BAAL LLT SIG

Minutes of Business Meeting held 3 July 2007, University of Lancaster

Present: E Marsden (Co-Convenor & Chair), R Mitchell (Co-Convenor), M Bygate (Meetings Coordinator) R Kiely (Treasurer) M Grenfell (UKPOLLS representative) and 10 other members.

Apologies: G Macrory, C Walter

1. Convenors’ Report

RM reported that the necessary paperwork had been submitted to the BAAL Executive Committee at the conclusion of the SIG Probationary Period, in autumn 2006, and that the SIG had been ratified formally by the association.

A written report on the activities of the SIG from its inception until September 2006 had been produced for the BAAL EC and this was made available to the AGM. The only substantial activities of the SIG since that time have been a) organisation of the third annual conference at Lancaster from 2-4 July, and b) selection of papers for the SIG track at the upcoming 40th BAAL Annual Meeting in Edinburgh. Following advice from the BAAL EC and SIG Coordinator, a treasurer for the SIG had been sought and the Convenors were grateful to R Kiely who had taken on the role.

RM expressed some concern about the space allowed for SIG tracks within the overall programme for the Edinburgh Annual Meeting. Five papers had been selected as strong contenders for the LLT SIG track by the anonymous refereeing process (out of 9 submitted). However it had subsequently emerged that the programme time available was split over two days and allowed for only 4 papers of normal length. It was pointed out that these problems threatened the attractiveness of SIG tracks to potential presenters, and the meeting agreed RM should let the BAAL EC know about its concern.

RM pointed out that a number of reports on SIG activities were required by the BAAL EC: an activities report, a financial report, and a membership report. It was agreed these would be produced by RM, RK and EM respectively, with an input from MB for the activities report (on the Lancaster conference).

EM reported that SIG membership was rising and had now reached 100.

2. Treasurer’s Report

RK made a formal report, though there had been no financial transactions during the year since July 2006, other than the Lancaster Conference which was still ongoing. Accounts for this conference would be included in the statement for the BAAL 2007-2008 financial year (due June 15 2008).

3. Communications Report

EM reported that the yahoo email list was well established though it did not have significant traffic. SIG events were advertised effectively on the BAAL website. There had been no further discussions of the proposal for a SIG journal.
4. **Election of officers and committee member**

Elections were held in accordance with the SIG constitution and the following were elected for the period 2007-2009:

- **Convenor**: M Bygate
- **Treasurer**: R Kiely
- **Communications Secretary**: E Marsden
- **Ordinary committee member**: G Samuda

The following were elected for the period 2007-8

- **Meetings Coordinator**: A Benati & K Roehr

In order to ensure rotation of ordinary committee members, Catherine Walter will continue for another year and Gee Macrory will be asked to retire. It was agreed to continue with the co-option of an additional ordinary committee member as representative of the UKPOLLS group. V Harris has been fulfilling this role, but M Grenfell would consult UKPOLLS and identify an ongoing UKPOLLS representative. [Subsequent to the meeting UKPOLLS confirmed M Grenfell as its representative for 2007-9.]

5. **Future SIG activities**

Plans are actively being developed for a conference in July 2008 at the University of Greenwich, with Bill VanPatten as a plenary speaker.

There was a discussion about the format and style of future events, with consideration being given to the organisation of more frequent one day events, and/or events focussed on aspects of research methodology/research training. It was agreed the committee would canvass the membership for their views before developing new proposals. There would be a general discussion of future directions for the SIG as the closing event of the conference.

RM/EM