

European Systemic-Functional Linguistics Association
Minutes of the AGM,
Helsinki, 11th June, 2008

Participants

Thomas Andersen, David Banks, Tom Bartlett, Benjamin Clarke, Jonathan Fine, Carlos Gouveia, Monica Holtz, Ohli Hussein Yusef, Carys Jones, Inger Lassen, Anne McCabe, Anne Montemayor Borsinger, Mick O'Donnell, Susana Shore, Sonja Starc, Eija Ventola.

1 Opening

The meeting was opened by Eija Ventola, functioning as chair.

2 Recording Secretary

Mick O'Donnell was selected as the recording secretary for the meeting.

3 Acceptance of Minutes of Past Meeting

The minutes of the AGM of the prior year, in Saarbrücken, were placed on the ISFLA website soon after the prior meeting. The current meeting approved the minutes without change.

4 Presentation of the Executive Committee

Eija Ventola presented the current composition of the executive committee of the association for the current meeting:

Chair: Eija Ventola

Treasurer: Robin Fawcett

Elected Officers:

David Banks

Julia Lavid

Mick O'Donnell

Erich Steiner

Ex-officio Members:

Past Chair: Geoff Thompson

Past Convenor: Erich Steiner, Stella Neuman

Current Convenor: Susana Shore

All members have a three year term, except for the past and current convenors, which change each year. Elections for all elected posts will be held at next year's AGM.

5 Presentation of Draft ESFLA Constitution

The 2007 meeting appointed a sub-committee consisting of Robin Fawcett, Mick O'Donnell and Geoff Thompson to develop a draft constitution for the

association. The draft was initially based on the constitution of ISFLA, and then edited to suite the needs of our European context. This draft was presented during the meeting. It was decided that, due to limited time at the meeting, the draft would be placed on the ESFLA website, with a message inviting suggestions for modification to the draft. Suggestions are to be sent to Mick O'Donnell (as website manager) up until 31st December 2008. These comments would then be incorporated into the draft by the constitution sub-committee, and the finished version presented to the 2009 meeting to vote on its acceptance.

Thomas Andersen mentioned that the constitution should make clear that committee members are not personally responsible for debts of the association.

6 The ESFLA Website

During the 2007 meeting, Mick O'Donnell proposed that ESFLA purchase its own domain name and website (using doteasy.com, a website provider). After that meeting, donations were solicited for this end, and during the year a website was purchased, and Mick O'Donnell provided a draft set of pages, which were revised by Geoff Thompson.

The meeting accepted the website as the official website for ESFLA. It is now functional, available through <http://www.esfla.org>. Send any comments to Mick.

Eija suggested that all email addresses on the website be given in the form *fred AT heaven.com* to avoid email addresses being automatically harvested by Spammers.

Eija Ventola thanked Mick for his work on the website.

7 Treasurer's Report

Because the Treasurer, Robin Fawcett could not be present, Eija Ventola presented his report. For full details, see: <http://www.esfla.org/> under the Minutes tab.

The report shows a positive balance of 1000 GBP (close to 2000 Euros), stemming from the Gorizia meeting (662 GBP), support from ISFLA (300 GBP) and some donations collected at the Saarbrucken meeting (192 GBP).

155 GBP was paid out to help cover expenses from the London (2005) meeting. Carys Jones thanked those who contributed towards the deficit.

In Robin's report, he suggests that we should look to maintain a reserve of 2000 GBP to cover any substantial loss from a meeting.

Eija Ventola and Susana Shore stated that the financial outcome of the current meeting was not yet clear, but that the University and the Department would help cover any loss. They stated numbers were lower than expected, possibly due to competing conferences, and the distance of Finland from the rest of Europe.

At the 2007 meeting, Robin Fawcett was asked to investigate the possibility of opening a Euro currency account, either within the UK (where the account is currently, in pounds), or on the continent. At the current meeting, Eija Ventola reported that Robin Fawcett had looked at both possibilities. Firstly, it is not

possible to open a Euro account in UK banks. Secondly, Chris Taylor in Italy looked into opening an account for the association in Italy, but the bank would not allow web-based transactions for non-resident signatories, which would be needed given that the association treasurer (Robin) is in the UK.

Robin's report proposed that next year's meeting should consider electing a second treasurer on the continent to deal with funds kept in Euros on the Continent.

8 Logo Competition

Eija Ventola reminded the meeting that at the previous AGM, Nick Moore proposed a logo competition on Sysfling as a means to get a Logo for the association. This was held up due to lack of the website, but she asked that Nick be reminded of the task, that the competition have a deadline of May next year, and that the submitted icons be presented at the next meeting, to be voted on. The selected logo will be used on the ESFLA website.

9 Upcoming Conferences

Eija Ventola reported that it had been difficult to find a convenor for the 2009 meeting, but just before the meeting, two candidates were found: Cardiff (Lise Fontaine) and Slovenia (Sonia Starc). Cardiff was nominated as the site for 2009, and Slovenia for 2010.

The meeting unanimously approved the proposed sites for the future meetings.

In regards to the Cardiff meeting Tom Bartlett informed the meeting that the conference was planned for 8-10 July, with a theme of 'Choice', focusing on core grammar concepts. and that the committee would consist of the following:

- Lise Fontaine
- Tom Bartlett
- Gerard O'Grady
- Ben Clarke

Sonya Starc spoke for the Slovenia site, and informed the meeting that the dean of the faculty had already approved the meeting. The intended site is a 16th Century Venetian palace. This will be the first SFL meeting held in a Slavic country.

Eija stated that there would be no meeting in 2011, due to the ISFC being held in Lisbon that year. The next meeting of concern will thus be the 2012 meeting.

10 Other Business

Thomas Andersen announced a new SFL organisation, the "Nordic Network", which was formed at the ISFC in Odense with the intention of supporting SFL in Nordic countries, in relation to Nordic Languages. The term "network" was used to avoid confusion with the European association. The network's website is http://www.sdu.dk/Om_SDU/Institutter_centre/Isk_sprog_og_kommunikation/Forskning/Forskningsprojekter/Nordisk_SFL.aspx.