



**BAAL AGM minutes**  
**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**BAAL Annual General Meeting**

**1. Introductions and apologies. Confirm minute takers.**

The chair welcomed everyone to the AGM. Gavin Brookes and Ruth Page were confirmed as the minute-takers.

Committee members present: Dawn Knight (DK, Chair), Caroline Tagg (CT), Bettina Beinhoff (BB), Glenn Hadikin (GH), Zhu Hua (ZH), Sal Consoli (SC), Helen Sauntson (HS), Rachel Wicaksono (RW), Nate Owen (NO), Vander Viana (VV), Ruth Page (RP), Kristina Hultgren (KH), Taehee Choi (TC), Gavin Brookes (GB), Chloe Mills (CM), Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (AL), Owen Minns (OM), Steve Morris (SM).

Apologies: Khawla Badwan and Gee Macrory sent their apologies.

Members present: there were 61 attendees, including the above committee members.

**2. Confirmation of minutes from the 2020 AGM**

No revisions to the minutes of the 2020 AGM were proposed. The minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's report**

DK reflected on her time as the BAAL Chair, with particular focus on the challenges brought about by the COVID pandemic. DK thanked BAAL members and the Executive Committee (EC) for their adaptability, enthusiasm, hard work and dedication. DK also wished the incoming Chair the best of luck in leading BAAL in future years.

DK outlined BAAL's activities in recent years, including representing the community through lobbying. DK was involved in an AHRC consultation aimed at finding out how the council can better support subject associations. As part of this process, DK liaised with Department Heads and fed back to AHRC. The outcome of that process is to

come. BAAL have signed a new contract with our membership management consultants, Mosaic. DK expressed thanks and appreciation to Mosaic for the ongoing positive working relationship. DK thanked BAAL members who represented the association on REF panels. DK congratulated new members of AcSS elected this year. BAAL will continue to promote AILA, including encouraging BAAL members' use of the AILA App. AILA endorsed the revised BAAL guidelines for good practice and DK hopes that the relationship between BAAL and AILA will continue to be strengthened in the future, with BAAL continuing to promote AILA activities.

DK outlined BAAL's achievements during her term as Chair. In 2018-19 this included a successful conference hosted by Manchester Metropolitan University, the start of the Association's strong and productive relationship with Mosaic, setting up the new BAAL website, supporting five BAAL/CUP seminars and regular SIG events. In 2019-2020, the conference was postponed due to COVID and replaced by an online day event, the Association set up a new mentoring scheme, the BAAL EC meetings moved online, the BAAL 2018 proceedings were published, and three seminars and three BAAL PG/ECR workshops were funded. BAAL's Recommendations on Good Practice in Applied Linguistics 2021 were also revised. DK thanked the EC for their adaptability and hard work during this time and in the face of challenges brought about by the pandemic in particular.

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

BB gave her first report as Treasurer. BB thanked previous Treasurer, Steve Morris, for his support and patience in supporting her transition into the role. BAAL membership is very stable and income from membership is stable and healthy. There were more book prize entries than usual. There was less income this year than the last as the lack of a conference meant there was no surplus. This is the same for the SIGs, as the pandemic meant that less could be done in terms of events. More grants and payments were made from BAAL to its SIGs compared to previous years to support SIGs with technical challenges in setting up and running online events. There were fewer prizes this year and less money went to the Linguistics Olympiad. Some payments went to the Applying Linguistics Fund and BB anticipates more payments this year as there is a lag in claims being made. BB also thanked Mosaic for their support in helping the Association to manage its finances. Lack of face-to-face EC meetings meant that there were fewer expenses for meetings. Insurance payments went down (even though the provider was the same). Other costs stayed relatively stable. Importantly, BAAL still has a surplus which will allow the Association to continue to support SIGs, including with online events. BB noted that the accountant's report was very positive and that everything is in order with the Association's finances.

There was a question regarding whether BAAL's financial reserves could be used to support developments in the field. BB replied that the large reserves will enable BAAL

to support a larger number of seminars, events, etc. going forward, as in the past such processes had to be more selective. BB commented that the reserves also mean that BAAL has a safety net to cover 'worst case scenarios' (e.g. conferences having to be cancelled at the last minute, for instance due to unforeseen COVID lockdowns).

DK commented that BAAL is in a healthy financial situation relative to other subject associations affiliated to the Academy of Social Sciences. DK commented that the safety net is good to have but that the Association will look to be more flexible in supporting the community going forward and that this will be on the agenda at the next EC meeting.

One member suggested that BAAL should review how much surplus the Association needs. DK agreed that this is an important question for BAAL to consider.

The Treasurer's report was approved by the members.

