

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF MEDU

July 28, 1983

Present: Tim, Charles, Wally, Diele, Petra, Mike H., Lulu, Kim, Judy, Muff, Steve D., Rammolo, Neo, Dennis, Ruth, Gabriel, Patrick, Ellen

- Agenda:
- 1) Executive Report
 - 2) Names for the Units
 - 3) Coordination of the editorial and executive committees: Their function and their relationship with the units
 - 4) Medu relations with other cultural bodies in Botswana
 - 5) Elections

The Minutes:

1) Executive Report:

The executive sat and went through all unit responses to the evaluation questions raised with every unit. The executive feels that we should urgently rectify certain practices that are beginning to be a danger to the continued harmonious development of Medu and all that it hopes to achieve. We hope that this meeting will be brief and constructive and we can achieve consensus keeping in mind that we are cultural workers with definite interests in our different fields of art and a responsibility to both our fellow cultural workers in Medu and the community outside Medu. If we fail to realise this, we will have to contend with the fact that our art will be nothing but hobbies and Medu an alienated association with no relation to the community except in theory.

There are members who came into Medu to learn skills and have been failed by Medu who gave them nothing but long confusing theoretical discussions and no art. There are members who are responsible for this and those who come to the unit whenever their leisure allows them. Makie has been in the theatre unit for almost four years and has not once performed in a completed play. Photography unit has not met for as long as they can remember. Graphics, though engaged in a number of constructive training programmes cannot have full attendance of its unit meetings and as a result cannot co-ordinate, evaluate and share experiences. This cannot be. Medu is a forum for only active artists and those interested to learn skills. Any member who absents himself from two consecutive unit meetings with no satisfactory explanation and having been notified, will be understood to have resigned from that unit.

From both the responses to the questions raised with units and from Medu experience, the executive would like to clarify how Medu should conduct its activities and co-ordinate its efforts. We feel that the duties and responsibilities of all Medu structures should be cleared.

A.) The executive committee:

- 1) Is the senior body of Medu and makes policy.
- 2) Raises funds and is responsible for all PR work.
- 3) Is responsible for the general administration of Medu.
- 4) Liases with the Southern African Trust Fund.
- 5) Appoints the chief editor and members of the editorial board.
- 6) Meets once a month and the secretariate consisting of the chairman, secretary and treasurer, meets every fortnight.

B.) The editorial board:

- 1) Is responsible to the executive.
- 2) Is responsible for publication, editing and collection of material for the newsletter, books, etc. of Medu members and other people who may want to have their work published.
- 3) Is responsible for distribution.
- 4) Meets once a month.
- 5) Is headed by a chief editor.
- 6) Co-ordinates unit contributions towards cultural evenings, weeks and festivals.

C.) The creative units:

- 1) Are represented in the executive by the unit head.
- 2) Are responsible for the day to day improvement of the art-forms.
- 3) Meet the needs of its members through acquiring space for work, ensuring that there are facilities and equipments, and encouraging that cultural workers earn a living from their work.
- 4) responsible for the daily improvement of the skills of its members and other interested parties.
- 5) Prepares and organises cultural evenings, weeks, etc. in consultation with the editorial board.

Unit Autonomy:

All units are responsible to the executive. Unit autonomy is to do the following:

- 1) Encourage specialisation.
- 2) To ensure that art-forms develop in terms of skills, quality and exposure.
- 3) To facilitate the smooth development and running of programme courses and all work related to its specialisation.
- 4) Encourage financial autonomy, equipment independence and a sense of self-generation for the unit.
- 5) Funding for major projects are applied for only through the executive.
- 6) Encourage the unit to look after its daily needs such as transportation, materials, venues and welfare and needs of the unit members.

The executive would like to emphasise the importance of training for unit members. In this regard we would like to congratulate members of the music unit, Shakawe, for the inspiring work they have put into building the band into what it is in the short time it has existed. In his absence a special word should go to Gwangwa who persevered and directed this development. Also to Steve who worked selflessly to make it possible. Graphics also merit mentioning in as far as they have been able to run the training classes and never failed to respond to the heavy demands of other units on them. The writer's unit has initiated its workshops and we hope they will be able to sustain this effort. The film unit, Itumeleng, ran a ten day video-film festival. We urge other units to learn from these efforts.

