



## BAAL AGM DRAFT minutes

Friday 3rd September 2025, 5:30-6:30 pm  
Debating Chamber, The University of Glasgow

### 1. Introductions and apologies

The BAAL Secretary (AHCL) welcomed everyone to the AGM. Gee Macrory and Elvis Rescue were confirmed as the minute-takers.

Committee members present: Caroline Tagg (CT), Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (AHCL), Bettina Beinhoff (BB), Elvis Rescue (ER), Glenn Hadikin (GH), Gee Macrory (GM), Paweł Szudarski (PS), Piotr Węgorowski (PW), Rachel Wicaksono (RW), Robbie Love (RL), Sal Consoli (SCo), Tim Hampson (TH), Vander Viana (VV), Zhu Hua (ZH)

Apologies: Mel Evans (ME), Peter Browning (PB), Sathena Chan (SC), Yi Zhang (YZ)

AHCL welcomed delegates and invited members of the association to vote in the elections. All members of the Executive Committee (EC) present introduced themselves.

### 2. Confirmation of minutes from the 2024 AGM

AHCL invited members to offer corrections for the minutes of the AGM in 2024. No corrections were suggested. The minutes were approved.

### 3. Chair's report

The BAAL Chair, CT, noted that this was the first AGM since she had taken up the role. She stressed that her focus was on revisiting strategic priorities that had been in place since 2021. The focus is threefold:

- 1) Reaching out to the membership. Activities included a 'Meet the EC' event led by RW, a regular EC newsletter item, BAALmail updates and photos of EC meetings. TH ran a free pre-conference event for first-timers.

- 2) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. An EDI leadership workshop was held at BAAL 2024, an EDI track was held at this conference, for which CT thanked ZH and PB, and accessibility guidelines are being drawn up for future events.
- 3) Advocating for Applied Linguistics (AL) and influencing HE policies. This included BAAL's contribution to CLiE's response to the Curriculum and Assessment Review (CAR); feeding into REF panel decisions was also an important aspect; and sending open and closed letters to universities in support of colleagues.

CT outlined the Applied Linguistics Leadership Programme, which is being planned for later this year, both in-person and on-line, with the aim of securing the future of the discipline. This would include an in-person launch event and runs from March to June 2026, organised by Suganthi John (SJ), the new BAAL representative on CLiE, and CT and a supporting team. CT thanked Susan Hunston and Jeannette Littlemore for early input. CT also outlined the Applied Linguistics competition for schools which BAAL has approved. The BAAL EC had approved the setting up of a working group, and the first meeting is 18 September.

CT reported on other EC achievements. These included: continuation of new Solidarity memberships (RW); Meta-review on AL Researchscape (Sin-Wang Chong); moving from Twitter to LinkedIn and Bluesky (ME); obtaining an ISSN for the newsletter (RL); streamlining SIG finances (SC); and planning an offline asynchronous forum for open access discussion between academics and publishers (SCo).

CT invited questions and comments on any aspect of her report. Ros Mitchell (RM) asked if the UK Linguistics Olympiad were happy about the new competition. CT replied that yes, there had been good feedback from CLiE, including from Dick Hudson, with whom CT and SJ had met. . CT noted that this new competition would be small scale in comparison with UKLO, and different in nature. For example, one task might be an essay commenting upon the use of language around us.

RM noted that CLiE had done a good job in relation to the CAR and asked if BAAL would be working through CLiE or doing something separately. CT replied that CLiE was our link to linguistics in schools and noted that this was mentioned in her July 2025 round-up email to members. A member asked for clarification on CLiE's remit and GM explained.

#### **4. Treasurer's report and EC spending plans**

BB presented the 2024-2025 financial report on BAAL's income and expenditure. She stressed the importance of approving the report and talked through the finances.

Income was slightly lower than the previous year, in part because, although there are not fewer members, there are more on the lower rate. She noted that the income from the 2024 conference is not showing as the report only goes up to 31 May 2025 and the

money was not available at that point. BB clarified what counts as donations. She thanked Cambridge University Press for their ongoing support with the BAAL/CUP seminar programme.

In terms of expenditure, BB pointed out that scholarships are a different category for the accountant, but in this year's audit they have been grouped into the research development workshops, as the scholarship was issued via the EDI workshop held at the last conference. She reminded us that the Applied Linguistics Fund only runs every other year. Subscriptions (paid out) were a little lower because the request from the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA) had come in late, so this will appear in the next set of accounts. There were no questions.

The balance sheet was then presented, and the overview suggests a healthy position. BB noted that we were in a position to invest but urged the need for caution in case we incur any losses, for example in the case of a world event such as the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns.

There were no further questions, and the financial report was approved. CT thanked BB for her work on this.

CT then outlined some spending plans:

1. Maintaining and growing funding initiatives, such as increasing the Applied Linguistics Fund to £20,000 in 2025-26 and supporting Regional Hubs.
2. Supporting the conference through keeping fees low and offering discounts, as well as increasing accessibility and inclusivity (e.g. sign language interpretation).
3. Preparation for the 60th anniversary conference at Liverpool next year (2026) where one possibility is to fund PhD student internships for defined tasks.

