

## Special General Meeting Minutes

### 1. Welcome to the SGM

- President welcomed everyone and noted that the meeting was being recorded.
- President acknowledged and thanked the working party for their hard work in putting together the final report.

#### Explanatory Notes

1.1 A Working Party was established in 2017 by the Executive Committee in accordance with 6.1 (j) of AARE constitution. The activities of the Working Party were reported to the Executive at subsequent Executive meetings and to the Membership in AGM each year with the exception of the 2020 year. A number of recommendations were incorporated in the final Working Party report in 2020.

1.2 The AGM was held in 2020 by zoom. Since the list of motions drawn from the recommendations in the report could not meet the 21 days' notice requirement of the Constitution, they were not put up for voting at that AGM.

1.3 The AARE Executive received a petition at the conclusion of the 2020 AGM in accordance with Rule 8.2 (d) of the AARE constitution which provides that *the Executive shall be required to convene a special general meeting upon receiving a petition in writing of 20 members or 5% of the membership whichever is greater*. Members attending online discussion gave assent to this petition through the chat function of the online meeting.

Since the 2020 AGM and a discussion held after the AGM about the final Working Party report a number of actions have already been undertaken by the AARE Executive in response to the report's recommendations.

### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

### 3. Consideration and discussion about the proposed motions a – e

Each motion was read out individually by the Secretary and discussion was held on each motion prior to voting on each motion.

#### 1. Report Recommendations and Executive decisions or proposals:

- **WP Report Recommendation 1:** That AARE advocate for education research with key governance bodies, seeking collaboration with other professional associations, recognising the difficulties of the sector as a whole while insisting that research is central to teaching quality, to a quality university sector, and to the capacities of citizens educated through universities to deal with social, environmental, health, economic and political problems.

Discussion:

- Marie Brennan invited to share insights from the report.
- Recognition of serious issues in universities including teaching only academics, emotional anxiety and frustration, and what the future will be for ECR academics.
- Casualisation of the workforce is a serious issue and education has often borne the brunt of the cuts
- There is a stronger urgency for association that is not under governments control and it is a watershed time as an Association we need to step up and do this work
- An opportunity for AARE to have a leadership role in bringing various associations together

**MOTION: That this SGM endorse this WP recommendation 1**

Nominated: Marie Brennan

Seconded: Jill Blackmore

**Motion endorsed and supported unanimously (one absentia)**

- **EXECUTIVE ACTION: 2021 SUMMIT**

That AARE collaborate with peak bodies and expertise in educational research to jointly identify, disseminate, debate, and press for productive responses to existing and emerging challenges to educational research and education research capacity in Australia in 2021.

**MOTION: That this SGM endorse the nominated Executive Action**

**Discussion**

- who are the peak organisations? Whoever the groups are that have a interest in education research. This might be determined at a summit.
- There needs to be some kinds of means by which when there are actions happening at universities that will potentially damage research (eg restructures) that organisations such as AARE should speak up regarding this.
- Mobilising the media was mentioned as being a challenge but one that needed to be considered.

Nominated: Jill Blackmore

Seconded: Nicole Mockler

**Motion endorsed and supported**

- **WP RECOMMENDATION 2:** That AARE work with Australian Council of Deans of Education (ACDE) and others with responsibility for education academic work to document and assess medium and longer-term implications for education research capacity. (A past model for this engagement is available in the Strategic Alliance project between

AARE, ACDE and ATEA that investigated strengthening a research-rich teaching profession in Australia.)

**MOTION: That this SGM endorse WP recommendation 2.**

### Discussion

- Having access to continual access to data and changes will be important to ensure the advocacy work can be actioned. This was noted in relation to casualisation of the workforce.
- Noted loss of senior staff during restructures.

Nominated: Rosie Le Corneu

Seconded: Annette Woods

### Motion endorsed and supported unanimously

- **EXECUTIVE ACTION:**  
Some of this will be folded into recommendation 1. Workload issues and research capacity mapping are clearly a priority, as all agree with the diagnoses made in the Final Report of the WP.
- **WP Recommendation 3:** That, in light of the consistent and rapid changes in education, accelerated by the Pandemic, AARE lobby for an education-specific research fund, commensurate with student numbers, and the importance of the field to Australian and global needs and purposes. This recognises that strong research cultures are important for education workforces across all levels.

Motion: That this SGM endorse Recommendation 3:

### Discussion:

- One of the significant things that was happening before Covid and has accelerated since is the reduction of the proportion of academics in the workforce who are teaching and research academics. It is the teaching and research culture that is needed not just research.
- ECR academics are given huge workloads and this impacts on their research and vice versa.
- Many people think that Education equals Teacher Ed but it is also Early childhood, Adult ed, higher education, TAFE, quick projects etc are all part of the field of Education. We don't have a independent board.

Nominated: Annette Woods

Seconded: Amy MacPherson

### Motion endorsed and supported unanimously

- **EXECUTIVE ACTION:**

that AARE will endeavour to collaborate with existing research fund organisation and work together for benefit of the members.

**Motion: That this SGM endorse this Executive action.**

**Discussion:**

- Previously had strong links with the ARC and research policy people in the State and Federal departments that have strong foundations.
- It's about building on and strengthening on these foundations.
- This will need to be resourced and stronger focus for the Association.

Nominated: Anna Sullivan

Seconded: Allyson Hollbrook

**Motion endorsed and supported 96%**

- **WP Recommendation 4:** ~~That AARE expand the Working Party on supporting and capacitating the future of education research as a regular standing committee of the executive.~~

Executive and WP agreed that this motion should be amended to read:

**Revised Recommendation 4:** That AARE continue the work of the Working party on supporting and capacitating the future of education research as a Standing Committee of the Executive.

**Motion: That this SGM endorse the amended WP recommendation 4.**

Nominated: Julianne Moss

Seconded: Lew Zipin

**Motion endorsed and supported**

**EXECUTIVE ACTION:**

That AARE collaborate with peak bodies and expertise in educational research to jointly identify, disseminate, debate, and press for productive responses to existing and emerging challenges to educational research and education research capacity in Australia in 2021. Further that AARE will endeavour to collaborate with existing research fund organisations and work together for benefit of the members.

- **MOTION: That this SGM endorse this nominated Executive decision.**

Note: Some Working Party members would be happy to be invited to continue as members of the Standing Committee.

- There is a position that it is dedicated position already in the structure
- In 2018 the executive expressed that the working party would become a standing committee

- Query about how long this would be for this to be actioned and how could the standing committee be able to communicate with members.
- This will be taken to executive for discussion at the July meeting
- Query about who the working party members were and if there could be some overview of the representation across the sectors. This was addressed by the working party.

Nominated: Julianne Moss

Seconded: Greg Martin

### **Motion endorsed and supported**

- **MOTION: That the Executive be authorised to do all such acts, deeds necessary to effectuate the above resolutions.**

Nominated: Jane Hunter

Seconded: Nicole Mockler

### **Motion endorsed and supported**