

European Systemic-Functional Linguistics Association
Minutes of the AGM,
Cardiff, 9th July, 2009

Participants

Jorge Arus, David Banks, Tom Bartlett, Margaret Berry, Ben Clarke, Michael Cummings, Izaskun Elorza, Maria Freddi, Lise Fontaine, Sheena Gardner, Carlos Gouveia, Carys Jones, , Leila Khabbazi, Bader Kurdalin, Inger Lassen, Julia Lavid, Irene Lord, Anne McCabe, Arianna Maioranni, Donna Miller, Ann Montemayor-Borsinger, Nick Moore, Stella Neumann, Mick O'Donnell, Gerard O'Grady, Anke Shulz, Sonja Starc, Carol Taylor, Geoff Thompson, Eija Ventola,

1 Opening

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

2 Recording Secretary

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

3 Acceptance of Minutes of Past Meeting

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

4 Draft ESFLA Constitution

Eija Ventola noted that during 2007/2008, Robin Fawcett, Geoff Thompson and Mick O'Donnell worked on a draft constitution for the Association. Due to limited time at the 2008 AGM, we postponed acceptance of the constitution until the next meeting, with the proviso that the draft be placed on the ESFLA website with a note attached inviting modifications to it, and these modifications to be incorporated before the 2009 meeting. Due to lack of time, this note was not placed.

At the current meeting, Eija suggested that we again place the suggestion on the website to submit changes to the constitution until December, incorporate any changes by the meeting in 2010, and vote on the acceptance of the constitution at that meeting.

5 The ESFLA Website

Eija Ventola reminded all present that the association now has a website, available at: <http://www.esfla.org/>.

6 Merging systemic discussion lists

Eija asks the meeting whether ESFLA should express an opinion at the ISFLA AGM regarding the proposed merging of the sysfling and sys-func discussion lists, which had previously been discussed on the lists.

Mick O'Donnell explained that managing two very similar lists with strongly overlapping membership didn't make much sense, and that he was wanting to step down from management of the sysfling list.

Erich Steiner commented that given the strong Australian focus of Sysfling, he was worried about receiving a flood of emails only intended for a Sydney context.

David Banks said that having one more email a day to delete was not problem to him.

Stella Neuman expressed her support for merging the lists.

Anne McCabe says she is on both lists and likes the content of both.

A vote was held to the proposal:

Should ESFLA express support of the merging of the two lists to the next ISFLA AGM.

Against: 2 votes
For: 20 votes
Don't Care: 12 don't care

Motion was passed. (Recorder's note: at the ISFLA AGM soon after, the meeting was very rushed and there was no time for the issue to be raised)

7 Treasurer's Report

Robin Fawcett, ESFLA Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report. Attached.

The main items were:

Incomes:

- Money collected at the Saarbruchen meeting for website: 190 pounds.
- Surplus from the Saarbruchen meeting: 2000 Euros (less 1000 Euros used with permission of the chair towards publishing the proceedings)
- Money given by ISFLA to help cover the loss from London's workshop: 300 Pounds
- A previous income from the Gorizia meeting (2006): 1000 Euros
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Expenses:

Payment to organisers of the 2005 meeting to cover incurred losses: 155 Pounds
Setting up the ESFLA website: 55 Pounds

Net Funds: 1736 pounds.

Robin recommended that we maintain a surplus in case of high losses in any one conference.

He suggests that we think about providing scholarships at future meetings, although some discussion doubted that the European meeting could afford such at present.

He asked whether we should return the 300 pounds provided by ISFLA, given that we now have a surplus. Discussion ensued. Robin made the point that

Europe is among the richest region in the world. Geoff Thompson (ISFLA chair) suggested that any funds that ISFLA gets back would be well spent by ISFLA in locations such as Africa, where support is needed.

Mick O'Donnell asked if current conference would make a profit.

Lise Fontaine said that no debt was expected, but it was not clear whether there would be a surplus.

Eija asks for a show of hands against returning the funds.

No hands were raised.

Eija asked Robin to execute the transfer.

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

Mick explained that nothing had been done with this.

Anne McCabe suggested that, given Nick was not at this meeting, someone present should take on the job of sending this reminder to Sysfling.

Floor asked for volunteers.

Anne volunteered.

9 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: Susanna Shore

2009 was the changeover year and thus we needed to elect new officers.

Chair: As we have a three-year rotation of Chair, Eija Ventola stepped down from that position. A call for nominations was held.

Erich Steiner nominates Mick O'Donnell

Robin Fawcett seconded the nomination

Mick O'Donnell accepted the nomination

As no other candidates presented themselves for the position, Mick was elected as new chair of the association.

Treasurer: Eija Ventola stated that Robin Fawcett would like to step down from the Treasurer role if possible but would continue if not other candidate presented. Eija suggests candidates from Euro-based countries were preferred as we have most conferences in countries of this currency.

No one volunteered. Consequently Robin was accepted as re-elected.

Elected Officers: The association currently contains elected officers. Eija called for nominations:

Erich Steiner nominated **Stella Neumann**

Tom Bartlett seconded.

Stella accepted the nomination.

Geoff Thompson nominated **Julia Lavid**

Erich Steiner seconded.

Julia accepted the nomination.

Geoff Thompson nominated **David Banks**

Mick O'Donnell seconded.

David accepted the nomination.

Robin Fawcett nominated **Carol Torsello**

Donna Miller seconded.

Carol accepted the nomination.

As no other candidates were nominated, these 4 candidates were considered elected as the new officers.

As a result of the elections, the new association committee now stands as follows:

Chair: Mick O'Donnell

Treasurer: Robin Fawcett

Elected Officers:

David Banks

Julia Lavid

Carol Torsello

Stella Neumann

Ex-officio Members:

Past Chair: Eija Ventola

Past Convenor: Susana Shore

Current Convenor: Lise Fontaine

10 Report on the Previous Conference

The previous workshop was held in Helsinki during 2008. The convenor, Susanna Shore, reported that the university's position was that since the

university had committed to cover any potential losses from the conference, they would absorb the surplus from the conference. No money had been advanced from ESFLA towards conference expenses.

11 Upcoming Conferences

Sonja Starc spoke about the Slovenia conference (2010). The intended site is a 16th Century Venetian palace. The intended plenaries are Michael Hoey, Jim Martin, Chris Taylor and Eija Ventola. [editor's note: Hoey eventually cancelled due to sickness]. The meeting would be on the Slovenian coast, very scenic with lots of good wine produced nearby. This is also close to the capital (Ljubljana). She said the plan was for a 3 day conference followed by a day of excursions.

She was attempting to get sponsors for the meeting. The national airlines, Adria would be the official conference airline with a 20% discount to attendees. They fly from London, Munich, Frankfurt, Paris, and other main Euro capitals.

Details of the ISFLA conference in Vancouver were also given by Eija, and she noted that the pre-conference institute will overlap by one day with the European meeting.

Eija repeated 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.

Eija mentioned an International Multimodal Conference to be held at the UTS in Sydney from 1-3 December, 2010, and also the 3rd Finnish Symposium on Functional Linguistics and Multisemiotics meeting to be held in her own department (Eija as convenor) in August 2009.

12 Other Business

No other business was raised.

13 Closing

Eija gave thanks for the support she had received during her time as chair.

Meeting declared closed at 17:15.

Recorded by Mick O'Donnell