

**LAGB Annual General Meeting  
University of Essex, 11 September 2008, 4.30 p.m.**

**Minutes**

1. Apologies for absence: Hans van de Koot, Patrick Honeybone

2. President's report

The President reported on the AHRC meeting in Manchester and expressed concern with the new requirement that research projects should stress 'knowledge transfer'. She also reported on a workshop on individual research; there was a concern that the drive towards interdisciplinarity and collaboration puts some projects at a disadvantage. The need for better transparency of the decisions in awarding grants was also discussed. The President will write a letter to AHRC on behalf of the Association expressing concerns about these two issues. Honorary Secretary expressed hope that the meeting of the Association with the Director of Research at the AHRC Professor Shearer West on 12 September should clarify some of the concerns.

The President also reported that there had not been much progress on ERIH (European Research Index in the Humanities) since she agreed to take part (in April 2008 the President was selected to be the British representative on that committee). The ranking of journals by the European Science Foundation is problematic mainly due to the implications of quality judgement and the composition of the committee. The list of ranking is now finalised but there had been no prior consultation on the membership of the committee who arrived at the ranking and the decisions made are widely criticised (see also A-HUG below). Revised membership of expert panels is still under discussion.

Next, the President and the Honorary Secretary reported that A-HUG (The Arts and Humanities user Group), the organization formerly known as the Rapid Response Group, have asked the Association to sign up to three letters: one concerning the ERIH (European Research Index in the Humanities), expressing strong concerns about the qualitative judgements implied by the ranking categories; one on THES league tables, expressing concern with the selection of reviewers; and one requesting that HEFCE produce a report on academic governance. The letters were discussed at the Committee meeting and distributed at the AGM. It was agreed that the Association will only support the letter concerning ERIH.

3. Reports of other Committee members

3.1. Treasurer's report

The President presented the Treasurer's report (below) and the accounts for 2007:

- [Accounts 2007 – balance sheet](#)
- [Accounts 2007 – expenditure](#)

Treasurer's report

The accounts show that in 2007 the association made a loss of £2,363.36.

This loss will be offset by a substantial profit made by the KCL meeting (£4269), which will appear in the accounts for 2008.

There is furthermore an outstanding liability of an estimated £3000 relating to the 2006 conference.

Overall, expenditure is outstripping income and the association's finances are presently too reliant on conference income.

A review of membership fees shows that over time the association has not consistently passed on price increases in JL to its members. As a result, it is presently subsidising each waged member with JL by £4 and each student member with JL by £5.50.

The current cost of the journal is £ 24 for waged members and £ 12 for unwaged members. The treasurer therefore proposes to adjust membership fees as follows, with effect from 2009:

	2008 membership	2009 membership
Waged	20	20
Waged with JL	40	44
Unwaged	10	10
Unwaged with JL	16.50	22

Hans van de Koot – 8 September 2008

The proposal for the increase of membership fees was approved. The President reported that the loss made by the Newcastle meeting (2006) was a concern but since the number of received abstracts is not falling, the loss is likely to be a one-off rather than a marker of dropping attendance.

### 3.2. Honorary Secretary's report

Honorary Secretary reported that he is representing the Association on the Linguistics Strategy Group (LSG). He reported a recent discussion on the claim that students of linguistics are less likely to obtain first-class degrees. After an investigation it turned out that the comment is unfounded and even that the situation is the reverse. He also reported on a discussion on encouraging linguistics at schools and on the Group's critical response to ERIH – see point 2. LSG is considering reorganizing itself as the University Council of Linguistics, which will be confirmed next year.

### 3.3. Membership Secretary's report

Membership Secretary reported that the Association has currently 526 members, which represents a decline from 2007 (560) and 2006 (572). 348 members subscribe to the Journal of Linguistics; 106 members are in arrears; there are 8 honorary members and 121 student members. 65 new members joined in 2007 and 66 new members in 2008. The new system of payment by credit card is working well. He reported that there is a need to encourage new student members.

The proposal to increase the surcharge for attendance by non-members to £20 was discussed. It was believed that raising it to the amount equalling the membership fee should create an incentive for non-member participants to join the Association. It was also suggested that joining during the meeting should be at a reduced rate as a one-off concession. Making presentation at the Association meeting conditional on membership

or submission to the journal was discussed but was not favourably received. It was agreed that there should be a surcharge, a discounted rate for joining during the meeting, and that CUP should be approached for contribution to the cost of the journal.

