

# **LAGB Annual General Meeting**

September 3, 2014

Oxford, Queens College

## **Minutes**

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Minutes from the previous meeting**

The minutes were approved without changes.

### **3. Matters Arising**

none

### **4. President's Report (AN)**

- There was a rise in membership fees. The treasurer (YK) will report on details.
- The conference format also changed, for the first time this time there were two workshops associated with the invited speakers, a summer school, and, more generally, more speakers, owing to shorter slots (from 40 minutes down to 30 minutes) and, at times, four parallel sessions instead of three. These changes seem to have worked well towards the goal of keeping the conference interesting for a wide audience.
- The plenary speakers for 2015, as voted for by the LAGB membership, agreed. These are Larry Hyman and Rachel Nordlinger. The 2015 language tutorial will probably be on Frisian.
- The Anna Siewierska Prize for the best student essay was awarded for the first time this year. The winner was Georg Höhn.
- The new LAGB webmaster, a position the last AGM agreed should be created, is George Walkden.

### **5. Secretaries' Reports**

#### *Treasurer's Report (Yuni Kim):*

- The treasurer provided a breakdown of the finances for 2013. In short summary (for detailed figures, see the slides in the LAGB Dropbox folder):
- The overall picture looks very good. 2013 generated a surplus of almost £10K. This is due to a conservative fiscal approach to that year, and it allows for making up for losses incurred in earlier years. The membership fees in 2013 amounted to about £24K, and they are the sole source of income for the LAGB. The number may be higher than in coming years, though, also due to a larger number of 3-year memberships opted for.

- The main expenses in 2013 were the AGM Workshop on primate grammar, money for student bursaries, of which more were given, money for conferences, education, outreach, and JL (see the slides for details).
- For 2014, new activities were planned incurring an extra cost of about £5K, most of them linked to the annual conference. This year saw the first postgraduate summer school, prefacing the conference, a second workshop linked to the second plenary speaker, and the newly created award for the best student abstract, which, incidentally, was also the highest overall ranked abstract.
- The treasurer invites the LAGB membership to develop ideas on how the new funds could be spent, given that there will probably be about £4K available additionally per year.

*Honorary Secretary (Sam Hellmuth):*

- SH gives a brief report of two meetings with learned societies that she went to as a representative of the LAGB, most notably the meeting of the Arts and Humanities Alliance, where there was a discussion on open access publishing, in view of REF 2020. She reports that the Royal Historical Society already made available advice for their members on green open access (self-archiving) and the appropriate Creative Commons licenses to protect content. Action: GW and SH to draft a similar document for LAGB members.

*Meeting Secretary (Oliver Bond):*

- The Meeting Secretary predicts that the conference, despite a very high budget, will break even, owing largely to the very large number of participants. He expresses the hope that the conference fee will be lower at future conferences.
- Next year's conference will be at UCL, in the second week in September, the schedule of the plenary speakers permitting.

*Membership Secretary (Heike Pichler):*

- Membership numbers are stable and high, with a 6% increase from last year, despite the increase in fees.
- The life membership option was introduced, with a variable fee approximating £900 for most members.
- The Membership Secretary asks members to encourage their PG students to join as well.

*Webmaster (George Walkden):*

- At the last AGM, it was decided that a list of academic institutions that are engaged in linguistic research and teaching should be compiled. The Webmaster reports that he constructed three such lists, one each for institutions that are active in linguistic research, for institutions that have UG programmes in linguistics, and institutions that have PG programmes in linguistics. The lists will soon go online. GW asks members to scrutinise the lists and to report errors or omissions.

*Student Representative (Rebecca Woods):*

- The Student Representative reports from work done by the Student Committee of the LAGB. The following should be highlighted:
- Student bursaries have been a success. They allow PG students to participate at the AGM.

- Minutes of Student Committee meetings will soon also be published online, along with minutes of Committee Meetings and the AGM.
- The first summer school was a success, but the Student Committee appreciates feedback and also invites ideas for themes for future summer schools.
- RW reminds the members that there is a pot of money dedicated to supporting student conferences and invites applications.

## **6. LAGB website improvements**

GW asks members for constructive feedback regarding what could be altered or added to the website.

## **7. The new conference format**

The Committee proposes a change to the newly established conference format. Including the summer school, the conference now spans 5 days, which is too much for many members to attend. It is therefore suggested to revert to the 4 day format but to keep the Summer School. In order to achieve this, the first workshop, which is currently a stand-alone event on the second day of the conference (after the summer school), will also have parallel sessions. In general, it is proposed to have four parallel sessions throughout. The question of whether too many parallel sessions bear negatively on attendance will have to be relegated until after the next conference.

The proposed changes are accepted by the membership.

## **8. Changes in the LAGB committee and student committee: new members**

In the LAGB Committee, George Walkden is introduced as the new webmaster. As key people will be leaving in 2015 (most notably Oliver Bond and Yuni Kim), members are encouraged to consider becoming a Committee member.

The Student Committee now comprises Patrick Elliott, Georg Höhn, Rebecca Woods, Rebecca Jackson, and Jonathan Kasstan.

## **9. Committee members' terms of office**

At the moment, members are elected for 3 years plus another 3 years, if they wish to continue. This means that there is little flexibility in the extended term, and the Committee proposes to change the rules to a 3-year term plus a rolling annual arrangement, extending the term of office by one year each, to a maximum of 6 years.

This change to the terms of office is voted for by a show of hands. All are in favour, no abstentions.

## **10. Keynote speakers 2016**

The members agree on the following list of candidates to be voted on:

Mira Ariel, Bernard Comrie, Jill de Villiers, Jennifer Hay, Diane Lillo-Martin, Donka Minkova, Ingo Plag, Paul Smolensky, Stavros Skopeteas

**Action:** CU to set up a voting site on the LAGB website and to administer the voting process.

## **11. Any Other Business**

The Committee wishes to thank the local organisers: Mary Dalrymple and student helpers.

Christian Uffmann, Assistant Secretary