

LAGB Annual General Meeting
14 September 2018
University of Sheffield
Chair: Prof. David Adger (President)

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Available online (<http://www.lagb.org.uk/agm-minutes>).
- The minutes were approved without changes.

3. Matters arising

- All covered in relevant committee reports below.

4. Reports from committee

4.1. President's report (Prof. David Adger)

- REF
 - SH and DA have been involved in discussion related to the REF and the REF consultation.
 - The committee is concerned that there are not enough linguists currently on the relevant panels.
 - DA has discussed this with Charles Forsdick.
 - Universities will have the opportunity to provide information in advance about which outputs will be submitted, and the panels will select more panel members to ensure that they have the appropriate expertise.
 - After these discussions, DA is more confident that there will be enough linguistics expertise on the main panel for modern languages and linguistics.
 - DA has also raised the concern that there might not be sufficient linguistics expertise on each of the other panels to which linguistics work will be submitted. Charles Forsdick has assured us that this should not be a problem.
 - The REF consultation is currently ongoing.
 - DA will be submitting a response to the consultation on behalf of the LAGB.
 - **ACTION**: DA to respond to REF consultation.
- LAGB prizes
 - Our new UG prizes, the ULAB best presentation prize and the Outstanding Undergraduate Dissertation in Linguistics prize, are both working well. Each was awarded for the second time this year (winners reported below).
 - The Siewierska prize has worked less well this year.
 - Reviewers have not been forthcoming with their reviews in a timely manner, which has resulted in a lot of work.

- DA has spoken to the *Journal of Linguistics* about taking over the prize. It would become a yearly prize given to the best ECR paper in *JL* that year as decided by the journal. *JL* seemed keen to consider this option.
 - It was agreed to pursue this option further.
 - **ACTION:** DA to pursue handing over the Siewierska prize to *JL*.
- Speakers for QMUL 2019 meeting
 - There was some debate about who to invite as speakers next year.
 - We previously agreed to give the local organisers more say in invited speakers and workshops for the annual meeting.
 - This year, there were four leaders in the membership vote. Sandy Chung won the vote, with Martina Wiltschko narrowly edging out Chris Potts for second.
 - QMUL prefers Potts to Wiltschko because Wiltschko is already going to be giving an upcoming talk at QMUL, so it was decided to invite Chung (the winner of the ballot) and Potts (in line with the local organisers' wishes).
 - More generally, the committee would like to make a clearer and more transparent process for choosing invited speakers.
 - The committee proposes that the membership vote be a consultative ballot, with the local organisers having a strong say in choosing between the top four candidates in the ballot.
 - The committee will still ensure that EDI and sub-field balance are taken into account.
 - After a decision is made, the committee will send out an email to the membership reporting the result of the ballot (top vote receivers) and the general process for choosing the speakers.
 - This process was approved by the AGM.
- LAGB public lecture
 - No new progress on this.
- Report on Linguistics in the UK
 - No new progress on this.
- Open Access
 - DA plans to write to the EU about their new idea that any EU funded project must be gold-level open access.
 - Otherwise, no new progress on this, but OA will be prioritised.

4.2. *Honorary Secretary's report (Dr Sam Hellmuth)*

- SH has attended a meeting of the AHA
 - Areas of discussion included GDPR and data concerns, as well as monographs in the REF (triple weighting vs. double weighting, whether they will be required to be OA in the next REF).
- SH also attended meetings of UCGAL and the ESRC.
- SH submitted to the ESRC skill consultation on behalf of the LAGB.
- SH did the work to ensure that LAGB is GDPR compliant.

4.3. Membership Secretary's report (Dr Laura Bailey)

- The overall number of members is stable.
 - 512 active members.
 - 269 are waged.
 - The rest are unwaged, UG, or life members.
 - About 1/3 take *JL*.
 - We have a greater number of UG members now, primarily because all ULAB attendees now get a free year of LAGB membership.
- The price for one membership option is changing: unwaged members who take a *JL* subscription.
 - Currently, the LAGB is subsidising the cost of *JL* for these members.
 - The committee has decided to increase the price of the membership so that these members pay the full cost of the *JL* subscription (the membership fees themselves will still be at reduced cost).
 - **ACTION:** LB will write to affected members about the increase for unwaged membership w/ *JL* subscription.
- Due to the timing of the OUDiL award and membership renewal, OUDiL winners will receive either 7 months or 19 months of free membership. The committee decided to go with 19 months.
- Dick Hudson asks why membership numbers are remaining stable rather than increasing, given that the number of linguists in the UK seems to be increasing.
 - DA: We have tried several initiatives to increase membership, and we will continue to do so. GDPR makes it more difficult now to send all contacts/previous members with “consider joining the LAGB” emails.
 - LB: We have now laid out much more clearly on the webpage the benefits of membership.
 - BW: We would like to bring other sub-areas (e.g. stylistics) back into the fold in order to broaden the base. Having invited speakers, workshops, and special sessions in these areas (like this year) will hopefully help with this.

