

ICTM SGMDO Business Meeting

Alexishafen, Papua New Guinea

19 Sept 2014, 11:30am-12:30pm

Minutes

Present: Tony Lewis, Patrick Matbob, Naomi Faik-Simet, Oli Wilson, Kirsty Gillespie (SGMDO Chair), Don Niles (Vice President, ICTM), Denis Crowdy, Neil R. Coulter (minutes), Edward Gende

(apologies: Stephen Wild, Robert Reigle, Ric Trimillos)

Agenda:

Frequency of symposia:

We discussed the ICTM Secretariat's idea of holding SG symposia on the off-years of ICTM World Conferences. The SGMDO meeting frequency has been considerably less than every-other-year, due largely to the large geographic distance separating all members, and therefore the high cost of getting everyone together in one place. We also raised the possibility of coordinating SGMDO symposia with other events that many group members are likely to attend: SEM, or Pacific-centric conferences, for example. A member had recommended (by email) that we look into SGMDO symposia in conjunction with other ICTM Study Groups, and the members present are interested in pursuing those possibilities. We wondered if there's better potential for members Skyping in to meetings if not physically present, but we felt that some of the best interaction at this symposium has been the evening and break-time conversations and networking, which would be lost if the “attendees” were not actually in the same place.

Ultimately, organising a symposium requires someone (either the SG Chair or another appointee) able to coordinate the details. Kirsty, in dialogue with the next Chair, Brian, will continue to think about possibilities for future symposia. All of us at this one affirmed our desire to get together more often, if possible. We'll continue this discussion at ICTM Kazakhstan 2015.

SG by-laws

Don brought forward the topic of SG by-laws, asking for opinions on whether group members feel SGMDO would benefit from more extensive by-law documentation. We looked together at the recent revision of the ICTM Memorandum on Study Groups. While we affirmed the “Catch-22” situation in which a SG doesn't *need* by-laws until something goes wrong, we also felt that SGMDO is a healthy,

collegial, caring environment, and we are happy to continue as we have done, rather than create a set of by-laws for the group. Members mentioned the recent Chair election, and the easy, amicable solution to a tie vote that the group members were happy with. We're glad that SDMDO has been a forum for support and collaboration, not personal attacks and politics. A few members said what a refuge this group is from the pressures of academic life in their university departments. The group offers support and encouragement that can be hard to find daily life.

The question about by-laws (whether or not to create them for the group) will be brought by Kirsty to the whole membership for consensus.

ICTM 2015 update

Kirsty shared an update on the SGMDO-sponsored panels proposed (and discussed on the listserv) for ICTM 2015. The internal abstract deadline for the SGMDO-sponsored panel has now passed. The "Mobilities" panel will happen, coordinated by Jane Moulin. Other SG members are presenting in other sessions during the World Conference. Half of this meeting's attendees plan to also attend ICTM 2015.

Future publications

Following the ICTM Memorandum recommendation that Study Groups make their symposia proceedings available in published form, we discussed SGMDO publications. Don reminded us that SGMDO has published twice in its history: a festschrift for Barbara Smith, and a festschrift for Mervyn McLean. There was intent to publish the proceedings of the previous symposium, but it never happened. We wondered when ICTM will be ready to launch their new monograph series, but will probably seek publication of this year's proceedings before that. We considered publishing these proceedings in the electronic journal *Language and Linguistics in Melanesia (LLM)*, which will also be publishing the Linguistics Society of PNG conference papers. Don and Neil have each published previously in *LLM*. Kirsty will follow that up with the journal's editor. Kirsty, Neil, and Don are willing to assist with the reviewing and editing of the conference papers into publishable form. Kirsty will also continue thinking about other publication opportunities from SGMDO.

Other business

No one raised any other agenda items. Denis spoke for all of us in expressing gratitude for a very excellent symposium, with the organisation, location, and content being ideal.

(Meeting summary respectfully submitted by Neil R. Coulter)