



ALM 4 Annual General Meeting  
University of Limerick  
Ireland  
July 5<sup>th</sup> 1997

Chair: Diana Coben Recorder: Kathy Safford

Attendees:

MJ. Angiama	Wendy Gornall	Joan O'Hagan
R.O. Angiama	Pat Healy	Declan O'Neill
Roseanne Benn	Meriel Hutton	Caz Randall
Brian Cann	Sylvia Johnson	Michael Riordan Kathy Safford
Diana Coben	Joy Joseph	Valerie Seabright
Dhamma Colwell	David Kaye	Alison Tomlin
P. Lesli Day	Alice Lewis	Mieke van Groenestijn
Janet Duffin	Lena Lindenskov	Tine Wedege
Sue Elliott	Mary McGrail	Juergen Maass
Wendy Fortescue-Hubbard	John O'Donoghue	

Diana announced that Wendy Fortescue-Hubbard and Joy Joseph had volunteered to edit and produce the newsletter during the coming year. Also on the topic of publications, Avanti is still distributing copies of proceedings from ALM 1, 2 and 3. Their address is: Avanti Books, 8 Parsons Green, Boulton Road., Stevenage, SGI 4QG, UK. Mieke van Groenestijn has arranged to attend the upcoming UNESCO conference in Hamburg and to represent ALM there. Diana reminded the group that ALM members had attended ICME-8 in Seville, Spain in 1996, the majority serving on the Working Group 18.

Gratitude was expressed for all who had worked to make ALM-4 a successful reality. In particular thanks were extended to John O'Donoghue, Jackie O'Shaughnessy, Martina O'Halloran, Frank Hodnett and his wife. Frank heads the Department of Mathematics and Statistics and graciously accepted our invitation to dinner at the University Club on Saturday. Financial support from E. Murphy, National Centre for Quality Management and the Tipperary (NR) Vocational Education Committee was acknowledged.

Diana explained the ERIC database and requested that all contributors hold onto the ERIC permission page which they had received in the mail. Roseanne Benn suggested that the British Education Index might be interested in carrying our abstracts electronically. Participants were reminded that the deadline for submission of proceedings papers will be September 1, 1997 and all were encouraged to be prompt so that publication could proceed in a timely fashion. She also announced that the Kluwer book contract has been signed and returned to Kluwer. The editors, Diana Coben, John O'Donoghue, and Gail Fitzsimmons

hope to get that project off the ground as soon as possible.

Thanks were extended to all retiring steering group members and a request was made for volunteers to come forward to fill the vacated posts and extend the "at-large" seats. Alison Tomlin proffered thanks to Diana, retiring Chair, for all her work on behalf of ALM since its inception. A round of applause seconded her suggestion.

Sue Elliott presented the treasurer's report. Explanations were given for seemingly large amounts of money paid out during the year. Sue described the lag between the incurrence of publication expenses and billing for those costs. This lag has resulted in ALM carrying a balance of several pounds for two years while awaiting demand for payment from Goldsmith's College, publisher of the ALM proceedings. At the same time, Sue cautioned the attendees that a financial cushion needs to be set aside in preparation for ALM-5 since it will be held at a commercial rather than academic location and may require substantial money upfront to guarantee reservations.

Sue then shared the progress thus far in the investigation of registering ALM as a company limited by guarantee. Ann Elsy had begun looking into the process of applying for such status before she became ill. One advantage of such status is the removal of liability on the part of officers for debt or legal suits which might involve the organisation. Sue identified the possibility of the law clinic at Sheffield-Hallam University taking on our case as a student project. She answered various questions about the need for registering and the costs which are possible. Dhamma Colwell moved that the steering committee be empowered to pursue this question through the coming year and report to the membership at the AGM in July, 1998. Meriel Hutton seconded the motion and it was passed.

Kathy Safford offered a brief report on the characteristics of the membership, both nationalities and areas of interests. There are currently 136 paid memberships. Of these, 80 are from the United Kingdom. There are 9 members each from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Nineteen countries, in all, are represented. Fifty-eight members responded to the survey of interests. More than half were interested in basic skills maths, teaching methods, technology, everyday use of maths, and feelings about maths. Thirty-four of the respondents indicated an interest in research methodologies.

New business opened with a discussion of the ALM fee structure. Existing fees are (in pounds sterling) Individual - £10, Institutional - £15, and Student/Unwaged - £2. Sue Elliott proposed that they be raised to £15, £30 and £5. Discussion ensued and centered around the percentage growth in the student fee. Joan O'Hagan encouraged all to keep the student fees low and to encourage students to join. Diana pointed out that the cost of publishing the proceedings hovered around £8 and was likely to grow as the size of the proceedings grew. John O'Donoghue suggested the setting aside of funds for "scholarships". In the end, a fee structure of £15, £30, £3 as of August 1, 1997 was approved and carried unanimously. The student fee is a minimum and students are free to pay more if they feel they can.

Led by Joan O'Hagan and Mieke van Groenestijn, a discussion of the balance between local and international identification commenced. Mieke distributed and summarised a paper which encouraged greater efforts toward the "internationalisation" of ALM. She proposed five targets:

1. The international face must be shown in the name.
2. A clear mission statement should be formulated.

3. Efforts should be undertaken to double the number of non-UK members.
4. The management of the organisation should be diversified to show the international character of the organisation.
5. The management of the organisation should work toward a continuous progress of ALM.

Joan O'Hagan suggested ways to include more students in the organisation. She said that the increased use of the internet might allow the inclusion of both students and geographically dispersed members. She said that several of her students could make meaningful contributions to ALM by adding their voices to our forums. The following is a summary of discussion by the membership:

Janet Duffin	There has been a decrease of practitioners attending ALM.
Pat Healy	Less ABE teachers are funded for travel, regional meetings are favoured.
Alison Tomlin	A student newsletter might make students feel more welcome, included.
Tine Wedege	Research definition should be expanded to include a broader range of activities, language continues to be a problem for attendees who are not native speakers of English.
Diana Coben	The initial vision of ALM has changed and will continue to do so.
Joan O'Hagan	All members should encourage colleagues to attend

Due to lack of time the discussion was closed, although attendees were encouraged to continue it privately over dinner. The proposal to change the name of the organisation was tabled until the 1998 AGM. It was suggested that the newsletter be used as a forum for new name ideas.

John O'Donoghue presented gifts to the outgoing officers: Diana Coben, Sue Elliott, and Kathy Safford. Dhamma Colwell presented the slate of nominees for the coming year. There were no nominations from the floor. The following slate was elected unanimously:

OFFICE	ELECTED
Chair	John O'Donoghue
Secretary	Diana Coben
Treasurer	Sylvia Johnson
Membership Secretary	Sue Elliott

John accepted his position and chaired the remaining minutes of the meeting. He promised to address the communication problem during the upcoming year. The venue for ALM 5 was officially announced to be Utrecht, The Netherlands.