## **5. Membership update**

RW reported that, at the end of August 2021, BAAL had 1308 members in 67 countries. Membership has grown steadily in the last few years. Membership renewal is due annually, usually in December. Current membership fees are £50 for individuals, £20 for students/retired/unwaged, and £120 for institutions. Forty-two of our members in August 2021 were institutions (university departments or libraries). Members should contact the Membership Secretary about membership benefits or ideas for improvement.

## **4. Applied Linguistics Journal**

The Applied Linguistics Journal is affiliated to BAAL and AILA. The editorial structure has changed with Christina Higgins as the editor supported by Associate Editors. The journal is ranked first in Linguistics according to the SSCI index.

## **5. BAAL EDI statement**

BAAL's commitment to EDI is part of our longstanding emphasis on inclusivity in research and is well positioned to lead further development in this area. In recent years our focus has been on multilingualism, which has been embedded in activities such as the multilingualism competition and the new multilingualism SIG. We have established a working group within the EC, which first met in June 2021. This has resulted in a draft EDI statement, a code of conduct used in the conference, and wider discussion of how to support the needs of the BAAL membership (e.g. the use of sign interpreters). EDI is a standing item on the EC meetings. Future plans include a survey for the BAAL membership to identify the key EDI issues to be addressed by BAAL, and to set up a focus group of people to develop future initiatives in this area.

## 6. Conference Awards

The following PGR/ECR scholarships were awarded. Congratulations to both winners.

- Linda Eriksson, Örebro University, Örebro, Sweden  
“Swedish Upper Secondary School and University Students' Perceptions of Academic Reading in English as a Second Language”
- Lorena Salud Gadella Kamstra, University of Essex, Colchester, UK  
“Teachers’ Challenges: Schools’ Context as a Demotivating Factor”

## 7. Book prize

Zhu Hua reported that the following books have been shortlisted for the BAAL book prize.

- *Academic Irregularities: Language and Neoliberalism in Higher Education* by Liz Morrish & Helen Sauntson (Routledge)
- *Corpus, Discourse and Mental Health* by Daniel Hunt and Gavin Brookes (Bloomsbury)
- *Innovations and Challenges in Applied Linguistics from the Global South* by Alastair Pennycook and Sifree Makoni (Routledge)
- *Ontologies of English: Conceptualising the Language for Learning, Teaching, and Assessment* by Christopher J. Hall & Rachel Wicaksono (eds.) (Cambridge University Press)
- *The Dynamics of Dementia Communication* by Alison Wray (Oxford University Press)

The winner is *The Dynamics of Dementia Communication* by Alison Wray (Oxford University Press).

The runner-up of the award is *Academic Irregularities: Language and Neoliberalism in Higher Education* by Liz Morrish & Helen Sauntson, Routledge.

ZH thanked those who had helped with the reviewing process.

## 8. Elections to the Executive Committee

CT thanked the following outgoing Executive Committee members for their hard work and commitment to BAAL during their time on the Executive Committee: Dawn Knight, Khawla Badwan, Kristina Hultgren, Chloe Mills, Owen Minns, Steve Morris, Ruth Page, Helen Sauntson. Particular thanks were expressed to Dawn Knight as outgoing chair for her leadership and contribution to the association.

As a result of the nominations received after the call for nominations in July, the new committee members were confirmed, as follows:

- Chair – Zhu Hua
- Secretary – Caroline Tagg
- Media Coordinator – Mel Evans
- Newsletter Editor – Sal Consoli
- Publications Secretary – Alex Ho-Cheong Leung
- SIGs Coordinator – Sathena Chan
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator – Angie Baily
- Ordinary Member – Sin-Wang Chong
- Ordinary Member – Robbie Love
- Ordinary Member – Paweł Szudarski
- Co-opted LOC member – Sultan Turkan (Queen’s University Belfast)
- Co-opted member – Dawn Knight

## 9. AOB

DK sought approval from members for a proposed increase in the Applying Linguistics fund to £15,000. DK proposed a BAAL hosted zoom account for use of small events by the association such as SIG events and EC meetings. Both proposals were approved.

## 10. Closing remarks

The Chair thanked members present for their participation and reminded them that the following written reports from officers of the BAAL Executive Committee are available online:

### **(Written) Reports from officers (available online)**

- Chair (Dawn Knight)
- Treasurer (Bettina Beinhoff)
- Secretary (Caroline Tagg)
- Media Coordinator (Owen Minns)
- Meetings Secretary (Glenn Hadikin)
- Membership Secretary (Rachel Wicaksono)
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator (Chloe Mills)
- Publications Secretary (Zhu Hua)
- Newsletter Editor (Sal Consoli)
- Web Editor (Nathaniel Owen)
- SIG Coordinator (Helen Sauntson)
- Seminars Coordinator (Vander Viana)
- CLIE Representative (Gee Macrory)