

## LAGB Annual General Meeting

10 September 2021

Via Zoom

Chair: Prof. Caroline Heycock (President)

### 1. Welcome and apologies

Specific apologies from Michelle Sheehan.

### 2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Available online (<http://www.lagb.org.uk/agm-minutes>).
- The minutes were approved without changes.

### 3. Matters arising

- All covered in relevant committee reports below.

### 4. Reports from committee

#### 4.1. *President's report (Prof. Caroline Heycock)*

- Part of the LAGB's work over this last year has been responding to threats to language and linguistics that have been taking place across the UK. Have written to VCs at a number of institution (Aston, Leicester, Roehampton, Chester, Sheffield).
- Another big challenge has been the changes to the Erasmus scheme. The LAGB issued a joint letter with colleagues from Modern Languages to Gavin Williamson. Ongoing work with colleagues in Modern Languages to ensure the Turing Scheme is improved and extended. AMLUK is a good forum for this ongoing collaborative work. Please keep us informed if there are areas of work you think we should contribute to.
- Meeting with James Fenner of the AHRC to better understand the work of subject area associations and how the AHRC and UKRI can assist us. JF also attended the Annual Meeting and was available to answer questions and keen to maintain ongoing close relations with us and to support linguistics.
- CH has also been attending meetings, including with the British Academy which is setting up meetings with all the learned societies. And keen to work on how the BA can support us and add to our voice.
- Ana Siewierska Prize update. Prize now being awarded for the best publication accepted by the JoL for an ECR. Eligibility applied retrospectively to anything that has been accepted since January 2020. This year's round will close in March 2022. Further details on eligibility on the Prizes page of the LAGB website. Please advertise this widely.
- Really impressed by work of ULAB who have been very active this year. Organised an excellent online conference this year.
- Lots of very positive collaboration both within the country and internationally. Pooling of resources for online teaching. We have also participated in the Abralin series of talks, including inviting people to give talks. Everyone responded very positively and there is now an incredible pool of resources for teaching purposes going forward. Links are on the webpage.

#### 4.2. *Honorary Secretary's report (Professor Michelle Sheehan)*

- AHA has focused on contractions and closures and PGCE bursaries between withdrawn for many A&H subjects. We have also been contributing to these letters via AHA. Highlight an online toolkit (US based) aiming to strengthen humanities recruitment efforts. Current presidents will step down so they are looking for new people to fill these roles.
- Common English Forum – no meetings this academic year.
- UCGAL census this year has been gathering information from all UK linguists (433). LAGB made a contribution towards the costs of an analysis a report that will be produced in relation to this.
- UCML have been very active this year and LAGB has been involved in a range of ways. Entries for a language plus linguistics is on the increase. Positive news! LAGB has raised an issue in relation to heritage language speakers are not allowed to count a qualification in any language which is viewed as a ‘language of the house’. This has been raised with the BA and a new strategic Committee for Languages and hopefully this will be examined.
- Open Access Consultation has now been published and is available to all members on the LAGB Forum. Members urged to look at this as it will impact us all.

#### 4.3. *Membership Secretary’s report (Dr Theresa Biberauer)*

- 329 fully paid up members. Numbers are relatively stable and a nice increase in the postgraduate category this year which is great to see.
- Have been some problems in recent years in terms of membership and challenges with student membership. Proof of student status is needed and these remain ‘pending’ until this is resolved.
- Membership up (by 19) since last year.
- Please do advertise the benefits of membership to others (access to the conference, JoL at reduced rates, conference support for members, student bursaries).
- One award for conference support was made – International Conference on Linguistics and Communication (February 2021). This was used to contribute towards the costs of captioning the conference. A reminder that this is open to members to apply for.

#### 4.4. *Treasurer’s report (Dr Rob Truswell)*

- Accounts still prepared by Chris Cummins as no access for RT to the accounts due to closure of banks.
- Income has exceeded the expenditure. And since it has been quite an unusual year as members continue to pay their membership fees but there have been fewer outgoings than usual. Picture looks ok for next year although it could still be stronger.
- Question – we hope that will have the costs associated with an in-person conference. Do we now have further opportunities than in the past or is it just that we don’t have to panic. For the time being just gives us a bit of a cushion and we do not need to consider increasing fees or taking further measures for the time being.

