

Draft minutes of the BAAL 2016 AGM

Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge

Friday 2nd September, 4:30-5:30pm

1. Introduction and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and reminded the meeting that the officer reports were available on the BAAL website, and would not be read aloud in the meeting. Caroline Tagg was confirmed as minute taker.

Apologies noted from: Emma Marsden.

Present: Tess Fitzpatrick (Chair), Alex Ho-Cheong Leung, Bettina Beinhoff, Glenn Hadikin, Ursula Lanvers, Jo Angouri, Caroline Tagg, Elvis Yevudey, Li Wei, Fiona Copland, Martin Edwardes, Li Li, Greg Myers, Jean-Marc Dewaele, Zeenath Khan, Alena Ryazanova, Taguhi Sahakyan, Owen Minns, Disha Maheshwari, James Simpson, Richard Badger, Rodney Jones, Gee Macrory, Karin Tusting, Vally Lytra, Sachiyo Fujita-Round, Tim Ashwell, Iona Fitzpatrick, Leigh Clark, Douglas Ponton, Roxani Faltzi, Florence Bonacina-Pugh, Ali H. Al-Hooric, Azirah Hashim, Zixi You, Karen Forbes, Xiangdong Gu, Christopher J. Hall, Bernie Orwinku, Sebastian Rasinger, Josep Soler-Cabrorell, Kamilla Kraft, Weijing Ziou, Cao Chinling, Ursula Stickler, Luisa Asthoc, David Graddol.

2. Revisions to minutes and action points from the 2015 AGM

There were no corrections. The minutes were accepted and action points were noted.

3. Chair's report

The Chair, Tess Fitzpatrick (TF), went through the main points in her report. She noted that BAAL had responded to the call for evidence for the Stern report, and that the response was available on the BAAL website. The Executive Committee (EC) had put forward nominations for Honorary membership of AILA, and she was pleased to announce that Martin Bygate had been appointed for his outstanding contribution to the field. She explained that, since the new Diversity officer appointed last year had stepped down, the EC had responded by co-opting one of the EC Ordinary Members (Glenn Hadikin) into the role; and that there were plans to embed diversity and equality issues into all EC post descriptions.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Steve Morris (SM). The proposal to accept the accounts for BAAL from 31st May 2015 up to 31st May 2016 was unanimously approved by members present.

The Treasurer explained that it had been a challenging year last year, but that the picture has improved, and the balance has recovered to a level that can sustain BAAL's anticipated activities this year.

Richard Badger asked about rise in expenditure to Dovetail, and SM explained that this is due to the rise in membership, meaning that although it has increased in absolute terms it has not increased in relative terms.

Li Wei asked about the increasing AILA subscription, and SM explained that the apparent increase on the item relating to subs to affiliates is due to misalignment of subscription payments with financial year ends. TF explained the AILA costs include membership (per capita) and expenses for a BAAL representative to attend their annual meetings. The per capita cost is now calculated on the basis of numbers of full BAAL memberships.

James Simpson asks about last year's conference losses, and Alex Ho-Cheong Leung explained that it was due to unexpected set of circumstances last year that should not happen again.

Bernadette O'Rourke pointed out that there was no loss at the Heriot-Watt university conference (this conference broke even).

5. Dovetail

Dovetail (DT) is the administrative company that BAAL has employed for over 15 years to manage the membership and accounts. Jeanie Taylor has stepped down from post as BAAL manager, and her partner Andy Cawdell has taken over the BAAL portfolio as a temporary measure. BAAL is due to sign a new contract with DT in 2017, and BAAL is currently in negotiations (led TF and SM) with DT about this. Anyone who would like to input on this process to contact TF.

BAAL membership thanks Jeannie for her support and work for BAAL over the last 15 years.

6. AILA

Susan Hunston is a Member-at-Large on the Executive Board of AILA, and as a member (and former Chair) of BAAL has done some excellent work in enhancing communication between BAAL and AILA. AILA Europe has invited us to consider affiliating with them. AILA Europe formed 10 years ago when AILA proposed regionalising operations, to foster cross-border and transnational relationships and collaborations. BAAL did not join at that time. The new invitation to join was discussed at length at the January 2016 EC meeting. Global and European contexts have changed in the last 10 years, bringing new motivations to join and meaning that new opportunities are available. One advantage is an annual conference specifically designed as an opportunity for early career researchers to network across European borders, with a view to ongoing collaboration and applications to funders who favour cross-border projects. There is no membership fee for AILA Europe, because we are already members of AILA. The BAAL EC's recommendation is therefore that BAAL now joins AILA Europe.

Li Wei spoke in his role as the UK-based member of AILA Europe's "European Journal of Applied Linguistics", explaining that he shared the initial concerns about the regionalisation of AILA, but now feels strongly that we need to do everything we can to show solidarity with colleagues in Europe, especially new member states, and so supports joining AILA Europe.

Affiliation of BAAL with AILA Europe was put to the members present for formal vote. The result was unanimous agreement.

