

European Systemic-Functional Linguistics Association

MINUTES of the AGM

Paris, July 12th 2014, 9:00am.

Meeting called to order at 9.10 and closed at 9.50 am.

Chair of ESFLA: Lise Fontaine

Committee Members present: David Banks, Robin Fawcett, Stella Neumann, Mick O'Donnell, Sheena Gardner (previous conference convenor), Chris Gledhill (current conference convenor)

1. Apologies for absence
Donna Rose Miller, Julia Lavid
2. Minutes of the previous AGM
Members were asked to check the minutes and if no corrections were received in next two weeks then the minutes from the 2013 AGM in Coventry would be deemed approved.
3. Matters arising
2013/5. Logos. Sample logos were sent from Coventry members (Bob Wilkinson, Hilary Nesi, Sheena Gardner) but were not able to be shown to the membership due to technical difficulties. LF proposed that the logos would be presented to the committee and if approved they would be put to the membership at the 2015 AGM in Aachen. This was approved unanimously.

ACTION: LF to send the logos to all committee members.

2013/6. Treasurer's report. No proposal about the details of how to raise income at conferences was put forward due to a lack of agreement by the committee members. LF proposed that a working group be set up to work on the topic, with the objective of considering a variety of options and preparing a proposal for the 2015 AGM in Aachen. This was seconded by Stella Neumann and approved unanimously.

Members were invited to volunteer to take part in the working group. The following members agreed to be members of the working group: Mick O'Donnell, Chris Gledhill, Geoff Thompson, Gail Forey and Robin Fawcett, with Geoff Thompson chairing the group.

ACTION: GT to organise and chair a working group on the financial nature of the association.

4. Conference name change
LF proposed that the conference name be established as ESFLC (European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference). This was seconded by Sheena Gardner and approved unanimously.
5. Announcement of French translation of Halliday's work (Marion Bendinelli)
Marion Bendinelli presented her project of translating Halliday's work into French. She is looking for contributors and support in a variety of ways. We agreed that the association would support the project.

ACTION: MB to email details to LF and LF to then announce the project to the larger community (e.g. Sysfling)

6. Election of new ESFLA Committee Members needed for 2015

The membership was reminded that we need to elect new committee members at the 2015 AGM and members were asked to consider whether they would be willing to take on a committee role. It was noted that Robin Fawcett has been treasurer for an extended period due to a lack of volunteers for the role. Mick O'Donnell offered to check whether it would be possible for the association to open a bank account in Spain.

7. Treasurer's report

The treasurer's report was noted (appended to these minutes).

8. It was noted that Tunisia has launched a new SFL association: Systemic Functional Linguistics Association of Tunisia (SYFLAT)

9. Update on 2013 Coventry Conference

Sheena Gardner reported that proceedings from last year's Coventry conference are well under way and that once clearance matters for online publishing are resolved, there will be an announcement to all. The publication details are as follows:

Alsop, S. and S. Gardner (eds) 2014 *Language in a digital age: Be not afraid of digitality. Proceedings from the 24th European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference and Workshop: 1st to 3rd July 2013, Coventry University, UK. Coventry: DEL, Coventry University. ISBN 978 18460007 13. 154 pp.*

10. Report on the 2014 Paris Conference

Chris Gledhill reported that the conference was going well and that he would be preparing a detailed report to present to the 2015 AGM in Aachen.

11. Future meetings

As the ISFLA conference is being held in Aachen in 2015 and there is no ESFLA conference planned, the AGM for ESFLA 2015 will be held at the ISFLA conference in Aachen. It was also noted that there are two upcoming conferences of potential interest to ESFLA members: First Tunisian International Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference and Workshop (26-28 March 2015 – Hammamet, Tunisia)

International Conference on Multimodality, South Africa 2016

Martin Kaltenbacher has offered to host the 2016 conference in Salzburg. This was approved unanimously. We noted our gratitude and appreciation to Martin.

There have been two expressions of interest for the 2017 ESFLC: Salamanca and Pavia. As the conference organisers were not present, LF proposed that the membership vote to accept that they would each be approved as hosts in consecutive years but with the year for each to be determined by the chair in consultation with the two conference convenors. The decision will be presented to the 2015 AGM in Aachen.

Action: LF to contact the two colleagues in Spain and Italy concerning the order of locations for 2017 and 2018.

12. Any other business

Geoff Thompson and Gail Forey announced that they would be commemorating Flo Davies at the conference. A presentation will be made during the coffee break and reception.

13. Next meeting to take place at the ISFLA conference in Aachen, July 2015

DRAFT ESFLA TREASURER'S REPORT 2013-14

Summary of the ESFLA account with the Co-operative Bank

Date	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
		GBP	GBP	GBP
05.04.13	Carried forward			1,967.75
05.07 14	Interest 2013-14	1.50		1,969.25

Our current balance is therefore close to GBP 1,970 (so EUR 2,486).

Since there are always new members of the association present, I shall give a brief history the ESFLA Fund, of which I am Treasurer.

In 2005, our annual conference and workshop was held at Kings College London, and, for the first time in ESFLA's history, the conference made a loss, amounting to about £1,000. One contributory cause was thought to be a lower number of overseas participants than expected, following a recent terrorist attack on an international flight.

The organizers of the workshops in 2006 (Gorizia) and 2007 (Saarbrücken) had surpluses which they transferred to the ESFLA account, and a voluntary collection was also taken at Saarbrücken, for the express purpose of paying for the website. In addition, ESFLA had to request ISFLA for a loan of £300, which was given and, in due course repaid. Our Chair at the time, Eija Ventola, was successful in obtaining a reduction in the debt, and by 2008 we had built up a reserve of GBP 1740.

In my 2008-09 report (so 5 years ago) I wrote "As your Treasurer, I would advise that we should continue to build up our reserve fund to a figure of at least GBP 3,000 ([then] = approx EUR 3781) before contemplating any major additional expenditure. (This is because, if a conference happened to be preceded by, say, a terrorist attack on a flight to the country of the host university, the loss could well be far above the loss of GBP 1000 that we suffered at the Kings College London conference in 2005.)"

However, we had no income for the next four years, successful though each conference was, i.e. 2008 (Helsinki), 2009 (Cardiff) and 2010 (Koper), with no conference in 2011 (because the ISFLA congress was held in Europe at Lisbon).

Over this period our reserves dropped from GBP 1740 to GBP 1400.

At the Bertinoro AGM in 2012 I emphasized the seriousness of our situation: our reserves were being steadily eroded, rather than building towards the 2009 target of GBP 3000. The AGM agreed unanimously to follow the example of Saarbrücken and to take a collection from the participants at Bertinoro, in order to start reversing the trend. This raised a helpful GBP 157, And the conference organizers were later able to pass to ESFLA a very healthy surplus of GBP 400. Thanks to Bertinoro, then, we are now in a considerably healthier position, with nearly GBP 2,000 in our account.

But we still have a long way to go, merely to reach our 2009 target of £3,000. And, allowing for inflation at a conservative 2.5%, this target should now, 5 years later, be £3400.

Robin Fawcett, 06.07.14