#### 4.5. *Meetings Secretary’s report (Dr Robyn Orfitelli)*

- 213 attendees so significantly (twice, three times) than attendees in previous year. Summer school with 2 workshops and 2 research talks, language tutorial on Louisiana Creole, Two plenary speakers (Maria Polinsky and Briain Joseph).
- Based on the QMUL (2019) AGM we introduced special sessions. This year the Meeting had 5 special sessions (although there has always been an Education Committee ‘special session’. Speakers from 4 continents and 13 time zones. Online conference also dramatically reduced the costs associated with the conference. Travel, catering, overnight costs etc were reduced to zero and registration fees were dramatically reduced as a result. Student registration was completely free for the conference.
- Special issues seem to have been a success and RO suggests we continue with these going forward. Discussion however about the format of the conference. Workload implications associated with hybrid model for conference going forward (some challenges involved with this and not insurmountable however would be good to think about it further).
- Costs associated with BSL interpreting and/or closed captioning costs. If we go ahead with this it would incur costs and this would have to be considered in relation to the other factors.
  - The special sessions had people in them from different topics/sub-fields as well (e.g. African particles had talks on syntax and phonology).
  - Balance also to be struck between invitation and ensuring best possible take up for proposals and abstracts for the special sessions as well. Could be a minimum number of talks involved in a special session. Should also flag up that it is a significant amount of work for organizers of the conference to ensure there are submission or the special session. (The African particles session.
  - The dual/hybrid format could perhaps be decided by local organisers.
  - The increased numbers suggest that this seems to be a good idea. Presumably anyone who is offering conference facilities is currently trying to equip these for hybrid delivery given the current circumstances. Also to ensure high quality experience for all attendees (both online and in-person).

#### 4.6. Assistant Secretary’s report (Dr Hannah Gibson)

- HG oversaw the OUDiL prize, which was given out for the fifth year.
  - Four winners were chosen: Gloria Yu (UCL); Siena Weingartz (Manchester); Katie Goddard (Edinburgh); Ariwan Suhairi (Cambridge)
  - ULAB best presentation from 2020 and 2021
    - Madeleine Rees (Cambridge University); Mitchell McKee (University of Glasgow).

#### 4.7. External Relations Officer’s report (Dr Jonathan Kasstan)

- Website has been updated to reflect changes in the constitution and should also include Northern Ireland throughout now.
- In terms of external facing this is both the website and Twitter account. Current focus on funding opportunities and job postings and this seems to have worked well and gained traction.
- JK also attending and reporting back on the emerging UKRI ECR Forum

#### 4.8. *Student Committee's report (Marc Olivier-Loiseau)*

- Currently five members and probably some changes in the coming year so will need to find some new members.
- Not lots of activity this year due to the pandemic.
- Funded 1 conference (Kent 'November 2020), (York and Sheffield; Feb 2021)
- Blog was launched which struggled to gain momentum so will revisit this.
- Organised the summer school which was well-attended and quite successful
  - The committee would like to thank Greg for his service!

#### 5. Report from Education Committee (Dr Eva Eppler)

- Re-structuring of the EC, inviting new members (e.g. from LASER Language Analysis in School: Education and Research) and assignment of distinct roles to members.
- LASER (Language Analysis in Schools: Education and Research): Due to the continuing pandemic, LASER has had fewer meetings than usual, although at the November 2020 CLiE meeting, Graeme Trousdale reported on his communication with [Uni4me](#) who are keen for LASER to produce set of materials to be made available to school children on language analysis.
- In collaboration with colleagues from BAAL/CLiE: Response to DfE's consultation on their proposal for a MFL GCSE reform. CLiE responded to the DfE's consultation on their proposal for a MFL GCSE reform. CLiE's response was shared with and approved by the LAGB. CLiE's response and those of most of the 15 other organisations who responded can be found here [reports | Committee for Linguistics in Education \(clie.org.uk\)](#)
- KAL Gap Project: CLiE is working on a project investigating the perceived but not yet explored gap between teachers' Knowledge about Language (KAL) and language analysis skills and what the NC requires them to teach. Currently we are focusing on primary English, but plans are to expand the project to MFL and secondary. The aim of the project is to lobby for enhanced support for teachers around KAL/KAGrammar.
- Particular thanks go to CLiE to the work done around the reforms to the GCSE.