7. Documents and guidelines

The third version of the BAAL ethics guidelines is now available on the website. TF thanked the authors (Svenja Adolphs, Jo Angouri, Tilly Harrison, Jai Mackenzie, Diane Potts) for

their work on the guidelines, and particularly for incorporating the good work of the previous versions with new and relevant points. BAAL members were urged to publicise the guidelines and let the EC know if we could be doing more in regard to promoting them.

The document *Guidelines for communicating rights to non-native speakers of English in Australia, England and Wales, and the USA* has been endorsed by the EC. The authors had asked that BAAL membership also endorse it. If so, BAAL will be added to the document alongside other organisations that have endorsed it.

RB asked why the particular countries are involved. Martin Edwardes explained that this is because of different legislative areas meaning that the document can only apply to certain countries.

Proposal to endorse was put forward and unanimously carried by the membership present.

8. BAAL 50th Anniversary

Next year (2017) it will be fifty years since the first meeting of BAAL. The 50th Annual Meeting will be held in Leeds. TF thanked the Leeds team, led by James Simpson, for stepping in to host this conference. BAAL members were asked to bear the fiftieth anniversary in mind, to look out for updates from the EC, and to get in touch with TF if they have any ideas regarding the anniversary celebrations.

9. Elections to the Executive Committee (EC)

On behalf of BAAL, TF thanked the outgoing members of the EC (those in italics are eligible to re-stand):

- *Dawn Knight (outgoing Secretary)*
- Jo Angouri (outgoing Members Secretary)
- *Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (outgoing Meetings Secretary)*
- *Li Li (Seminars Co-ordinator)*
- Elvis Yevudey (outgoing Postgraduate Development and Liaison officer)
- Martin Edwardes (outgoing Web Editor)
- Sue Wharton (outgoing Ordinary Member)
- Ursula Lanvers (outgoing Ordinary Member)

Election of new members

There were nine EC posts to fill (the 8 listed above, plus one other Ordinary Member post, which was vacated in autumn 2015). Four posts were uncontested, and therefore the new postholders were announced at the AGM:

- **Secretary:** Dawn Knight stood for a second term and was unopposed.
- **Members Secretary:** Jess Briggs stood for the post and was unopposed.
- **Meetings Secretary:** Alex Ho-Cheong Leung stood for a second term and was unopposed.
- **Web Editor:** Richard Smith stood for the post and was unopposed.

The other five posts received more nominations than positions available, and were therefore put to vote (secret ballot) at the meeting. Before the votes, candidates were invited to present

a supporting statement in spoken form (if present) or in written form, read out by an EC member (if absent from the meeting – those absent are indicated as such below). The results of the ballot were to be announced in the closing session of the conference (and are appended to these minutes, for ease of reference).

- **Seminars Co-ordinator:**

Two people stood for this position. Ursula Lanvers, outgoing Ordinary Member, spoke of her enthusiasm for BAAL and her familiarity with the role, given her previous role on the Committee and her involvement in reviewing seminar proposals. Li Li, who has served one term as Seminars Co-ordinator, spoke about developing the Routledge workshop series and the success of the programme over the last three years

- **Postgraduate Development and Liaison officer:**

Four people stood for this position. Owen Minns drew on his experience helping to organise this year's conference, and his enthusiasm for being involved in BAAL. Iona Fitzpatrick spoke about realising the great breadth of Applied Linguistics from her position as a social anthropologist and her understanding of the relevance of Applied Linguistics across disciplines. Sam Barclay (not present, statement read out) spoke about his involvement with the vocabulary SIG and his desire to help organise the PG symposium and adjudicate the Richard Pemberton prize. Alena Ryazanova spoke about her interest in being more involved in the workings of the Association, and particularly in fostering connections with other national PG societies.

- **Ordinary members:**

Four people stood for the three Ordinary Members posts. Elvis Yevudey, outgoing Postgraduate Development and Liaison Officer, spoke of his experiences as PG officer and mentioned his full attendance at meetings. Angela Creese (not present, statement read out) focused on her experience in BAAL and beyond, her research leadership and her active involvement in applied linguistics. Zhu Hua (not present, statement read out) focused on her experience in BAAL and AILA and beyond, her successful research record, and her active participation in applied linguistics, as well as the contribution that she can make to BAAL. Gwennan Higham (not present, statement read out) focused on her academic collaborations and funded projects, including BAAL projects.

TF thanked everyone standing for election for their commitment to BAAL and for their willingness to contribute to the Association. She noted that contested elections are a positive indicator of the health of the Association.

TF thanked this year's EC members for their constant support and immense hard work.

10. AOB

None.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 17:40.

NOTE:

The result of the election held for contested posts was announced at the conference close, and was as follows:

- **Seminars Co-ordinator:** Li Li was appointed for a second term.
- **Postgraduate Development and Liaison officer:** Owen Minns
- **Ordinary members:** Angela Creese, Zhu Hua and Elvis Yevudey