

Judy Anderson, Glenda Anthony, Cecilia Apudelo-Valderranu, Stephen Arnold, Bill Atweh, Bill Barton, Murray Black, Janette Bobis, Jill Brown, Phil Chambers, Helen Chick, J Daya Dindyal, Carmel Diezmann, Fiona Ell, Lyn English, Bronwyn Ewing, Marilyn Goos, Peter Grootenboer, Barbara Kensington-Miller, Tom Lowrie, Mal McLean, Judy Mousley, Steven Nisbet, Greg Oates, John Pegg, Bob Perry, Ian Putt, Brian Sherman, Tracey Smith, Beth Southwell, Len Sparrow, Vicki Steinle, Max Stephens, Gloria Stillman, Colleen Vale, Jill Waters, Jenni Way, Robyn Zevenbergen.

2. Apologies:

Rhonda Faragher, Helen Forgasz, Peter Galbraith, Georgina Herbert, Gilah Leder, Kay Owens, Peter Sullivan, Allan White.

3. Confirmation of minutes from the AGM in Geelong, 2003:

Motion: That the minutes from the 2003 AGM meeting held in Geelong be accepted, on the condition that the correct spelling of John Foyster's name is used.

Moved: Brian Sherman

Seconded: Bob Perry

4. Matters Arising from Minutes:

4.1 Correspondence from motion formulated at the 2003 AGM

The Secretary reported that he had received letters of acknowledgement from both the Premier of NSW and the NSW Minister of Education regarding the motion formulated from the 2003 AGM concerning the restructuring of the NSW Department of Education. Both the Premier and Minister indicated that it would be sensible for members to attend the briefing sessions that were being conducted across the state.

4.2 Constitutional changes

The following motion is a proposal from the Executive to change the MERGA Constitution in line with the direction received at the 2003 AGM.

The executive having given due notice to the secretary in line with the constitution proposes that:

Motion: That in view of the continuing work pressure on members as noted in the discussion of this issue at the 2003 AGM and during the executive meeting in December 2003, and the inability of some executive members over the last number of years to complete their full tenure of second term appointments on the executive, that the term of office on the executive be reduced from 3 years to 2 years. To this effect we move:

1. That in Article 4, Section 1, Part C, of the MERGA constitution, that the word 'three' be replaced by the word 'two'; and

2. That the following additional words be added to Article 10 of the MERGA constitution; "That the effects flowing from the changes to Article 4, Section 1, Part C be implemented progressively at the completion of the present term of each executive member."

Before asking the members to vote on the motion, the President indicated that he should have presented the motion to the membership in a more realistic timeframe so that comments could have been considered

before the 60 day notice period. With hindsight, he indicated that the motion should have been presented to the members 120 days before the AGM.

The motion was moved from the Chair and unanimously carried.

4.3 By-Law Changes

The President tabled a motion from the Executive concerning the modification of the By-Laws. The motion had previously been discussed in detail at the Policy Meeting.

The motion was moved from the Chair and unanimously carried.

It was noted that the new set of By-Laws will be put up on the MERGA web site so they can be read with the constitution.

5. Correspondence:

Letters received from the 1) Premier of NSW and 2) NSW Minister of Education

6. Reports:

6.1 President's Report

The President presented a written report and elaborated on the following points.

- The IOWME proposal was presented to the members. It is envisaged that this money (almost \$2500) will be used to support essentially a writing activity, culminating in a special issue of MERJ or MTED.
- The President noted that the Executive had moved to name one of the keynote lectures at MERGA annual conferences after the joint founders. He circulated the abstract that will be read at the annual Clements/Foyster Lecture.
- The President recognised the contribution of the three members of the Executive who would be retiring from their respective posts. The Secretary would be resigning in September, while the Treasurer and VP (Publications) would be completing their duties at the end of the year.

The report was moved by Phil Clarkson (from the Chair)

Brian Sherman commented that, with the exception of the President, all members of the Executive would complete their tenure in 2006 now that the executive term had been reduced from three to two years. Robyn Zevenbergen pointed out that both Tom Lowrie and Marilyn Goos had already demonstrated that members of the Executive were committed to “staggering” changes in personal when they extended their terms beyond their initial appointment. Nevertheless, it was recognised that such practices would need to continue in the future, and the Executive would need to keep a watching brief so that there was a mix of experience on each Executive committee in future years.