#### 6. Race and social justice sub-committee (Dr Laura Bailey)

- Group has met 4 times over the last year; good range of involvement of range of institutions, students, staff on different contract types.
- One of the main actions was the special session 'Directions in linguistics and social justice' at the Annual Meeting this year.
- Ongoing work – creation of a set of resources on decolonizing the curriculum which could be made available to members; 'racial literacy glossary' which could help with a range of conversations, a space on the webpage so people know about the sub-committee's existence and can reach out and be involved.
- If people want to be involved please contact the main LAGB email address (currently monitored by Theresa Biberauer) who is also on the sub-committee
- Website to be updated to reflect the existence of the committee.

#### 7. Support for UKLO (Dick Hudson)

- UKLO: The competition went ahead at all levels this year (2021). The UK squad as a whole on seven awards. Particularly noteworthy is the Honourable Mention for the youngest ever squad member, a girl in Year 9, who also shone in the Maths Olympiad. For more information see <https://www.uklo.org/reports>.
- Report also available online on the LAGB Forum.
- It has been a difficult year for the Olympiad.
- LAGB is one of the major supporters of the UKLO (costs approx. £8k/£9k to run per year).
- Very much hoping that the LAGB will be able to continue to support the Olympiad.
- Q – is there any discussion as to whether this will move to an online or hybrid format going forward.
- Participation rates from state schools has been hit harder during this last year during the pandemic (2 out of 8 from state schools).
- Is there a more sustainable way of supporting UKLO than having to ask for funds each year. This was discussed last year and it was agreed that they should continue to ask each year.
- Vote at meeting and agreed to contribute £2000 to UKLO for the coming year.

## **8. Languages, Society and Policy Journal**

- Dora Alexopoulou and Wendy Ayres-Bennett describe the work of Languages, Society and Policy Journal which presents shorter pieces to engage with topics relating to multilingualism and a range of topics.
- They explained the motivation between the journal and website and showcased a range of their offerings <https://www.meits.org/languages-society-policy>
- The proposal is the LAGB becomes part of the consortium who support LSP for the first three years. And then at the end of this stage there will be a review to see how progress is made from that point.
- Envisage an advisory board made up of representatives of the consortium. This could be useful for taking the journal forward and ensuring societies have input and links to projects and authors. IMLR is fully committed, PhilSoc will discuss its involvement in October but is very interested. Currently discussing with Language Learning Society.
- Also has potential to help with REF pathways to impact etc.
- Have been in discussion with BAAL and UCML have also asked LSP to apply for a larger amount of money since this fits with their funding scheme. However LSP committee to the notion of a consortium
- Suggestion is £400 contribution over the next 3 years.
- Have also been some reductions in costs for example of committee members attending CMs. But still difficult to predict costs on a year-on-year basis. University room hire increases in costs.
- Members present at the AGM voted (via anonymous poll in Zoom) to endorse LSP. And also to support the contribution of £400 per year for the next 3 years. There will be a review after 2 years. This is carried.

## **9. Changes to the committee**

- Michelle Sheehan is stepping down as Hons Secretary
- Robyn Orfitelli is stepping down as Meetings Secretary.
  - Many thanks to both of them for outstanding work in these roles and all of the work they have done for the Association over the last 3 years.
- Invitations for nominations are welcome for both of these roles. Names will be accepted until 14<sup>th</sup> September and then we will hold a poll in the case of multiple nominations. We are looking for two Meetings Secretary's going forward who will split the role.

## **8. Speakers at LAGB Meeting in Ulster**

- We are committed to inviting Liina Pylkkänen who was invited previously but was not able to come when we changed the date.
- Previous nominations still stand. But we would like more names for speakers in coming years. Practice to date has been to have a vote amongst the membership and then the top four are passed on to the local organisers to make the final decision. We will be seeking nominations for one post and perhaps a back-up third in case Liina cannot attend due to timing.

## **9. Future venues for LAGB meetings**

- There was a plan for ARU to be a host in 2023 however since Michelle Sheehan has now moved we need to go back to them to see if they would still be interested in hosting. CH will continue this discussion. But members are also asked to consider if they would like to host a future meeting.

## **10. AOB**

None discussed.

Hannah Gibson, Assistant Secretary  
(End of minutes)