

LAGB Annual General Meeting
9 September 2016
University of York
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 matters arising were discussed under other items of business below.

4. New matters

4.1. Links with Wikimedia

- We have begun to make more formal links with Wikimedia, similar to the LSA (see <http://www.linguisticsociety.org/resource/lsa-partnership-wiki-education-foundation>).
- It was agreed to pursue these links further.

4.2. Linguistics in UK universities

- The LSA completes an annual report looking at the status of linguistics across the USA (see https://www.dropbox.com/s/ol5xbl4behymjtq/Annual_Report_2015_final.pdf?dl=0).
- Given our upcoming challenges in the UK (REF, TEF, etc.), the committee would like to explore commissioning a report on linguistics in the UK.
- It was agreed that the committee would investigate the idea further, specifically looking into the cost and feasibility of such a report.

4.3. The LAGB Public Lecture

- The committee would like to run a public lecture in linguistics as part of our goal to increase the visibility of linguistics in the larger community.
- The proposal is to have an annual lecture targeted at a general audience. The lecture would also be recorded and made available to the public, e.g. on LAGB's Youtube account (and publicised through social media and other formats). The annual videos would then serve as a resource for education and publicity.
- It was agreed to pursue this idea, and the membership were particularly supportive of this goal.
- The membership were asked to offer input on speakers and other ideas.
 - Simon Kirby (Edinburgh) and Ian Roberts (Cambridge) were proposed as possible speakers.
 - Other ideas raised: (a) a publication in a magazine format with brief, catchy blurbs about linguistics, and (b) sample videos of university lectures/tutorials in linguistics for prospective UG students who may be interested in studying linguistics.

- The committee will develop a more specific proposal as we pursue this idea further. We need to ensure that the plan is achievable and sustainable given our limits on our resources (time and finances).

4.4. Brexit response

- We plan to liaise with other organisations (e.g. BritAc, RoySoc, UCML, AHA) to come up with a joint response.
 - It was agreed that this was a good plan.

4.5. Open Access (OA) and the Journal of Linguistics (JL)

- Brian Stone, representing Cambridge University Press (CUP), gave a report.
 - JL is a hybrid journal. This means that they offer general green OA, but they also offer the option for authors to pay article processing costs (APCs) to make an article open access with a creative commons license.
 - CUP is exploring other possibilities for OA.
 - Linguistics is seen as a good area to be made a priority for open access at CUP because there is a large interest in OA within the community.
 - CUP is interested in feedback from the linguistics community on OA.
- Questions raised by the membership:
 - Q: How much are APCs currently?
 - A: £1780 for articles, £6500 for books. CUP are always reworking the APCs and looking into other models (discounts for societies, etc.).
 - Q: Is it the case that JL (for instance) is subsidised by being included in packages with more profitable journals for purchase by institutions?
 - A: Yes, to some extent, but institutions still pay for it.
- David Adger raised the following questions to the membership as President.
 - Is it worth thinking about turning JL into an online only journal to reduce APCs?
 - Should we be pressuring the CUP when it comes to OA and APCs?
 - It was agreed that we should do so.
- George Walkden: Is it possible to provide free access to the Version of Record after an embargo period (similar to what *Language* does)? Currently, JL's green OA never allows access to the Version of Record.
 - Brian from CUP: *Language* is heavily subsidized by the LSA. JL's green access is quite progressive in the field because there is no embargo period.
- David Adger: We should remember that JL is a CUP-owned journal that the LAGB chooses to endorse with its name. We do not own JL and do not have the rights to it (unlike the LSA and *Language*); thus we have limited control over its operation.

5. Reports from committee

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

- DA pointed out that we should consider the diversity of content at this meeting – we have been aiming to improve this and it has indeed improved.
 - Ideas for further improvement are welcome.
- Members should take note of the new policy for conference support (available at <http://www.lagb.org.uk/conference-sponsorship-form>):

“The LAGB disburses a maximum grant of £300 to help support linguistics conferences/workshops run in the UK by LAGB members (there is a separate process for student conferences). The committee will consider two main aspects of eligible applications for funding: (i) the intellectual content of the conference; (ii) the specific use of the LAGB money. We are interested in funding aspects of conferences that enhance the career prospects of postgraduate student or Early Careers Researchers, as well as initiatives that improve the diversity of conferences (sign language interpreters, balancing issues of gender, ethnicity, minority languages etc in the roster of invited speakers, etc.).