6.2 Treasurer's Report:

Merrilyn Goos' Treasurer's report was printed in the conference proceedings. The Treasurer presented the financial report to the AGM. The following points were highlighted.

- There was a Surplus of \$14, 202.63 for the financial year.
- Subscriptions were higher than expected this year—particularly Institutional memberships
- Sales and publications are higher for this financial year.
- The Geelong Conference produced a profit of approximately \$14 000.
- Bank Charges were significantly higher this year because more members are paying their membership fees on credit cards.
- Travel and accommodation for Executive Members was lower than expected because venues were closer to individual's residences.

- The item-line cost of Publication and Purchase of Publications was significantly lower for this financial year—in part due to the lower cost of the production of conference proceedings in Geelong.
- The Treasurer noted that this would be her last report to the AGM.

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

6.3 VP Publications

Gloria Stillman's report was printed in the conference proceedings.

The report was moved by Gloria Stillman and seconded by Jill Brown.

6.4 VP Teaching

Robyn Zevenbergen's report was printed in the conference proceedings.

The report was moved by Robyn Zevenbergen and seconded by Ian Putt.

6.5 VP Conferences

Peter Grootenboer's report was printed in the conference proceedings.

The following points were highlighted:

- MERGA 29 (2006) will be held in Canberra. A consortium from Charles Sturt University, the University of Canberra and the Australian Catholic University will organise the conference.
- The call for expressions of interest for MERGA 30 will be announced within the next two months.

The report was moved by Peter Grootenboer and seconded by Tracey Smith.

6.6 VP Membership

Jenni Way's report was printed in the conference proceedings.

The report was moved by Jenni Way and seconded by Bill Barton.

6.7 VP Research

Carmel Diezmann's report was printed in the conference proceedings.

The following additional comments were made:

- Carmel encouraged members who had graduated in the last twelve months to apply for the Research Bursary Scheme.
- The Practical Implications Award was not awarded in 2004.
- The following judges of the Early Career Award were acknowledged for their contributions—Glenda Anthony, Janette Bobis, Colleen Vale and Carmel Diezmann.
- The winner of the 2004 Early Career Award was Jillian Waters.

The report was moved by Carmel Diezmann and seconded by Greg Oates.

7. Election of Officers

Four elections for Office Bearers on the Executive took place. The VP (Publications), Gloria Stillman, has completed a three-year term on the Committee and did not seek re-election. Marilyn Goos, Treasurer, had completed almost two terms on the Executive. Tom Lowrie resigned from the position of Secretary after five years on the Executive. Peter Grootenboer, the VP

(Conferences) decided to stand for the vacated secretary position and was elected to that position. Consequently, the position of VP (Conferences) was also vacant.

- 7.1 Secretary**
Peter Grootenboer was elected Secretary
- 7.2 Treasurer**
Linda Galligan was elected Treasurer
- 7.3 VP (Publications)**
Bill Atweh was elected VP (Publications)
- 7.4 VP (Conferences)**
Bob Perry was elected VP (Conferences)

After the election of Office Bearers the following motion was presented.

Motion: That the MERGA community thank Marilyn Goos, Tom Lowrie and Gloria Stillman for their outstanding commitment to the Association and insightful initiatives over the course of their tenure.

Moved: From the President (Chair)

The motion was carried with spontaneous applause.

8. Other Business

8.1 ARC Research Network

John Pegg briefed the membership on the ARC EnSE Research Network application. It went in on time and he is waiting along with 150 or so other hopefuls, who also received seed funding, to see if we end up being one of the fifteen or so funded for the next five years starting (theoretically) on July 1. He wished to acknowledge all the people who attended and contributed to the meetings/workshops that were held around Australia for their ideas and enthusiasm.

8.2 National Centre at UNE

John Pegg also informed the membership about a new research centre that is to be established at the University of New England which will be called The National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia. We call it the SIMERR National Centre. To support SIMERR, the Government has put in establishment funds of \$5 million over 3 years. The establishment funding has not come from DEST but from the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS).