

LAGB Annual General Meeting
7 September 2016
University of Kent
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/New actions throughout the year

3.1. Brexit response

- This has been posted on the LAGB website along with the replies that we received.

3.2. REF consultation

- This was drafted by DA and SH, and was discussed further in SH's report below.

3.3. New section of the website to aid the media in finding appropriate linguistics/language experts

- This has been working well so far, but we need more experts. This was discussed further in RW's report below.

3.4. New student prizes

- We founded two new UG student prizes this year.
- Outstanding Undergraduate Dissertation in Linguistics (OUDI)

 - Awarded to three students with the top dissertations/long essays, as decided by the committee.
 - Each university invited to nominate one student.
 - This year we had 10 nominations. We congratulate the 3 winners:
 - Sarah Asinari (QMUL)
 - Charlotte Liu (UCL)
 - Huinan Zeng (Sheffield)
 - The winners receive a £100 cash prize and free LAGB membership for one year.
 - The winners and all nominated students are acknowledged on the website under a new 'Student prizes' section.
 - In future years, we hope to have more nominations. If so, we will look into forming a panel for evaluating these.

- Best student presentation at ULAB
 - Awarded to the best talk at the ULAB conference. This year, the winner was chosen by a vote involving the student attendees.
 - The winner receives an automatic invitation to give the talk at the LAGB meeting, a full bursary to attend the conference, and coaching and presentation advice.
 - We congratulate this year's winner:
 - Kierin Daly (Cambridge)

3.5. *Merit system for student bursaries*

- We switched to a merit system for awarding student bursaries to the LAGB conference this year. Students with the top rated abstracts in the peer review process are offered bursaries.

3.6. *Conference support*

- We implemented a new policy on conference support, which states that the funds should be used to increase the participation of students and Early Career Researchers and/or to increase equality and diversity.

3.7. *LSA links*

- We have worked to enhance our links to the LSA on the issues of developing guidelines for nonsexist language and research impact.

3.8. *UK Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO)*

- The LAGB has increased its annual contribution to £2000, with the understanding that the UKLO would work to increase state school participation.
- In the last year, the UKLO saw large increases in state school participation in the foundation and intermediate levels, and a small increase at the advanced level.
- The UKLO has written a report for the LAGB about this, available at <http://www.uklo.org/reports>.

3.9. *Report on the state of linguistics in the UK*

- This has not progressed.
- DA is still looking for cost effective options.

3.10. *LAGB public lecture*

- This has not progressed, but is still in the plans.

3.11. *Open Access*

- CUP has entered into a relationship with the Dutch funding council, which means that affiliates of Dutch institutions will be able to have their author costs for OA waived.

3.12. *Wikimedia*

- The Wikipedia sessions were not well attended this year at the meeting.
- The committee will consider whether this is something we want to maintain, and if so, how we can encourage participation.

4. **Reports from committee**

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

- All covered in the above items.

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

- SH has attended meetings of the British Academy (regarding the REF), the AHA, and UCML (regarding Brexit), as well as the English Shared Futures conference.
- The LAGB submitted a response to the REF consultation (drafted by SH and DA with committee input).
 - The REF guidelines stemming from this consultation have just been reported.
 - There will be a second mini-consultation on a couple of very minor points. SH will once again draft the response.

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

- The overall number of members is stable.
 - 510 active members, which is slightly higher than last year but with a greater share of students.
 - There are now 114 UG members.
 - This increase in UG student share is most likely due to the new policy to give out free one-year memberships to OUDiL winners and ULAB attendees.
- We would appreciate it if members would continue to encourage their colleagues and students to support the LAGB by joining.
- The committee is also considering contacting previous members to encourage them to renew.
- The membership renewal date will change from 1 January to 1 March, with the hope that this will be a more convenient time for members to complete their renewals.
 - For current members, this will amount to receiving two months for free before the next renewal.

4.4. *Treasurer's report (Dr Chris Cummins)*

- CC reported that our overall financial situation is relatively unchanged.
 - We have increased expenses slightly with new initiatives this year (e.g. new UG prizes), but our overall assets have remained stable.
- Total assets at the end of 2016 were £38,599.68.
 - This represents a change of +£10,471.40 from the previous year, but this is mainly due to the fact that most of the 2016 conference expenses (£10,675.90) were not settled until 2017. Thus, the overall position is relatively unchanged.
 - Income totaled £23,877.86 (not including *JL* subscriptions, which go to CUP).
 - Expenses totaled £12,527.37, but again this figure does not include most of the 2016 conference expenses (a detailed breakdown was provided at the meeting).

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

- This year's meeting had 126 submitted abstracts (somewhat lower than the previous year), and we accepted 66 of them (52% acceptance, slightly above the previous year).
- There was a small problem in the reviewing process due to EasyChair not actually contacting reviewers. This slightly delayed some aspects of conference planning, but will hopefully not be a problem next year.
- This year, we switched to a 2-page abstract based on reviewer feedback.
 - There were a small number of 1-page abstracts submitted.
 - The notice to submit a 2-page abstract will be made more prominent next year.

