

LAGB Annual General Meeting
12 September 2019
Queen Mary University of London
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 covered in relevant committee reports below.

4. Reports from committee

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

- English Shared Future conference
 - This is gearing up for next year.
 - Currently, the themes are mostly literature-related, but there is an interest in having more linguistics and English language themes. We should suggest linguistics-related themes that fall within their remit.
 - Members can write to DA with suggestions.
 - **ACTION**: DA will write to the English Shared Future conference to suggest some possible linguistics-related themes.
- REF
 - Institutions will be soon required to say which specific (sub-)areas they will have submissions in, to help ensure there is sufficient representation on the relevant panels.
 - Everyone should be sure to use specific terms like 'syntax,' 'typology,' etc. to ensure that the panels have appropriate representation of linguistic sub-areas.
- TEF
 - Linguistics has been moved from Modern Languages to be part of English, which will cause a significant amount of extra work for many departments.
 - DA contacted HESA to express concern; their response was that they did not know why this had happened.
 - DA is waiting for more information.
 - Everyone should be sure to use specific terms like 'syntax,' 'typology,' etc. to ensure that the panels have appropriate representation of linguistic sub-areas.

4.2. Honorary Secretary's report (Dr Michelle Sheehan)

- The LAGB committee has been working on an Equality Statement, a draft of which will soon be passed around to members for comments.

- UCML and AMLUK are offering small grants of up to £800 focused on tackling the crisis developing with Languages in HE, and on mentoring.
- UCML had a summer plenary titled ‘Surviving and Thriving: Developing a Toolkit for Languages in Difficult Times’ aimed at helping Languages departments in HE.
- The AHA has been discussing concerns about open access in the humanities.
- MS is now the Secretary of UCGAL. UCGAL has asked how the LAGB views their role and what LAGB members would like from them.
 - The LAGB committee’s view is that UCGAL can act as a unified voice with respect to HE policy issues that affect linguistics, and in terms of current issues, that they can act in particular on the issue of representation on REF subpanels and on TEF groupings.
- MS has been engaging with the Common English Forum. The CFE met with the Department for Education about the fall in English A-level entries. There is another meeting scheduled for November 2019. This issue was also picked up by the Education Committee session at this year’s LAGB meeting.
- There is a new campaign by University English, ‘Choose English,’ to encourage students to study English Literature and Language.

4.3. Membership Secretary’s report (Dr Laura Bailey)

- There was a fairly sizeable drop in member numbers over the last year, but much of this was due to culling members who were no longer paying from the membership list.
- Members were asked to encourage their colleagues to join (or renew with) the LAGB as a way of supporting linguistics in the UK.
- LB has been working to update membership records, in particular ensuring that those having a student/unwaged membership were still at the correct membership level.
- LB presented the results of a recent membership survey reflecting information such as the spread of members’ sub-disciplines and reasons that members (and previous members) continued to (or no longer) pay for membership.

4.4. Treasurer’s report (Dr Chris Cummins)

- CC gave a report on the current financial situation for the LAGB.
- There has been a sizeable decrease in assets over the last year (~£8,000). While this does not put the LAGB at immediate risk, due to a comfortable cash reserve, it does mean that we need to be mindful of revenue and expenses to maintain what the committee views as an appropriate amount of reserve funds to cover unexpected costs in the future.
- Much of the decrease was due to loss at the previous annual meeting. (Annual meetings continue to be, by far, the largest source of variation from year to year.). This year’s meeting is on track to break even.
- There has also been a slight increase in other expenses over the last couple of years, including bursaries, prizes, and funding for UKLO.
- We will continue to monitor the situation and look for places to make cuts or increase revenues, if necessary.

