

BAAL 2026 AGM Minutes

Wednesday 2nd September 2026, 5:45-6:45 pm

BAAL Annual General Meeting

CR1, Aston University (hybrid)

1. Introductions, apologies, and confirmation of minute-takers

The BAAL Secretary (AHCL) welcomed everyone to the AGM. Piotr Węgorowski (PW) was confirmed as the minute-taker.

Committee members present: Caroline Tagg (CT), Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (AHCL), Bettina Beinhoff (BB), Robbie Love (RL), Sultan Turkan (ST), Gee Mcrory (GM), Sal Consoli (SC), Paweł Szudarski (PS), Tim Hampson (TH), Piotr Węgorowski (PW), Stephen Pihlaja (SP), Elvis Rescue (ER), Mel Evans (ME), Ceri Morgan (CM), Zoe Handley (ZH), Celia Antoniou (CA)

Apologies: Maria Arche, Peter Browning, Nahal Khabbazzbashi, Vander Viana, Yi Zhang

2. Confirmation of minutes from the 2025 AGM

Minutes of the 2025 AGM were confirmed.

3. Chair's report

The BAAL Chair (CT) outlined the work focussed around strategic priorities set up under the previous Chair:

- **Supporting the membership**, which underpins all we do, with an additional aim of keeping members updated through BAALmail and ensuring the work of the EC is transparent to all members.
- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.** Among the many current initiatives, CT pointed out the appointment of EDI coordinator Nahal Khabbazzbashi to carry out a BAAL audit. A task force is being assembled with report due by the next AGM.
- **Advocating for Applied Linguistics and Influencing HE Policies**, which has been achieved through consultation with D26 REF panel chair, sending letters to universities in support of colleagues, strengthening links with other associations. CT congratulated Frah Mohamed, an undergraduate student from UWE, who was the winner in Committee for Linguistics in Education (CLiE) National Video Competition and who attended the conference. CT confirmed that BAAL will host AILA World Congress 2030 at the University of Birmingham.

CT also mentioned that the *BAAL Applied Linguistics Leadership* programme has been a great success. The initiative is designed to strengthen the discipline through personal development. It is cost-effective, and the EC will be looking to run the programme again next year, with a planned March/April 2027 start. A call for participants will be launched in November.

CT then moved on to mention *Young Linguists' Challenge: word, worlds, futures* national schools competition developed by 20 BAAL colleagues. It will launch in late October with a submission date of February 2027, to coincide with the National Linguistics Day in November. Members will be updated through BAALmail to help publicise the opportunity but also to recruit markers and moderators.

CT thanked CM for taking care of the growing number of SIGs, currently at 22.

Another area of activity included mentoring opportunities during the conference, organised by ST, PB, and TH.

There was a question from the audience: what are the implications of organising the AILA Congress? CT said that the host institution, the University of Birmingham, has underwritten the conference, but talks are ongoing in terms of the specific working relationship between BAAL, AILA and UoB colleagues. There will also be implications for the BAAL Annual conference, which will likely not run that year. There was another question submitted online about measures in which BAAL can try to reduce registration costs for BAAL members, an item that has been discussed iteratively during the planning cycle for our annual conference.

4. Treasurer's report

BB presented the 2025-26 financial report on BAAL's income and expenditure. The budget is healthy, mostly thanks to surplus from conferences.

Expenditure has gone up for scholarships and. BB thanked the accountant, Kurban Abji, for his continuous support.

Ros Mitchell (RM) called on the committee to ensure that more money would be spent. She queried that last year's minutes stated that the budget Applied Linguistics fund would increase, which does not show up on the accounts. BB explained that the increase in funding would not be reflected in the current accounts, as only 25% is paid out to successful applicants, with the remainder paid at the completion on the projects. CT confirmed that the total was £30,000 committed to the programme in the most recent iteration. RM also pointed out that PGR coordinator report noted that only one student was supported to go to AILA Junior Researcher Meetings and suggested that there are ways in which the committee can support particularly early career researchers. BB thanked Ros for

raising the question, as it forces the committee to reflect on how spending can be increased.

Accounts were approved.