RM suggested that we are too cautious financially. She noted that the AL Fund is going up from £15K to £20K but suggested that this was possibly too low, and asked whether raising it to £40K is possible. This would be pertinent at this point in the REF cycle as impact projects are crucial for our discipline. CT agreed that this was a useful point but noted the working capacity of the EC members and therefore increasing the value of already existing pots of money, such as bursaries, was a better way forward. TH asked why the conference was expensive and PW replied that fees had been lowered from last year across all fee types, and particularly for student members.

Lucy Jones (LJ) suggested that other ways of supporting students could include support for travel such as prepaid tram tickets and help with accommodation.

## **5. Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI)**

ZH presented a joint initiative between BAAL and UKALTA to contextualise EDI in our field. She noted that we are the only organisation in the AcSS alongside UKALTA which

pertains to language and adopt a people focussed approach. In terms of activities so far, there had been two leadership events in 2024, and the EC colloquium at BAAL 2025 had raised visibility and stressed key messages. Suggested actions included broadening focus beyond English to include other languages.

CT put forward the idea of conducting an EDI audit through the appointment of an EDI Co-ordinator. The term 'co-ordinator' has been deliberately chosen to underline the fact this is something we all need to address and not a task handed over to only one designated person. CT stressed that we had not identified a gap but are attempting to be proactive. The BAAL member appointed would be tasked with putting together a small working group to conduct the audit over approximately two years, with the possibility of thereafter creating a permanent role on the EC. The appointment would be made by May 2026 for audit May 2026-May 2027, with a report ready for the September 2027 AGM. CT invited feedback and this was approved via 'thumbs up' responses from those present.

RM asked if this was to be a paid task. CT responded that no-one else on the EC was paid for the work we do, so we are not considering paying at the moment, but it might be a possibility to pay a student for related and delegated tasks.

## **6. BAAL updates**

VV reported on the CUP seminars: two had taken place in June 2025, one in July 2025 and another is scheduled for November 2025.

- "AI in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: researcher and practitioner perspectives", University of Strathclyde, organised by Celia Antoniou and team (6 June 2025)
- "(Re-)exploring ethics in Applied Linguistics research", Northumbria University, organised by Alex Ho-Cheong Leung and Nancy Dieu-Ngoc Nguyen (23 June 2025)
- "The future of doctoral writing", The Open University, organised by Julia Molinari and Jackie Tuck

VV announced the next call for the BAAL/CUP Seminars (max £2000 per application) and the BAAL Research Development Workshops (max £1500 per application). Ursula Lanvers (UL) asked if it would be possible to increase the funds for the CUP seminars. VV responded that there was matched funding with the Cambridge University Press (CUP), so this is something that we will need to cross check with CUP.

VV announced the launch of the BAAL Regional Hubs, which had arisen out of members' requests for networking opportunities. A call for expressions of interest would be made after the conference, with a submission deadline of early November. Funding would be £6000 in total, a maximum of £1,500 per applicant.

## 7. BAAL Book Prize 2025

SCo reported on this year's book prize, for which there were 26 submissions. He thanked the publishers and the anonymous reviewers who had participated. He showed the 6 shortlisted titles, and presented the two runners-up as well as the winner, which had been announced at the book prize event the day before.

Winner:

**Anna Elizabeth Holm**, *Migration, Adult Language Learning and Multilingualism* (1st book), published by Routledge/Taylor & Francis

Runners up:

**Magdalena Kubanyiova and Parinita Shetty**, *Listening Without Borders: Creating Spaces for Encountering Difference*, published by Multilingual Matters

**Robert Blackwood, Stefania Tufi and Will Amos**, *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Linguistic Landscapes* published by Bloomsbury Publishing

## 8. Elections to the Executive Committee

AHCL thanked outgoing members of the EC, RM for donating to the Christopher Brumfit scholarship fund, and Katie Worman and colleagues at BAAL's membership association, MOSAIC, for their support. The following posts were up for re-election. The roles of Membership Secretary and Seminars Co-ordinator were put to a vote, while the others were unopposed.

- Meetings Secretary – Gee Macrory
- Membership Secretary – Vander Viana
- Seminars Coordinator – Paweł Szudarski
- Website Editor – Celia Antoniou
- Ordinary Member – Yi Zhang
- Ordinary Member – Zoe Handley
- Ordinary Member – Piotr Wegorowski
- Co-PGR coordinator (appointed) – Ceri Morgan (appointed as a result of a tie in the election which is constitutionally resolved by the BAAL chair)

The results were announced at the conference closing ceremony on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September.

### **(Written) Reports from officers (available on the BAAL website)**

- Chair (Caroline Tagg)
- Treasurer (Bettina Beinhoff)
- Secretary (Alex Ho-Cheong Leung)

- Media Coordinator (Mel Evans)
- Meetings Secretary (Glenn Hadikin)
- Membership Secretary (Rachel Wicaksono)
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator (Tim Hampson)
- Publications Secretary (Sal Consoli)
- Newsletter Editor (Robbie Love)
- Website Editor (Paweł Szudarski)
- SIG Coordinator (Sathena Chan)
- Seminars Coordinator (Vander Viana)
- CLIE Representative (Maria Arche)