4.5. *Meetings Secretary's report (Dr Robyn Orfitelli)*

- We will break about even for this year's meeting.
- We continue to try to make the conference affordable, especially for unwaged and student members. This year, we offered the lowest registration fee for unwaged/student members in some time.
- Next year, the annual meeting will be held in Ulster.
- We try to alternate 'north' and 'south' (loosely speaking) for the conference location. For 2021, that would mean a 'south' year. We have a possibility for 2021, but we are seeking expressions of interest (for 2021 or a future year).
- The committee is concerned about the make-up of the conference. The majority at the conference by far is in syntax, and the committee would like to see better representation across the various sub-fields of linguistics. This asymmetry continues despite some attempts by the committee to improve the situation over the last several years.
 - As a way to combat this, the committee has started working on a plan to move the conference more towards a DGfS model with a greater role for organised workshops.
 - The current idea is to approach people from a variety of sub-areas to submit workshops on specific topics. These topics would be worked out well in advance (e.g. by December) and they would be publicised in the call for papers. Talks in the workshops would still need to go through the normal review process. There would, however, still be a general session that made up a large portion of the talks at the meeting.
 - The committee hopes that such a model would have several positive effects, e.g.: (a) increase representation and attendance across the sub-areas of linguistics, (b) increase excitement and attendance for the annual meeting in general, and (c) provide a venue for members to host workshops that they would be interested in holding.
 - The committee would like to begin trialing this model in some form at the very next meeting in Ulster.
 - Details of the proposal still need to be worked out. There was a lengthy discussion with the membership about the general idea and some of the details of how it would work.
 - The membership agreed for the committee to pursue this idea for the next meeting in Ulster.

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

- JW oversaw the OUDiL prize, which was given out for the third year.
 - The winners were:
 - Rebecka Elm (Edinburgh)
 - Katie Gascoigne (Leeds)
 - Justin Malcic (Cambridge)

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

- RW has returned from maternity leave. She thanks the committee members who helped cover while she was away.
- The LAGB committee now regularly gets media requests for experts, which has contributed to some better representation of linguists at media outlets such as the BBC. Members can contact RW if they would like to be added to our experts webpage.
- RW is still looking into the possibility of a new webpage backend.

4.8. *Student Committee's report (Dr E Jamieson)*

- The SC funded 7 conferences this year across the UK.
- The SC-organised summer school was well attended and successful at this year's meeting.
- E will be stepping down as SC rep, and Greg Williamson (UCL) will be taking their place as the new SC rep.
 - The committee would like to thank E for their service!

5. **Report from Education Committee (Dr Eva Eppler)**

- The LASER launch took place in March of this year.
 - There is now a manifesto and a committee for LASER, which are available on the webpage (<https://clie.org.uk/laser/>).
- UKLO
 - The UK did very well at the International Linguistics Olympiad, earning 3 Golds, 2 Silvers, and 2 Bronzes.
 - We also had the youngest ever competitor this year, from year 4.
 - There was a slight increase in state school participation.
 - The UKLO committee is working to get information on whether UKLO has a positive influence on English Language A-level and university-level enrolment.

6. **Changes in the committee**

6.1. *Current year*

- David Adger is stepping down as President.
 - The committee would like to thank David for his service!
- Jamie White is stepping down as Assistant Secretary.
 - The committee would like to thank Jamie for his service!
- The committee is looking for nominations for both of these roles (self-nominations are welcome). Nominations should be sent to the President by email by 30 September 2019. Voting will begin around 7 October, with a deadline of approximately 21 October.
- Traditionally, the changeover for roles happened at the AGM itself. However, the committee feels that the transition would be smoother if changeovers occurred at the first committee meeting after the AGM. It was agreed to start having committee changeovers at the first meeting following the AGM rather than at the AGM itself.

6.2. *Upcoming committee changes*

- The committee is hoping to continue staggering changeovers to get back to a point where only a couple of members change each year, for the sake of continuity.
 - Thus, there will be (at least) two further changeovers the following year, Treasurer and Membership Sec.

7. Conference speakers and nominations

- Speaker nominations for Ulster 2020 were elicited from the membership.
- Local organiser nominations:
 - Elena Anagnostopoulou
 - Emmanuel Chemla
 - Ailís Cournane
 - Liina Pykkänen
- Membership nominations at the AGM:
 - Norvin Richards
 - Brian Joseph
 - Judith Tonhauser
 - Laura McPherson
 - Andrea Moro
- Further nominations may be sent to the President, David Adger.

8. Future venues for LAGB meeting

- 2020: Ulster (dates TBD)
- 2021 and beyond: currently accepting expressions of interest

9. AOBs

- None.

Jamie White, Assistant Secretary
(End of minutes)