Those members of units who are responsible for the equipments of the unit are urged to ensure that they are safe and where possible insured. In the past items have been lost, to name a few, a trumpet which we later learned was actually sold by one of our own members; African drums which have not yet been traced; easels which were built by students of art classes; film rushes from the film unit; theatre unit tracksuits which were taken by members who left the unit, etc. Once the executive raises funds for equipments it would like to know that it can account for it and the executive cannot raise funds for the same item twice without a legitimate reason. Those members responsible for the unit accounts are requested to approach the treasurer to work out accounting systems because in the end the treasurer has to account for the whole of Medu. We therefore urge units to submit names of people responsible for all these areas. Also, the executive has to know names of units so as to start using them in all its immediate documents.

Units are in favour of encouraging relations with other cultural associations and institutions. In addition there are community organisations and commercial organisations that may develop relations with us. Guided by policy, the executive should encourage or discourage such relations.

Regarding our problem of work space, there has not yet been any response to our funding proposal from both SIDA and NOVIB. As an interim measure, the executive has submitted a request to CUSO for assistance to rent a small house. The house will be primarily for music and theatre rehearsals, office and graphic printing. The combi, BZ 233, is to be shared by music and theatre and is the responsibility of Steve. The other combi is to remain the responsibility of the executive and is available for use by other units on request.

The executive has submitted a proposal for funding a textile unit within Medu, headed by Lulu.

Ellen Forrester, a CUSO cooperant, is working with Medu as an assistant secretary and graphics unit member. Medu needed an assistant secretary but had no funds to pay for the position. As a CUSO cooperant in Botswana, Ellen receives a living allowance from CUSO; therefore Medu does not incur costs. She is responsible to the executive and submits reports of her work.

(end of executive report)

2) Names for the Units:

A member of the music unit stated that the name Shakawe gives the music unit an identity that allows them to compete with other groups. The member stated that as we need to connect to Medu as a whole, we also need identity at the unit level. It is important to develop skills at the unit level.

Another member stated that people don't understand the sections of Medu. If people know the unit by a particular name it is easier to be drawn in when the unit is not seen as part of massive group. It is also a matter of catching people's attention with an imaginative name.

A member expressed concern that giving units names was an admission of failure, the action being a denial of Medu and the name "Medu". In response a member stated that Medu is making changes not only by changing unit names but also changing the structure, allowing unit to get on with their work. There was concern expressed by one member that the units will not be seen

by the public to be part of Medu. In response a member stated that the revised structure would prevent this from happening.

3) Coordination of editorial and executive committees

The executive is the policymaking body. If units have any questions about the nature of their work and its adherence to Medu policy, these questions should be taken to the executive. The chairman stated that the executive has asked for legal advice on making money within a charitable organization. When the matter is clarified the chairman will get back to the units.

The executive will consider organizing for treasurers of the units a brief training session in accounts, etc.

4) Medu relations with other bodies (as per executive report)

5) Elections

The Executive: Chairman: Tim Williams
Secretary: Neo Silwane
Treasurer: Mike Hamlen

Shakawe: Unit Head: Rampholo Molefhe
Treasurer: Tsholofelo Giddie
Equipment Manager: _____ (to be elected)

Theatre: Unit Head: Makie Mapogo
Treasurer: Makie Mapogo
Equipment Manager: Makie Mapogo
Secretary: Phadi Masisi
(to be confirmed)

Graphics: Unit Head: Judy Seidman
Treasurer: Ellen Forrester
Equipment Manager: Judy Seidman

Itumeleng Films: Unit Head: Charles
Treasurer: _____ (to be elected)
Equipment Manager: _____ (to be elected)

Photography: Unit Head: Rie (to be confirmed)
Treasurer: Kim
Equipment: Tim Williams

Creative Writing: Unit Head: Wally Serote
Treasurer: Patrick Fitzgerald
Equipment Manager: Judy Seidman

Previous and newly elected people are to get together to review responsibilities of positions.

Lulu is asked to check placement of Medu's number on the BHC housing waiting list.

Meeting Adjourned

Collection Name: MEDU ON-LINE

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

Location: Johannesburg

©2022

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice:

All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use:

Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of the Historical Papers Research Archive, at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of the MEDU Art Ensemble Consolidation Project, Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.