



BAAL AGM minutes
Thursday 24th August 2023 BAAL
Annual General Meeting

1. Introductions and apologies. Confirm minute takers.

The chair welcomed everyone to the AGM. Gee Macrory and Sultan Turkan were confirmed as the minute-takers.

Executive Committee (EC) members present: Zhu Hua (ZH), Bettina Beinhoff (BB), Caroline Tagg (CT), Pawel Szudarski (PS), Glenn Hadikin (GH), Angie Bailey (AB), Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (AHCL), Gee Macrory (GM), Gavin Brookes (GB), Robbie Love (RL), Sultan Turkan (ST), Vander Viana (VV), Mel Evans (ME), Maria Arche (MJA), Rachel Wicaksono (RW), Sal Consoli (SCo), Sathena Chan (SC), Zoe Handley (ZHa), Tracey Costley (TC).

Apologies: Sin Wang Chong.

37 delegates attended in person and 5 joined online.

ZH welcomed delegates and invited members of the association to vote in the elections. All members of the EC present introduced themselves.

2. Confirmation of minutes from the 2022 AGM

ZH invited members to offer corrections for the minutes of the AGM in 2022. No corrections were suggested. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's report

ZH thanked association members and EC members for their support this year. She outlined BAAL's strategic priorities (multilingual representation; EDI; support and recovery from the pandemic; engaging with and influencing UK government and Higher Education policies; developing an international outlook). ZH then provided examples of the activities and initiatives undertaken by the executive committee in pursuit of these priorities:

- Multilingual representation

- The BAAL website is now multilingual at the landing stage; there is a multilingual section of the newsletter and ZH requested further contributions in other languages
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - There is a new category in the BAAL Book Prize of 'First Book'
 - New category of BAAL solidarity memberships
- Support and recover from the pandemic
 - Live streaming and mentoring now contribute to sustainability
 - There is increased funding for BAAL/CUP seminars
- Engage with and influence UK government and HE policies
 - QAA benchmarking statement consultation briefing
- Develop an international outlook
 - Engagement with AILA and AILA Europe.

ZH reported other highlights. These were:

- The BAAL 55th Anniversary Big Survey
- Relaunch of the Language, Learning and Teaching (LLT) SIG and new SIGs (Language and Education for Social Justice; Language, Race and Ethnicity)
- 2019 BAAL conference proceedings: Ainsworth, S., Griffiths, D., Macrory, G. and K.Pahl (Eds) (2023) *Multimodality and Multilingualism: Towards an Integrative Approach*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.
- A special issue with EuJAL based on AILA's Junior Researchers Meeting (JRM) 2023 (AILA, Lyon) and JRM 2022 (BAAL, Belfast)
- Co-ordinated Twitter strategy for increasing visibility and communicating to members.

ZH invited questions about the Chair's report. Ros Mitchell (RM) asked whether there would be a move to open access for the EuJAL special issue.

Action: ZH to take this back to the EC.

4. Treasurer's report

BB presented the Treasurer's Report. Income was a little lower than the previous year. Membership subscriptions were down a bit, despite the new solidarity memberships. No questions were raised about the income.

BB reported that expenditure had increased somewhat. This was for several reasons: conference, meetings and seminars held in person for the first time since the Covid pandemic. On the other hand, some EC meetings had been held on-line, so that outlay on this was less than pre-Covid. Further expenditure included the subscription to AILA.

Rob Sharples (RS) raised the question of the current surplus and what this could be spent on. RM reiterated the question from last year about how much money the association needs, and thus how much it can afford to increase its expenditure. BB confirmed that discussions were under way about this but urged caution as ongoing needs amounted to approximately £80K per year. Money was also needed for contingencies, pointing out that it is important that the association has enough money to underwrite losses, should a conference be cancelled.

RS thanked BB for answering the question fully. The report was approved.

RW announced a new category of solidarity memberships that was being piloted in response to a suggestion at last year's AGM. Twenty-one applications had been received and scored according to the following criteria:

- Residency in a low- or lower-income country, as defined by the World Bank
- Refugee or Asylum Seeker status, anywhere in the world
- Currently without an institutional affiliation
- Currently registered as a postgraduate student on a full-time applied linguistics programme, anywhere in the world
- Currently employed on a fixed-term contract of 12 months or less, anywhere in the world.

