

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Special General Meeting (SGM) of members of Australian Association for Research in Education will be held on Wednesday 19 May 2021 at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Special General Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome to the SGM
2. Acknowledgement of Country
3. Discussion about the proposed motions
4. Voting
5. Any other business
6. Close of meeting

Next AGM will be on Wednesday 1 Dec 2021.

Explanatory Notes

- 1.1 A Working Party was established in 2017 by the Executive Committee in accordance with 6.1 (j) of AARE constitution to investigate and follow up issues. 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.
- 1.4 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.

1. Background to the meeting

A petition by members emerged in a discussion after the 2020 online AGM where the Working Party Report was considered. The SGM petition to consider the issues raised by the Report of the Working Party: "The growing urgency of attending to the state of Education Research in Australian Higher Education" (June 2020), including endorsement of its recommendations. Key to the petition was a recommendation to endorse the recommendations of the Final Report. The Working Party was commissioned by the 2018 AARE Executive to conduct work on its behalf following motions at the 2017 AGM; further motions were passed at the 2019 AGM. The petition was based on motions developed for debate at the 2020 AGM, deferred to the discussion, and given formal written assent in the Chat function of the online meeting. 2021 Executive has discussed the Final Report and SGM petition report, and other papers provided by the Working Party, and made a number of decisions to take this work further. https://www.aare.edu.au/assets/documents/AARE-WorkingParty_Report-4Wed-June24-2020.pdf

2. 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.

The report identified issues requiring public naming, contestation and advocacy:

- a. Restriction of HDR, ECR and MCR research trajectories through funding and institutional practices of workloads, governance, competitive and unrealistic performance measures
- b. Growing numbers of casual, teaching-only and [minimal] research-only staff as the default setting for appointments or transfers of existing staff, diminishing the teaching & research academic fraction, with consequences for succession planning, career trajectories and the future of Australian research and teaching quality in education and other fields
- c. Inappropriate measures, based on the sciences, used for judgement of research quality in education, and other humanities and social science fields, rather than international peer review
- d. Inadequate workload allocations and invisible work that restrict capacity to undertake research and collaboration across institutions and internationally
- e. Through all the above, the narrowing of the purposes and contribution of universities for Australia, with too strong an emphasis on vocational skill formation rather than capacitating citizenry to work within uncertain futures and new knowledge creation.

MOTION: That this SGM endorse WP recommendation 1

- **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

- **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.

- **EXECUTIVE ACTION:**

Some of this will be folded into recommendation 1 and 2. Workload issues and research capacity mapping are clearly a priority, as noted 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:

- **EXECUTIVE ACTION:**

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 Executive action.

- **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.

- **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 organisation and work together for benefit of the members.”

MOTION: That this SGM endorse this nominated Executive decision.

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



Notes:

1. Ordinary resolutions are passed if approved by more than 50% of the votes cast by Members present and eligible to vote.
2. The Chairperson will allow a reasonable opportunity for the Members at the meeting to ask questions about or make comments on the matter(s) mentioned in the Notice. You may also send us your questions in advance at [email] which will be addressed at the meeting.

Bernadette Walker-Gibbs

Secretary

23 April 2021