It is a condition of funding that the LAGB support is acknowledged and that the LAGB logo appears on the conference website.”

5.2. *Honorary Secretary’s report (Dr. Sam Hellmuth)*

- SH noted that many of the same issues we had been discussing were coming up in other societies (e.g. UCGAL).
- SH attended an ESRC event, in which there was discussion of having a media presence. We should think about improving the LAGB’s media presence.
 - When important events in the future warrant a response, it would help to already have the media presence to quickly put out an effective response.
- Several additional points related to media arose from the ensuing discussion:
 - We should look into having media training for linguistics at a future LAGB meeting.
 - The committee would like to increase the LAGB’s presence as a source for media/journalists to contact for information about language/linguistics. We can then put them in touch with an appropriate expert.
 - George Walkden has recently set up a page on the website directing media to contact us if they have enquiries. It would be helpful if individual members could direct media to this page when they are contacted with media enquiries outside of their own expertise.
 - The new External Relations Officer (Rebecca Woods) will be assigned to work on developing a strategy on how to improve our media presence.

5.3. *Membership Secretary’s report (Dr. Laura Bailey)*

- Last year, we had 498 active members, which dropped to 469 active members this year (~6% decrease).
- Approximately 140 of the current active members are unwaged (mostly students).
- We would appreciate it if members would encourage their colleagues and students to support the LAGB by joining.

5.4. *Treasurer’s report (Dr. Chris Cummins)*

- Assets at the end of 2015 stood at £28,128.28.
 - This represents a change of –£2,660.60 from the previous year.
 - Income totaled £23,731.78 (not including *JL* subscriptions, which go to CUP).
 - Expenses totaled £26,392.38 (breakdown: 54% conference-related expenses; 25% other activities, e.g. bursaries, conference support; and 21% overhead costs; a more detailed breakdown was provided at the meeting).

- This does not include room fees for the 2015 conference, which were settled in 2016.
- The accounts for 2015 have been approved by an external audit.
- CC reported that no urgent changes are needed.
 - Membership fees are still inconsistent from year to year due to the introduction of the 3-year membership option.
 - Income from membership fees appears to be higher in 2016 than in 2015.
 - We may need to revisit other activities depending on the conference costs over the next few years.

5.5. *Meetings Secretary's report (Dr. Michelle Sheehan)*

- First, we would like to sincerely thank our reviewers.
- This year's meeting had 145 submitted abstracts, and we accepted approximately 45% of them.
 - Abstracts underwent a rigorous selection process. Most were accepted or rejected based solely on the values assigned to them through the peer review process. Abstracts on the borderline were further examined by the committee so that a selection could be made.
- The standard fee for waged members at this year's conference was £50.
 - This includes catering, stationary, and 1/85 of all other costs.
- This year we also introduced a student unwaged conference fee.
 - These attendees paid only for direct costs of having them at the conference (e.g. catering and stationary).
 - We gave out several student bursaries this year.
 - These include conference fees and a small stipend to put towards travel expenses.
 - This year, all of the bursaries went to students who were giving talks.
 - Members were asked to encourage students to apply for a bursary; we aim to help as many students as we can to attend the conference.
- Based on feedback from reviewers, the committee proposes to change submitted abstracts to two pages instead of one page.
 - It was agreed to make this change.
- The membership was reminded that we accept submissions for themed sessions (this year we received only two); guidelines for this are posted on the webpage.
- The committee believes that the conference may work better with only one organised workshop each year instead of two.
 - These workshops each cost the LAGB a lot of money.
 - They also make the conference schedule more complicated. This year, we had only one workshop (due to the second being cancelled), and the schedule seemed smoother.
 - It was agreed that the committee will look into this possibility further and make a proposal for how to choose who will be involved in organising the workshop (if the single workshop model is adopted).
- We would like to congratulate the winner of this year's best student abstract award: Luigi Andriani (Cambridge) for his paper titled 'A parameter-hierarchy approach to Perfective Auxiliary Selection in Barese'.

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

- Nothing to report.