In addition to meeting the appropriate criterion, applicants were asked to complete an open question as to why they wished to join BAAL. Ten new memberships were awarded, from: India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Algeria, Nigeria, Iran, Ukraine and Sri Lanka. Four are on fixed-term contracts, three are students, one has no institutional affiliation, and one is a refugee. RW reported that the project would run again in the next academic year and encouraged members to disseminate this. RW will write to the new members and will also send a contribution to SCo for the newsletter.

Jackie Tuck (JT) asked how long the membership lasted and RW said it was for a year.

Ben Rampton (BR) asked if the number could be stretched beyond ten. RW replied that this is possible now that we have the mechanism in place.

Susan Hunston (SH) asked if the numbers counted for the purpose of AILA membership as this would affect what we paid. RW replied that they did not.

5. Strategic use of BAAL funding (RW, VV)

Applied Linguistics Fund: RW asked members to note the change to the name of the fund, formerly called the Applying Linguistics Fund. This will run again in the next academic year, with a new call for applications in autumn 2023, with £15,000 available. It can be applied for in its entirety or for parts of it. There may be an funding increase in 2024.

RW shared details of the winners of the Applying Linguistics fund (totalling £13,476 from budget of £15,000). Twelve applications received in total, with five successful proposals. RW suggested that advocacy, which was flagged up as a priority for members in the BAAL survey, may be emphasised in the 2024 call. The call will go out on BAALMAIL and social media channels. There were no questions.

VV reported on other funded events. In the last year, there were two BAAL/CUP seminars held and one BAAL Researcher Development Workshop. For 2023-2024, the funding amounts will be increased, with two grants of £2000 available for the BAAL/CUP seminars, and two grants of £1500 for the BAAL Researcher Development Workshops.

6. Applied Linguistics Journal (Kristina Hultgren)

Kristina Hultgren (KH) reported on the journal's impact factor and top articles.

7. BAAL Book prize 2023 (AHCL)

The shortlist for this year's book prize nominations was presented to the members. Members were invited to participate in evaluations for next year's book prize event.

8. Possible AILA World Congress 2030 bid from BAAL (ZH, Susan Hunston)

ZH explained why Birmingham was invited to lead the bid. Key conditions are location-accessibility, venue capacity, and people. Looking at various options, Birmingham seems to meet all these criteria. The proposal is in progress. Infrastructural capacity in Birmingham was also mentioned. Susan Hunston (SH) pointed out that hosting the Congress will allow BAAL to contribute to the international community and that BAAL can more easily attend the Congress if held within the UK, thus ensuring stronger international links.

There will be a financial cost to BAAL (i.e., £10,000) in order to host the Congress. There would be no BAAL conference that year. Zhu Hua commented: If we do not have this funding to reduce overall cost including the registration fee, because UK is viewed as an expensive location, the bid may not succeed.

KH expressed her approval and enthusiasm, but asked who would be doing the work involved. SH replied that three universities in Birmingham are working together to make the conference possible, although the contractual agreement would be with BAAL. Ursula Lanvers (UL): is returning to Europe an issue because this year's conference was in France? Susan replied that it is not an issue because the next locations are Malaysia for 2024 and Canada for 2027.

9. BAAL 55th Anniversary Big Survey results and actions (ZH, CT, PS)

A summary of the survey results will be sent to the members. Due to time pressure, we did not present the full results. Zhu Hua presented a brief summary. There was a strong consensus on the need for mentoring (existing research development workshops, networking and mentoring in annual conferences); supporting early career researchers; promotion and advocacy (AL funds); and networking and community building through SIGs or regional hubs.

10. Elections to the Executive Committee (CT)

The following EC posts are up for election and nominations had been sought through BAALmail over the summer. CT clarified that the four posts had been filled, as there had been one candidate for each post. The new PLDC and ordinary members were introduced and approved.

- Treasurer – Bettina Beinhoff (second term)
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator – Zhi Ma (Michael) (University of Bath)
- Ordinary Member – Paweł Szudarski (second term)
- Ordinary Member – Yi Zhang (University of Warwick) AOB (ZH)

None.

(Written) Reports from officers (available online)

- Chair (Zhu Hua)
- Treasurer (Bettina Beinhoff)
- Secretary (Caroline Tagg)
- Media Coordinator (Mel Evans)
- Meetings Secretary (Glenn Hadikin)
- Membership Secretary (Rachel Wicaksono)

- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator (Angie Baily)
- Publications Secretary (Alex Ho-Cheong Leung)
- Newsletter Editor (Sal Consoli)
- Website Editor (Sin Wang Chong)
- SIG Coordinator (Sathena Chan)
- Seminars Coordinator (Vander Viana)
- CLIE Representative (Maria Arche)