

MINUTES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2003
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

University of Leeds, Rupert Beckett Theatre

6 September 2003, 17.15

Fifty two BAAL members were present.

Executive Committee attending: Mike Baynham (Chair), Carmen Rosa Caldas-Coulthard, Joan Cutting, Esther Daborn, Gabrielle Hogan-Brun, Constant Leung, Deirdre Martin, Marilyn Martin-Jones, Ben Rampton, Kate Segall, James Simpson, Paul Thompson, Karin Tusting, Goodith White, Eddie Williams.

EC Apologies: Marie-Madeleine Kenning, Virpi Ylanne-McEwen.

1. Mike Baynham and the members of the Executive Committee introduced themselves.
2. The minutes of the 2002 meeting were approved.
3. There were no matters arising.

4. Reports

4.1 Chair - see written report.

Mike Baynham took the meeting through his last report as Chair of BAAL. He had enjoyed his tenure, and looked forward to continuing as an active member of BAAL.

4.2 Secretary - see written report

Eddie Williams took the meeting through his first report as Secretary.

4.3 Treasurer - see written report

In his last report as Treasurer, Constant Leung outlined BAAL's financial position. Paul Meara asked whether the BAAL accounts had been audited. Constant Leung replied that they had been. Paul Meara pointed out that the auditors should be approved by the meeting. The auditor was reported by Constant Leung to be Kurban Abji, and the meeting approved this appointment. Paul Meara noted that it was customary for the auditor to make a statement attached to the accounts certifying that they were a true and proper representation of the financial state of affairs of BAAL. Constant said that this would be done, but that it had hitherto not been possible, because Cardiff University had not yet submitted a final invoice for the 2002 conference, despite numerous requests. However, Cardiff had very recently provided an invoice estimate of approximately £34,000 and this figure had been employed provisionally in the preparation of the accounts.

David Barton noted that the insurance premium was £788 and asked what BAAL was insured against. Constant replied that this was public liability insurance and confirmed that the BAAL SIG meetings were also covered by this insurance.

4.4 Meetings Secretary - See written report.

This was Deirdre Martin's last report as Meetings Secretary. Alison Sealey asked whether the withdrawal of Dovetail from Conference organisation had caused any problems. Deirdre Martin said that there had been none, and the fact that direct liaison had been possible between the local BAAL Organising Committee and Leeds University had been a positive advantage. No serious difficulties had emerged in organising the Leeds Conference. Mike Baynham added that a strong template for local organisation had now been worked out which would help future BAAL annual conferences. Ros Mitchell asked whether this meant that future BAAL conferences would only be possible in institutions which had a strong Conference Office. Deirdre replied that this was likely to be the case, but that strong Conference Offices were generally associated with necessities such as the availability of good conference facilities (e.g. a room large enough for plenary sessions). Martin Bygate asked whether the experience of BAAL conference organisation gained by Dovetail would be lost if conferences were run by a different University year on year. Deirdre replied that the strong conference organising template referred to by Mike Baynham should be able to cope with such concerns.

4.5 Membership and Publicity Secretary - see written report

Gabrielle Hogan-Brun expressed very warm thanks to Jeanie Taylor of Dovetail for her work in maintaining the membership list.

4.6 Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer - see written report.

This was James Simpson's last report as PG Officer, a post which James said had been very fulfilling.

4.7 Publications Secretary – see written report

Goodith White took the meeting through the report. Ros Mitchell asked whether the membership would receive the AILA proceedings. Gabrielle Hogan-Brun said they should be distributed with the autumn mailings, and explained that they had been delayed because of shipping problems in Singapore.

There was animated discussion concerning whether the winner of the BAAL Book Prize should also be awarded a cash prize and if so what the amount should be. Those in favour of an award included David Barton, Guy Cook, Paul Meara, Hugh Trappes-Lomax and Goodith White, while Chris Brumfit and Ben Rampton expressed reservations. The matter went to a vote moved by the Chair, and by a show of hands (24 for, 18 against, 10 abstentions) it was decided that £200 be awarded to the author(s) or editor(s) of future book prizes.