5.7. External Relations Officer's report (Dr. George Walkden)

- GW noted that a "Where can I study linguistics?" map feature is now available on the webpage: <http://www.lagb.org.uk/where>
- GW also noted that the LAGB has a twitter account: @lagbling
 - Members are encouraged to follow and retweet to support our goals of achieving an increased presence on social media presence.

5.8. Student Committee's report (Dr. Rebecca Woods)

- The Student Committee (SC) funded 7 student conferences over the past year, including 2 UG conferences.
- The SC would like to thank everyone who attended the summer school and helped to make it a success.
- The general idea with the summer school is to have 3 master classes and one practical tutorial.
 - The SC is open to suggestions for sessions in the future.
- The summer school is not only open to students; anyone is welcome to attend.
- The SC is pleased that with the new unwaged student fee option for the conference, which makes attending the conference more feasible for students.
- RW is stepping down as chair (and member) of the SC. The new chair will be Patrick Elliott (UCL).
 - We would like to thank Becky for her service!
- Laura Aldridge (UCL), Georg Hoehn (Cambridge), and Luke Rudge (UWE), are also stepping down from the SC.
 - We would like to thank them for their service!
- New members of the SC are Julio Chenchen Song (Cambridge) and James Baker (Cambridge).
- Two open positions on the SC are still to be filled; a call will go out in the coming weeks.
 - Student members are strongly encouraged to apply!

6. Report from Education Committee

- The EC has written a report, available online: <http://lagb-education.org/annual-reports>
- Dick Hudson gave a report on the history and operation of the UK Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO):
 - The UKLO is funded in part by the LAGB.
 - Today there are nearly 3,000 school children and about 500 teachers taking part.
 - We have had success internationally, winning many medals.
 - DH also outlined concerns:
 - Most of the 500 teachers do not enter any competitions.
 - Non-participation amongst state schools is especially a concern.
 - Potential solutions:
 - More involvement with these teachers to encourage them to participate and support them in doing so.

- The UKLO would like to produce a good database of classroom materials for use in teaching linguistics in schools.
- The EC requests an increase in funding to the UKLO from LAGB of £500, from the current level of £1500 to £2000.
- The committee agreed to discuss the funding arrangements for the UKLO at its next meeting.
 - We are in agreement that the non-participation of state schools is a problem that deserves attention.

7. Anna Siewierska prize

- The winning essay for 2015 was written by Henri Kauhanen (Manchester).
- Additional commendations went to Naruadol Chancharu (Cambridge) and James Reid (Edinburgh).
- Congratulations to the authors!
- The next competition will be in 2017.

8. Changes in the committee

8.1. External Relations Officer

- Dr. George Walkden is stepping down.
- We had two candidates for the office: Dr. Mercedes Durham (Cardiff) and Dr. Rebecca Woods (Huddersfield).
- In accordance with the LAGB constitution, there was a vote by secret ballot, with the following results:
 - Dr. Mercedes Durham: 7 votes
 - Dr. Rebecca Woods: 28 votes
 - No preference indicated: 4 votes
- Dr. Rebecca Woods was thus approved as the new External Relationship Officer.
- We would like to thank George for his service!

9. Conference speakers and nominations

- Speakers for the 2017 annual meeting in Kent have been decided: Lisa Matthewson (UBC) and Charles Yang (UPenn) have agreed.
- The following people were nominated as potential invited speakers for the 2018 annual meeting in Sheffield:
 - Seth Cable (UMass, Amherst)
 - Jessica Coon (McGill)
 - Amy Rose Deal (UC Berkeley)
 - Liliane Haegeman (Gent)
 - Heidi Harley (Arizona)
 - Jeffrey Lidz (Maryland)
 - Diane Lillo-Martin (UConn)
 - Masha Polinsky (Maryland)
 - Pilar Prieto (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
 - Anna Szabolcsi (NYU)

- for the language tutorial: Adam Schembri (Birmingham) on Auslan (Australian sign language)
- A vote will be initiated to choose from amongst the nominations.

10. Future venues for LAGB meeting

- Next year: Kent, 4–7 September (note that the dates have been changed to accommodate the invited speakers).
- 2018: Sheffield
- 2019: QMUL (potential language tutorial: Daniel Harbour on Kiowa-Tanoan)
- 2020: Ulster
- 2021: interest expressed by Reading

11. AOBs

- None.

Jamie White, Assistant Secretary
(End of minutes)