Membership Secretary also invited nominations for honorary members.

#### 3.4. Assistant Secretary's report

Assistant Secretary reminded student members to apply for student conference grant (formerly known as 'student bursary'), pointing out that in the past years all applicants whose abstracts had been accepted had also been successful in obtaining funding and that the bursary was also open to students who were not presenting papers.

#### 3.5. Meetings Secretary's report

In the absence of the Meetings Secretary, the President reported that the preparations for the Edinburgh (anniversary) meeting were progressing well. There will be no invited speakers in the standard sense but instead there will be three talks, John Harris, Ronnie Cann and Caroline Heycock, on the past 50 years of various sub-disciplines of linguistics in the UK. Nigel Vincent will speak about the history of linguistics in the UK and Dick Hudson on the history of LAGB. It was decided that there would not be traditional 'canteen dinners' but instead participants will be encouraged to explore Edinburgh restaurants. There will be no after-dinner sessions. Venue for the 2010 meeting was confirmed (University of Leeds) and invitation for offering a venue for 2011 was issued (with University of Manchester tentatively proposed).

#### 3.6. Student Committee report (Chair to report)

Chair of the Student Committee reported on the establishment of the committee and on their first meeting (see [Minutes from the Student Committee Meeting 2008](#)). There will be a website linked to the Association website and a mailing list. Minutes from the meetings will be available on the website. She reported on the Committee's proposal that the Association should be funding one conference per region, with two regions identified (north and south). The proposals discussed included a poster session at the LAGB conference, student conference grants, a mailing list for student members, and an LAGB summer school in linguistics. [Revised terms of reference](#) of the Committee have been approved. The President thanked the committee for their work.

#### 4. Appointment of the President

Honorary Secretary informed the meeting that the President's term in office is coming to an end. The President was willing to stand for a re-election and there were no other nominations, so Professor Kersti Börjars was re-elected President for the second term. The meeting expressed their approval.

#### 5. Education Committee / CLIE report

Paul Rowlett reported on the CLIE and Subject Centre meetings. He reported that Dick Hudson compiled a list of topics for the English Language A-level and reminded the meeting that Ros Mitchell and Teresa Birks would be talking about linguistics in the new Diploma in Languages in the session of the LAGB's Education Committee the following day. He reported that the Committee had organized two successful events: on teaching psycholinguistics and on creative methods of assessment and feedback. Paul Rowlett informed the meeting that he is stepping down next year and invited volunteers to succeed him.

6. Progress report on preparations for the Anniversary Meeting (2009, Edinburgh)  
Discussed under point 3.5

7. Venues outside universities

The President reported on the Committee's recommendation that there would not be a move away from universities as venues but if the organizer wishes to use an external venue, this will now be accepted.

8. Venues for the 2010 and 2011 meetings

Discussed under point 3.5

9. Future guest speakers (President to report)

Nominations were invited for guest speakers for the 2010 meeting. The following were proposed from the floor, with the number of votes in brackets: G. Cinque (2), J. L. Bybee (3), S. Levinson (9), I. Sag (4), J. Bresnan (1), L. Campbell (5). Stephen Levinson will be invited to deliver the Henry Sweet lecture and Lyle Campbell the Association lecture, with Ivan Sag as a reserve speaker for either event. Kasia Jaszczolt is to organize a workshop accompanying Levinson's lecture.

10. Future language tutorials and workshops (President to report)

Bill Palmer offered a tutorial on the Kokota language for the 2010 meeting. It is an Oceanic language within the Austronesian family, spoken in the Solomon Islands. The meeting approved the suggestion.

11. Approval of the amendments to the LAGB constitution

The amended version of the constitution was circulated with the First Circular and was approved without discussion.

12. Membership fees (discussion of Treasurer's report)

Discussed and approved under point 3.1.

13. LAGB archive (President to report)

The President reported that Professor Dick Hudson currently has in possession the paper archive of the Association and is looking for a home for them. She offered to keep the archive until 2025 but the option of the OUP archives will also be explored.

The possibility of digitizing the archive was discussed.

14. AOB

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 6.05 p. m.

Kasia Jaszczolt

Assistant Secretary, LAGB

19 September 2008