

# LAGB Annual General Meeting

August 29, 2013  
SOAS

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were accepted unanimously.

### 3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from last year's AGM that necessitated discussion.

### 4. President's Report (Ad Neeleman)

The president reported about current changes in the direction of where the association is going. Crucially, steps have been undertaken to rectify the impression that the annual conference is primarily a (Generative) syntax conference, with action being taken to make the conference more inclusive. Specifically, non-syntacticians and scholars from a non-generative background were encouraged to submit themed sessions, resulting in three quite distinct themed sessions at this year's meeting, and more money was invested into the first day workshop, attempting to make it a workshop with a broader appeal, beyond not only generative linguistics, but perhaps also linguistics in general, drawing in scholars from neighbouring fields as well. To further widen the appeal, it is planned for the 2015 conference to also invest more money on the final day workshop, and to offer a one-day summer school for PG students that will preface the conference proper.

The president also reported on the new, higher membership fee and gave a short breakdown on the events and organisations supported by the LAGB, including the Linguistics Olympiad and the Linguistics Research Digest blog. A dedicated page on the LAGB website will make the expenditure and support more transparent to members.

### 5. Secretaries' Reports

*Meetings Secretary's Report* (Oliver Bond):

The meetings secretary briefly reported on the statistics of this year's conference, which is very successful, with 125 early registrations (2012: 88). 153 abstracts were submitted this year (2012: 78), read by 70 reviewers. The high number of abstracts unfortunately led to a high rejection rate this year; remedies will be discussed in 6. below. Both high number of participants and high number of abstracts are probably partly due to this year's location (London, SOAS), but may also reflect the endeavours to widen the appeal of the conference. There will be an estimated profit of about £3-4K, also due to the fact that SOAS is not charging the LAGB for rooms.

The 2014 conference will be held in Oxford, with planning being underway already; the 2015 conference is planned to be held at UCL.

*Membership Secretary's Report* (Heike Pichler):

The membership secretary reports on the latest development of membership numbers. Numbers are stable (488; 2012: 490), despite the increase in fees. Three-year memberships have proven particularly popular. Several members approached the committee with the idea of life memberships. This will be looked into, and a scheme may be introduced next year.

The numbers of postgraduate members are stable, but members are encouraged to advertise membership to their new postgraduate students, pointing out that if they register now, they will get membership for the end of 2013 and all of 2014. Undergraduate numbers remain low, in comparison. The secretary reminds members about the reduced fee for retirees.

*Treasurer's Report* (Yuni Kim):

The treasurer reports that current assets stand at £25.8K, up £1K from last year, also owing to a surplus generated at last year's Salford conference. Annual income now is at £16K. The treasurer also gave a breakdown of expenditure, which was £15.1K in the past year. The main expenses are:

- JLING (member subscriptions) - £5.7K
- Operating costs - £3.2K
- Annual Meeting plenaries - £1.3K
- Conference grants - £1.8K
- Student bursaries for Annual Meeting - £600
- Committee for Education in Linguistics - £1.1K
- Donations - £1K

*Honorary Secretary's Report* (David Willis):

The honorary secretary briefly reports on ongoing consultations with research councils, government bodies and related organisations, much of which in the past year was related to the planned move to Open Access publishing. He thanked members for providing feedback on the LAGB forum and helping to formulate an LAGB position on these matters.

*Student Committee Chair's Report* (Ruba Khamam):

The student committee chair thanked student members that are stepping down now from the student committee, welcoming new members Georg Höhn (Cambridge), Rebecca Jackson (Salford), Jonathan Kasstan (Kent), and Rebecca Woods (York).

## **6. Changes to the conference format: current and future**

The committee raised a problem that results from the growing popularity of the conference in conjunction with the increasing number of themed sessions. It was agreed that themed sessions are very welcome to ensure that a diversity of subfields is represented at the conference. These, however, take away slots from the general session, and this resulted in a very high rejection rate this year, where many good abstracts, that were accepted by the reviewers, nevertheless had to be rejected. A high rejection rate was agreed to be problematic as well. It was therefore agreed that for the next conference

shorter slots of 30 minutes should be introduced along with an additional parallel session, if demand is high again. The proposal to have an extra day was rejected, since next year is going to see the introduction of an additional day anyway (the summer school); adding another day would stretch the conference to six days. Additionally, the idea was welcomed that themed sessions should have a designated discussion slot at the end.

## **7. Report of the Education Committee**

Graeme Trousdale reports, pointing out that the full report is available on the LAGB forum, highlighting 3 points.

1. The Linguistics Olympiad thanks for the support given by the LAGB. The number of participants has grown substantially in the past few years, to 3,000 last year, making the UK the largest participant nation in the anglophone group
2. It was proposed that co-opted members of CLiE will serve 3-year terms, which is also the arrangement made at BAAL.
3. Vivienne Rogers is stepping down in 2014 as a member of the Education Committee. A new member is needed, who will also be the LAGB representative on CLiE

## **8. LAGB webmaster**

The committee asks for permission to appoint a webmaster, whose job it is to keep the LAGB website up-to-date, to disseminate information and to engage in public communications. The proposal was unanimously accepted (no nays, no abstentions).

## **9. Keynote speakers 2014**

The committee confirms that keynote speakers for 2014 will be Adam Albright (MIT) and Angelika Kratzer (UMass).

The committee also invites nominations for 2015. After brief discussion, the following shortlist was proposed.

Umberto Ansaldi (HongKong; typology/contact languages)  
Paul Boersma (Amsterdam; phonetics/phonology/modelling)  
Miriam Butt (Konstanz; syntax/Urdu)  
Gerard Docherty (Griffith; phonetics/sociolinguistics)  
Larry Hyman (Berkeley; phonology/Niger-Congo)  
Lisa Matthewson (UBC; semantics/Salish)  
Jim McCloskey (UC Santa Cruz; syntax/Irish)  
Rachel Nordlinger (Melbourne; syntax/Australian)

**Action:** Christian Uffmann to set up an online voting system like last year's.

## **10. Changes in the LAGB committee**

David Willis is leaving and is replaced by Sam Hellmuth as the new Honorary Secretary.

**11. Anna Siewierska Prize**

The Anna Siewierska Prize is announced, with the request to members to publicise it among their students. The prize is for the best student essay in linguistics, worth £500. Further information is provided at <http://www.lagb.org.uk/prize>

**12. Any Other Business**

none

Christian Uffmann, Assistant Secretary