5. BAAL updates

PS reported on the BAAL-Cambridge University Press (CUP) sponsored seminars. Two events took place over the summer:

Natalie Braber & John Bellamy, *The Sociolinguistics of Industry: perspectives on the language of mining, manufacturing and agriculture*, held at Nottingham Trent University on 17 June 2026 (in person)

Katie Webb and colleagues, *Beyond the Default: rethinking pseudonymisation in Applied Linguistics research*, held at University of Warwick on 13 July 2026 (in person)

Researcher Development Workshops consisted of three events:

- Sal Consoli, *Researcher vulnerabilities in applied linguistics*, held at the University of Edinburgh on 5 June 2026 (hybrid)
- Cara Penry Williams and colleagues, *How do they do it? Discourse Analysis for insights into practices: An interdisciplinary showcase*, held in person at University of Derby on 23 June 2026.
- Yuze Sha and Martyn Pickersgill, *Beyond the text: A practical workshop on multimodal social media analysis of health, harm and trust*, which will take place in November/December at the University of Edinburgh.

CT announced Applied Linguistics Fund winners:

- Jemina Napier (Heriot-Watt), *Being seen: Giving visibility to the experiences of Deaf women domestic abuse survivors who use British Sign Language*
- Jane Andrews (UWE Bristol), *Applying Linguistics in Young People's Study and Employment Choices*
- Nancy Dieu-Ngoc Nguyen (University of Northumbria), *Peer-Led Multilingualism in Action: A Multilingual Club Model Promoting Linguistic Equity in UK Primary Education*
- Emma Brooks (UCL), *Linguistic labour in healthcare support workers*
- Elisabeth Barakos (UCL), *Making Language Visible in School EDI: A Kaleidoscopic Data Approach*
- Jenniver Marshall (University of Derby), *SPARKLE: Schools Promoting Agency and Representation through Knowledge about Language for Equity*

- Yue Zhou (UoB), *The languages around us: Exploring multilingualism through a young researcher's project*

6. **BAAL book prize 2026**

CT then mentioned the BAAL book prize, which was previously awarded at the conference. The winning publication was *Voices of Immigration* by Agnes Weiyun He, published by CUP. The runner up was *Autoethnographic Explorations of Lived Raciolinguistic Experiences Among Multilingual Scholars: Looking Inward to Move Forward* by Qianqian Zhang-Wu and Bridget Goodman, published by Multilingual Matters. CT offered congratulations to the winner, runner up and shortlist, and thanked the publishers and encouraged members to attend their stands.

7. **Applied Linguistics journal**

CT welcomed Ron Martinez (RMa), the Co-editor in Chief of the journal *Applied Linguistics*. RMa explained that the journal would like to have a closer relationship with BAAL. One suggestion involved establishing a prize for the best article of the year, jointly funded with BAAL. RMa drew members' attention to a new section of the journal on AI in applied linguistics. CT emphasised the long-standing relationship between BAAL and *Applied Linguistics* and that BAAL was looking forward to further working with the journal.

8. **Elections to the Executive Committee**

CT thanked the committee members who finished their term: BB, CM, TH, PB, ST, ER, SP. CT also thanked Katie Worman and colleagues at Mosaic for supporting BAAL.

The following posts were available for election:

- Treasurer
- Special Interest Groups Coordinator
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer

Two positions were elected unopposed:

- Treasurer: Piotr Węgorowski
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer: Ahlam Al Nahawi

Given that PW was already on the committee, three ordinary members are to be elected. The roles were put to a vote, with the results announced at the conference closing ceremony on 3 September.

None

(Written) Reports from officers (available online:

<https://www.baal.org.uk/documents/>)

Chair (Caroline Tagg)

Secretary (Alex Ho-Cheong Leung)

Treasurer (Bettina Beinhoff)

Media Coordinator (Mel Evans)

Meetings Secretary (Gee Macrory)

Membership Secretary (Vander Viana)

Newsletter Editor (Robbie Love)

Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator (Timothy Hampson)

Publications Secretary (Sal Consoli)

Seminars Coordinator (Paweł Szudarski)

SIG Coordinator (Ceri Morgan)

Website Editor (Celia Antoniou)

CLIE Representative (Maria Arche)