



DRAFT Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Friday 1st September 2017, 5.00-6.00pm
Great Hall, Leeds University**

1. Introduction and apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced members of the EC. Glenn Hadikin was confirmed as minute taker.

Present: Tess Fitzpatrick (Chair - TF), Dawn Knight (DK), Steve Morris (SM), Glenn Hadikin, Bernie O'Rourke, Chris Hall, Greg Myers, Rachel Wicaksono, Chisato Danjo, Caroline Tagg, Alex Leung, Elvis Yevudey, Bettina Beinhoff, Owen Minns, Tereza Spilioti, Piotr Wegorowski, Maggie Kubanyiova, Guy Cook, Susan Hunston, Marco Santello, Raquel Criado, Naeema B. Hann, Ros Mitchell, David Graddol, John Knagg, Florence Bonacina-Pugh, Scarlet Poon, Zoe Handley, Elisabeth Barakos, Yongcan Liu, Marilyn Martin-Jones

Apologies: Richard Smith, Jessica Briggs, Zhu Hua, Li Li, Claire Hardaker

2. Revision to the minutes. There were no revisions to the minutes of the 2016 AGM.

3. Chair's report

- TF went through the main points of the report. She reminded members that we have a new website and stressed the incredible amount of work that Richard Smith and Jessica Briggs had done over the last year to launch the site and re-organise the members list.
- TF highlighted the response to HEFCE consultation on the REF, BAAL's statement on the UK's withdrawal from the EU and thanked Greg Myers for the work he had done updating Ros Mitchell's history of BAAL.
- TF explained that we will be re-launching the Applying Linguistics fund now that we are in an appropriate financial position to do so.
- Guy Cook asked whether a 2016 report from *Applied Linguistics* is available; TF will request that information.

4. Treasurer's report

- SM highlighted the main points of the Treasurer's report. In sum, he said we were on a good trajectory. He re-iterated that the current balance would allow BAAL to go ahead with a new Applying Linguistics fund (£10,000) if this is felt to be desirable.

- Ros Mitchell asked how we make certain judgements such as ending money for books for Africa but continuing to support the Linguistics Olympiad and re-launching Applying Linguistics. SM explained that the books for Africa was for a fixed period and just ended. TF added that we regularly reviewed the budget for the Linguistics Olympiad and the Applying Linguistics fund. She stressed that the former was gradually involving more state schools and that we only temporarily suspended the Applying Linguistics fund until we were financially able to resume it.
- Guy Cook said that he believed the Chris Brumfit scholarship was ring-fenced and asked for clarity about how it was reported in the budget. SM explained that the original donation had run low and the line in the budget referred to donations in general. SM also explained that the Richard Pemberton prize came from the 'book prize/poster prize' line of the budget.
- Ros Mitchell asked why SM suggested that the balance of £106,373 was 'better than' £86,413 bearing in mind that we are meant to spend the money on behalf of the members. SM explained that an appropriate cushion was needed to protect us from various liabilities. TF added that we can now do things we to do such as the Applying Linguistics fund whereas it was not possible to do that and maintain an appropriate cushion with the lower figures.
- The accounts were formally approved.

5. Awards and Endorsements

- TF congratulated the following successful BAAL nominees:
 - Susan Hunston – Member at Large, AILA
 - Angela Creese, John Knagg - Academy of Social Science Fellowships
- TF also explained that BAAL has endorsed IRIS – Digital repository of instruments and materials for research into second language acquisition (British Academy, ESRC) <https://www.iris-database.org/iris/app/home/index>
- The members also congratulated the winner of the Christopher Brumfit Scholarship
 - Rosmawati, University of Sydney, Australia
- And the winners of the Early Career Scholarships
 - Sami Al Hasnawi, University of Al-Qadiyisah, Iraq
 - Ian Cushing, Aston University
 - Agnes Marszalek, University College, London
 - Judith Reynolds, Durham University
- James Simpson pointed out that two of the scholarship winners could not attend because of UKBA issues. He asked BAAL to consider sending a strongly worded letter to highlight this problem. **Action:** TF to draft a letter to the UKBA on behalf of the BAAL membership.

6. Website

- TF showed the new website on the screen and thanked Richard Smith for all the hard work he has done on it.
- Ros Mitchell noted that the top line on the site is now in both English and Welsh. Bernie O'Rourke highlighted the many discussions we have recently had on the Executive Committee about how to best represent BAAL's languages on the site. She explained that we are considering a moving sidebar with one word in many different languages.

- TF reminded all members that they could email DK with any comments or if they were aware of any issues with the site. She said we were planning to discuss how to create the sidebar or a similar method of representing multiple languages with Richard Smith in due course; he has worked hard and consistently on the website in the last few months, and it is appropriate to pause before ending him further requests.
- Susan Hunston stressed the importance of representing British Sign Language as one of the languages, if multiple languages are represented.

Elections to executive committee

- TF thanked members of the committee who were coming to the end of their term - Steve Morris, Bernie O'Rourke, Angela Creese, Fiona Copland and Glenn Hadikin - for their hard work and commitment to BAAL during their time on the EC.
- DK confirmed that SM, BoR and GH were standing for re-election. She asked if any other members wanted to stand for any of the positions. No-one from the audience responded.
- The candidates standing for election were as follows:
 1. **Treasurer** (Steve Morris)
 2. **Publications Secretary** (Bernie O'Rourke)
 3. **Ordinary Member*3** (Glenn Hadikin, Zsófia Demjen, Kristina Hultgrem, Lavinia Hirsu)
- SM, BoR and GH made short speeches to highlight their appropriate skills and experience. Written statements from ZD, KH and LH were presented on screen.
- TF thanked the EC for all their hard work throughout the year.

AOB None, business was closed and DK reminded the members that minutes will go up on the website as soon as they are available.