Action: Publication Secretary as from 2004

4.8 Newsletter Editor – see written report

Virpi Ylanne-McEwen had presented her apologies to the meeting, but the continuing quality of the *BAAL News* was noted.

4.9 Web Editor

Paul Thompson took the meeting through the BAAL Website via on-screen projection. The meeting expressed their admiration of the Website, and congratulated Paul for his excellent work.

5. Reports from BAAL Delegates on other outside bodies:

5.1 AILA (Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée) – see written report.

Ros Mitchell welcomed the regionalisation initiative by AILA. However, she observed that the list of plenary speakers for the 2005 congress was from a narrow institutional base, and asked how it was drawn up. Mike Baynham said that the AILA Committee did not control the committee organising the AILA Congress, and that discussions on the issue were ongoing. Gabrielle Hogan-Brun concurred, and also suggested that there should be a plenary in French at the Congress to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. Paul Meara opined that this could prove interesting. Graham Turner asked whether an outline of upcoming AILA events was available, and Gabrielle replied that this was not yet the case.

5.2 LLAS - see written report

Esther Daborn went through the main points concerning the Advisory Board of the Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies (LLAS). Paul Meara reported that he had received a small grant from LLAS to research into vocabulary testing.

5.3 CLIE (Committee for Linguistics in Education) – See written report

Constant Leung pointed out that the report had been largely put together by Roz Ivanic and Lynne Cameron.

5.4 UCML (University Council for Modern Languages)

The meeting was referred to Anne Ife's report which had appeared in the Summer 2003 Issue of the BAAL News (No. 74).

6. Report from Applied Linguistics Journal Co-editor

Martine Bygate reported that Clare Kramsch had stood down and was being replaced by Gabrielle Kaspar. The journal had four issues per year, with an average of five articles per issue, plus the forum section. A range of topics were covered in the "special issues" of the journal. A forthcoming issue edited by Srikant Sarangi and Chris Candlin would be on researching the discourses of workplace practices, while an issue on forensic linguistics would appear in 2004. Martin closed with the news that Guy Cook would now be taking over from him.

7. Report on BAAL/CUP seminars – See written report

Kate Segall said that two seminars had so far taken place, one entitled "System and Corpus: exploring the connections", 11-12 April at the University of Liverpool, and a second on "Multimodality and Applied Linguistics" 18-19 July at the University of Reading. Eddie Williams gave details about the third (on language, education and development), to be held 12-14 December at Gregynog, the University of Wales Conference Centre.

8. Report on Special Interest Groups

Karin Tusting presented the report, and pointed out that the BAAL/CUP seminars also generate SIGs. There was no maximum number of SIGs. Ben Rampton explained that the purpose of the initial "consultation year" for SIGs was to ensure the gradual build-up of a viable SIG.

9. Elections to the Executive Committee

Posts being vacated were Chair, Treasurer, Meetings Secretary and Postgraduate Representative, as well as five ordinary member positions. The Secretary pointed out that the 2002 Annual General Meeting had changed the BAAL Constitution in terms of EC membership: five ordinary members with one-year tenure would be replaced by six ordinary members with two-year tenure. Elections for three of the six ordinary member posts would be held every year from 2004. However, 2003 was a transition year, with three ordinary members being elected for one year, and three for two years.

The following were elected:

Chair: Ron Carter

Treasurer: Esther Daborn

Meetings Secretary: Goodith White

Postgraduate representative: Catherine Xiang

Three ordinary members for one year:

Joan Cutting

Susan Hunston

James Simpson

Three ordinary members for two years:

John Field

Catherine Wallace

Catherine Walter

Ron Carter, as incoming Chair, made an acceptance speech expressing his commitment to the aims of the Association.

10. Other Business

Greg Myers proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing officers, namely Mike Baynham (Chair), Constant Leung (Treasurer), Deirdre Martin (Meetings Secretary) and James Simpson (PG Representative), for the way in which they had very successfully fulfilled the duties of their respective offices. Eddie Williams seconded the proposal and it was unanimously accepted, with spontaneous applause from the floor.

It was announced that the next BAAL annual general meeting would be held at Kings College London during the BAAL Conference in September, 2004.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 19.16 p.m.

Eddie Williams
BAAL Secretary