**LAGB AGM 8/9/2011 – Manchester University**

**Apologies**

David Willis, Pierre Larrivée (retired), and Oliver Bond

**Minutes**

The minutes from AGM 2010 were accepted without modifications.

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Officers’ reports**

President’s report

* The Association proposed to introduce a biannual competition for the best student paper in Linguistics. This was agreed, along the following lines. Entrants would be PhD students or completed PhD students within one year of the award of the PhD on the submission deadline. The prize is to be known as the Anna Siewierska Prize and will have a value of £500.- The competition will alternate with a similar competition organized by PhilSoc and will have the same deadline (1 November). Submissions will be screened by the LAGB committee and those deemed of sufficient standard will be sent to two reviewers each. Following review, the committee will decide which paper is the winner and will forward this paper to JL for normal submission, with the committee’s endorsement. The first round will take place in 2013 (deadline 1/11/2013).
* In line with what was agreed when the LAGB Student Committee was first formed, an evaluation will take place of the current arrangements. This evaluation will be carried out by Penny Thompson and Hans van de Koot and will be presented at the next AGM.

Treasurer’s report

* The Association made a small loss of £368.- over the membership year 2010. The overall financial situation is healthy, with total assets of around 30k.

Membership secretary

* The membership is stable, with a slight increase on last year of 18. There are currently 558 members in total, of whom 317 receive JL. Of the 558 members, 141 are student members.
* The Association has invested in a new web site, which had gone live just prior to the meeting. The new web site hosts a membership database, member forums and various event-related facilities. There are many advantages to the new site, both for members and for the committee. An email will be sent out shortly to notify the membership.
* It was agreed that the current LAGB mailing list will be abolished and replaced by the forum in the new web site.
* It was agreed that the current LAGB student mailing list should also be abolished and replaced by a student forum on the new web site.

Meetings secretary (in absentio)

* Upcoming meetings in Salford (2012), SOAS (2013) and possibly Oxford (2014).

Assistant secretary (in absentio)

* Nothing to report.
* The President thanked Pierre Larrivée, the outgoing Assistant Secretary, for his services to the Association.

Student representative

* TrangPhan has stepped down and has been replaced by Rachel Hatchard.
* Penny Thompson is stepping down. The President thanked Penny for her work for the student committee and her role in the main committee.
* The new student representative on the committee is Ruba Khamam (University of Leeds). Ruba was welcomed onto the committee.
* The 2011-2012 Student Committee consists of
  + Ruba Khamam (chair)
  + Laura Bailey
  + Hannah Gibson
  + Richard Littauer
  + Rachel Hatchard
* SC Pecha Kucha event had been arranged for 9 September.
* SC fliers to be distributed to linguistics departments via email.
* The current student forum is at [www.lingstudents.co.uk/lagb/index.php](http://www.lingstudents.co.uk/lagb/index.php). But this is to be replaced by a new student forum on the Association’s web site.

**New committee members and election of Assistant Secretary**

Election of Assistant Secretary

* It was agreed that the membership would be asked for nominations via the LAGB forum. The deadline will be the end of October. In putting forward nominations, members should give regard to geographical location (ideally someone from a HEI not currently represented on the committee) and expertise (someone with expertise in phonology would be desirable with a view to abstract selection) [Action: Hans to post a message]

Election of President

* There was a single nomination, Ad Neeleman (UCL), who was therefore elected unopposed.
* Ad thanked the outgoing President for her hard work on the committee.
* Hans also thanked Kersti on behalf of the other committee members for her excellent work.

**Education Committee**

* The EC had submitted a report on its activities, which was previously circulated via the mailing list. The EC invites comments on its report. The President thanked the EC for its continuing efforts.
* A report was also submitted by Dick Hudson about the UK Linguistics Olympiad. UKLO is going from strength to strength and the President expressed the Association’s appreciation. UKLO seeks additional funds to support its activities and welcomes any volunteers to help out with setting and marking of problems. The LAGB will continue to support UKLO.

**Future speakers**

* Salford 2012: Mark Baker and Lisa Cheng are the invited speakers. It was agreed that Domenyk Eades(Salford) would be approached for a Language Tutorial on Gayo.
* SOAS 2013: Philippe Schlenker (Institut Jean-Nicod/NYU) will be invited for the Henry Sweet Lecture and Jonathan Bobaljik (UConn) for the LAGB lecture.

**REF: Consultation on draft panel criteria and working methods**

* A brief presentation on the draft panel criteria and working methods was given by Kersti Börjars.
* The following issues for discussion were identified at the meeting and in response to a consultation of the membership via the LAGB email list:
  + Multiple submissions: It was argued by several members that the LAGB should feed back to HEFCE that it is essential that the Modern Languages and Linguistics panel recognizes the distinct intellectual research questions and methods of Linguistics viz-à-viz Modern Languages. Absence of such recognition poses a threat to the identity of the subject in the media and the intellectual life of the country. LAGB must press the case that Linguistics is a separate subject. The recommendation will include the request that HEFCE makes clear to institutions that it is open to cases of multiple submissions to panel D28, in view of the distinct intellectual tradition of Linguistics.
  + Maternity leave: There was no agreement on how panels should take consideration of maternity. It was however noted that the current alternatives all have the potential for indirect discrimination, e.g. in fields in which women are predominant, and that LAGB should ask the panel to consider these potential effects. Worry was expressed that women need to rely on special circumstances in case their total period of maternity leave(s) is less than 14 months and they want to reduce their submission to three publications.
  + ‘National’/’international’: The appropriateness of the terms ‘national’ and ‘international’ in the description of star-ratings was discussed. It was decided not to give any feedback on this matter.

**AOB**

It was noted that the timing of the Henry Sweet Lecture (7 pm) was not ideal, as it required people to have dinner unusually early. This comment will be taken into account when designing the programme for the next meeting.