- There was a tendency for the ratings assigned to abstracts by reviewers to be constricted on the scale.
 - Reviewers are encouraged to use the full range of the scale, so that the distinction between abstracts is clearer.
 - It was agreed to draft a more detailed set of instructions for reviewers next year.
- We also switched to having only one organised workshop this year (plus an outreach session).
 - It was agreed to continue this for next year.
 - A session on primary school and A-level teaching materials was proposed for next year's outreach session in Sheffield.
 - It was agreed to liaise with the Education Committee to explore this possibility.
- We tried to keep the cost of the conference down as much as possible. This was discussed further below.
- MS proposed to do away with the abstract booklet for next year because it is tedious to put together and not particularly friendly for readers.
 - Instead, each abstract will be linked directly from the programme online.
 - It was agreed that this change was a good idea.
- We had 43 student bursary applications this year, a large increase from the previous year (likely due to efforts to make it easier for students to apply).
 - 21 of the student papers were accepted.
 - 5 bursaries were given out to the top scoring student abstracts, in addition to the best student abstract winner and the best ULAB talk winner.
 - We did not require that students must be members in order to apply for a bursary. This will be changed for next year.

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

- JW conducted the new OUDiL prize, discussed above.

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

- Several new items have been added to the LAGB website.
 - A new student prize section, with information about the winners of the Best ULAB Talk and the OUDiL prize.
 - A new media page, where journalists can go to find experts on specific topics related to linguistics.
 - Even though it is in its early stages, it has already started getting some use by the media.
 - This is still being populated and we welcome suggestions for people to include (as well as self-nominations). These individuals should preferably have previous experience interacting with the media. Interested members should get in touch with RW.
- There has been more activity on social media from LAGB accounts. We continue to work on increasing our social media presence.

4.8. Student Committee's report (Patrick Elliott)

- Nothing to report.

5. Report from Education Committee

- The EC has written a report, available online: <http://lagb-education.org/annual-reports>.

6. Anna Siewierska prize

- The call for the next prize will go out very soon.

7. Changes in the committee

7.1. Student Committee

- Patrick Elliott is stepping down as chair of the SC. Following SC rules, a current member of the SC is to become the next chair.
- The SC has chosen E Jamieson (Edinburgh) to be the next chair. E will also begin attending LAGB meetings as the SC rep on the committee.
- We would like to thank Patrick for his service.

7.1. Education Committee rep

- The committee has agreed to formally bring a member of the Education Committee on as a member of the LAGB committee. We believe this will facilitate communication between the two committees.

8. Conference speakers and nominations

- Speakers for the 2018 annual meeting in Sheffield have been decided: Diane Lillo-Martin (UConn) and Heidi Harley (Arizona) have agreed. Adam Schembri (Birmingham) will give the language tutorial on Auslan (or another sign language).
- The following people were nominated as potential invited speakers for the 2019 annual meeting at QMUL:
 - Caroline Féry (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)
 - Gillian Ramchand (Tromsø)
 - Michael Wagner (McGill)
 - For the language tutorial: Daniel Harbour (QMUL) on Kiowa-Tanoan
- We will continue to accept nominations from members, and a vote will be initiated to choose from amongst the candidates.

9. Future venues for LAGB meeting

- Next year: Sheffield, 11–14 September 2018.
- 2019: QMUL
- 2020: Ulster
- 2021: interest expressed by Reading

10. AOBs

- Conference fees
 - The committee received some feedback that the conference fees were high this year. We could consider possibilities for reducing costs.
 - One issue is that we are increasingly forced by the university to book their catering, which increases costs.

- The committee also decided to keep unwaged/student fees especially low, which has the effect of making standard fees slightly higher.
- The committee will continue to look for ways to keep costs low.
- Reviewing for the conference
 - We experienced some difficulty in receiving all of the reviews this year in a timely fashion.
 - Some of this may be due to the EasyChair problem, but DA proposed the possibility of having a peer-review college.
 - Volunteers would agree to take on a larger number of abstracts and return them in a timely fashion in exchange for receiving recognition as part of the LAGB peer review college.
 - It was agreed to give this approach a try.
 - The committee will send out emails to non-student members asking for interest in being part of the peer-review college.
- DA proposed the possibility of having elected honorary members of the LAGB.
 - It was agreed that the committee would come up with a process for this.
- REF
 - The LAGB will be asked to nominate sub-panel members, and provide support for sub-panel chairs (the latter must complete their own applications).
 - We must show consideration for equality/diversity/inclusion.
 - It was agreed that the committee will ask members to contact the President with suggestions for sub-panel members (and people to support as chairs).

Jamie White, Assistant Secretary
(End of minutes)