4.4. Treasurer's report (Dr Chris Cummins, in absentia)

- Our financial position is fairly stable.
 - Our reserve fund stands at just over £20,000.
 - Year-on-year, we are at a net loss, but this is due to a late bill coming in this financial year from the York meeting.
 - We have increased our expenses slightly, primarily due to bursaries and prizes.
- We continue to have year-to-year vacillations due to the 3-year memberships.
- The annual meeting continues to be the largest source of the year-to-year variation.

4.5. Meetings Secretary's report (Dr Michelle Sheehan, in absentia)

- Two issues were raised about fees for this year's meeting.
 - The final day was a half-day, yet the fee was the same as for other (full) days.
 - There was no discount for registering for the full conference.

- It was agreed that both issues should be addressed in choosing the fees for next year's meeting.
- Abstract reviewing when smoothly this year, so we are putting off the idea of the peer review college for the time being.

4.6. Assistant Secretary's report (Dr Jamie White)

- JW oversaw the OUDiL prize, which was given out for the second year.
 - The winners were:
 - Sana Kidwai (UCL)
 - Eloisa Lillywhite (Kent)
 - Tamisha Tan (Cambridge)
 - We would like to have more nominations next year. The committee will work on finding a better way to publicise the prize, and will also consider whether the timing of the deadline could be modified to improve the likelihood of receiving more nominations.

4.7. External Relations Officer's report (Dr. Rebecca Woods)

- The committee is looking into changing the platform for the website/content management system (currently Wild Apricot).
 - **ACTION:** BW will explore alternatives for website/content/membership management systems.
- We are still looking for experts for the "contact and expert" page.

4.8. Student Committee's report (E Jamieson)

- The SC funded 5 conferences this year.
- The SC has continued working with ULAB to organise their yearly conference.
- The SC once again organised the summer school at this year's meeting.
- All members of the SC are turning over this year.
 - PG students are encouraged to apply.
 - The SC is going to aim to stagger the turn over somewhat to avoid a full simultaneous turnover.
 - E has agreed to stay on as SC rep until a new one is in place.

5. Report from Education Committee

- Dick Hudson gave a report about the new LASER initiative, which would be part of the CLIE (<http://clie.org.uk/>).
 - LASER aims to fund specific targeted school projects related to language analysis, languages, and linguistics.
 - They would like to have LAGB's official support for LASER, and potentially more funding to fund specific projects (on an ad hoc basis, not an ongoing commitment).
- BW: Who are the people behind LASER?

- DH: Primarily, it is the same people who are behind UKLO, but they would like to have official status for LASER.
- DA: The committee would like to see the structure of LASER and a constitution, but it seems like a good idea.
- SH: Why can these things not be done under the existing UKLO structure?
 - DH: A different structure is needed. The UKLO is an ongoing, repeated event with a specific purposes (the Linguistics Olympiad), whereas LASER would be for one-off projects.
- BW: It would be good to clarify explicitly what the goals, operations, and structures are for both UKLO and LASER.
- It was agreed to support give the LAGB's official support to LASER, subject to the development of an explicit constitution for LASER. (One will ideally be developed for UKLO as well.) The funding level will remain the same for the time being (to be split between UKLO and LASER).
 - **ACTION**: BW will send a new LAGB logo to be added to the LASER website.

7. Changes in the committee

7.1. Honorary Secretary

- Sam Hellmuth is stepping down.
 - The committee would like to thank Sam for her service!
- An email was sent out to the membership asking for nominations.
 - One nomination was received.
 - The next Honorary Secretary will be Michelle Sheehan (Anglia Ruskin).

7.2. Meetings Secretary

- Michelle Sheehan is stepping down.
 - The committee would like to thank Michelle for her service!
- An email was sent out to the membership asking for nominations.
 - One nomination was received.
 - The next Meetings Secretary will be Robyn Orfitelli (Sheffield).

7.3. Future committee changes

- A large amount of turnover occurred in 2015. To avoid a large amount of turnover in a single year, the committee is going to stagger turnover in the coming years, aiming to have a couple of members stepping down each year.

8. Conference speakers and nominations

- DA will contact the two invited speakers for the QMUL meeting.
 - **ACTION**: DA to contact invited speakers for QMUL meeting.
- Robyn Orfitelli will email Ulster to get an initial set of nominations for 2020.
 - **ACTION**: RO to contact Ulster to get an initial set of nominations for the 2020 meeting.

- DA will contact membership for other nominations.
 - **ACTION**: DA to contact membership for nominations for 2020 Ulster meeting.

9. Future venues for LAGB meeting

- 2019: QMUL (dates TBA)
- 2020: Ulster
- 2021: interest expressed by Reading (also suggested were Southampton and Edinburgh)

10. AOBs

- We awarded prizes for the best poster presentation in each of the two (inaugural) poster sessions this year.
 - The winners were:
 - Brianna Wilson (York)
 - Tam Blaxter (Oxford), Deepthi Gopal (Oxford), Adrian Leemann (Lancaster), and David Willis (Oxford)
 - The winners will be recognised on the website in the prizes section.
 - **ACTION**: BW to make new prize page for the poster award and add the winners.
- We would also like to include the winning dissertations for OUDiL on the webpage, subject to the students' approval.
 - **ACTION**: JW to email the previous winners of OUDiL to ask if we can post a copy of their dissertations.

Jamie White, Assistant Secretary
(End of minutes)