

**European Systemic Functional Linguistics Association
Annual General Assembly
Thursday, July 14, 2016
Salzburg, Austria**

Minutes

The meeting opened at 5:05 p.m.

1. Apologies for absence were presented on the part of Anke Schulz.
2. The minutes from the 2015 AGM were approved with the following change:
Point 11 should be revised as follows:
Election of new ESFLA Committee members: in order to replace Chair, Treasurer and two of the European representatives (as Julia Lavid and Stella Neumann have stepped down), the following slate was proposed:
Chair: Anne McCabe
Treasurer: Lise Fontaine
European representatives: Jorge Arús Hita, David Banks, Donna R. Miller, Anke Schulz,

The slate was voted in unanimously

The assembled members voted to approve the 2015 minutes with this revision.

3. ESFLA Logo: The final design of the ESFLA Logo was presented. Thanks were expressed to David Schöntal for his role in finalizing the design. A motion was put forth, and **the assembled members voted to approve the logo.**
4. The Treasurer presented the current bank balance for the Association (see p. 4). The £0.96 may be a bank charge, to be confirmed upon receipt of the bank statement. Outstanding are £300 from Equinox for the wine and cheese reception hosted at the 2016 ESFLC, and conference funds from ESFLC 2016 (see point 9).
5. Procedure for donations: a motion was put forth to amend the Constitution as follows (addition highlighted in green):

6. The Association's Finances

The Association does not collect membership fees. However, where the Association Conference has a surplus of funds, the Association requests that the surplus be passed to the Association, where local conditions allow. **Also, the Association welcomes contributions from benefactors to support its objectives.**

The Association will maintain a bank account. The Committee will have discretion to use the funds to support the Association's work in carrying out its objectives.

The assembled members voted to approve the addition.

Action item: The ESFLA Committee will explore options for collecting funds in order to bring suggestions to the 2017 AGM. Some suggestions that were provided were PayPal,

direct debit, and crowd funding. The Committee will also explore ideas for a European distribution list, to provide a way of reminding members that they can become benefactors/make donations.

6. Geoff Thompson Young Scholar Bursary: The Chair explained that the ESFLA Committee voted to establish this bursary for the 2016 conference. It included conference registration, dinner and up to 200 euros in travel and accommodation funds. Donations were being collected at the 2016 conference for subsequent years, and a generous amount has been collected. A motion was put forth to approve the bursary for subsequent European conferences. **The assembled members voted to approve continuing with the bursary.**

Action items:

- The conference manual needs to be updated to include information about the bursary for future convenors. One idea for consideration was suggested: include a way for other members to make a donation to the bursary fund on the registration page—a suggestion that future conference convenors could take into account.
- Miriam Pérez-Veneros (Universidad de Salamanca) was the 2016 recipient of the Geoff Thompson Young Scholar Bursary.

7. 1. ESFLA Committee members: a motion was put forth to include the web-manager (currently Mick O'Donnell) as an Ex-officio member of the Committee. **The motion was voted and approved.** A second motion was put forth to allow the four Ex-officio members of the Committee (past, current, and future conference convenors, and the web-manager) to have votes on committee matters. **The motion was voted and approved.**

Action item: The Constitution needs amending to reflect these decisions as follows:

4. Structure of the Association

The Association will be run between AGMs by a Committee consisting of the Executive, the elected representatives and the Ex-officio members. The Executive will consist of the Chair and the Association's Treasurer. The elected representatives will consist of **four** members of the Association, each representing a different region of Europe. The Executive and elected representatives are the Office Bearers of the Association. Ex-officio members of the Committee will be the immediate past ESFLA Chair, the immediate past Conference Chair, the present Conference Chair, the upcoming Conference Chair and the Web-Manager. ~~The ex-officio members will not have votes on committee matters, unless they also happen to be office-bearing members of the Committee.~~

2. The assembled members discussed procedures for Committee vacancies. Currently, the Constitution does not make provision for the Chair or Treasurer positions becoming vacant between elections.

Action items: The Committee will discuss and prepare a proposal for the 2017 AGM. The Treasurer will also look into signatory powers for the bank account in the case of absence.

8. Report on previous year's conference: given that the ISFC was held in Europe in 2015, technically there was no ESFLC. Stella Neumann, Convenor of the 2015 ISFC in Aachen, proposed that when the ISFC is held in Europe, it co-locates with the ESFLC, rather than replacing it. This would allow ESFLA to continue its objectives (e.g. the Geoff Thompson Young Scholar Bursary). It would also allow a possible surplus to be split across the two associations. Everyone agreed on this proposal.
9. Report on the 26th European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference, Salzburg Austria: the Chair congratulated Martin Kaltenbacher, Conference Convenor, on the excellent organization (much applauded by all members present); he provided information on the number of sessions, attendees, etc., and explained that, while the conference accounting was still in process, it seems very likely that a surplus will be passed on to the Association.
10. Discussion of ISFC rotation: All of the members assembled expressed a strong preference for the current four area rotation of the ISFC, with the European area expanded to include other areas of the Mediterranean and Africa. At present there is no suggestion for a European site for 2019 (to which it corresponds in the current rotation), and all agreed that, if another bid is in, the ISFC could be held in another location.
Action item: The Chair will communicate to ISFLA the above.

11. Future ESFLA meetings:

2017: Salamanca, Spain: convenor: Izaskun Elorza

2018: Pavia, Italy: convenor: Maria Freddi

2019: ??

2020: Sheffield, U.K.: convenor: Nick Moore

The Chair asked for any volunteers to organize a conference in 2019. One idea that was suggested was a joint ESFLA and SYSFLAT conference.

Action item: The Committee will explore possibilities for a conference site for 2019.

12. Presentation of the 27th European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference, Salamanca, Spain: Izaskun Elorza: this point was omitted, as a presentation was scheduled for the following day at the 2016 ESFLC closing ceremony.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

ESFLA TREASURER'S REPORT 2015-16

Summary of the ESFLA account with the Co-operative Bank

Date	Description	Paid in	Paid out	Balance
		GBP	GBP	GBP
24/7/2015	Carried forward from last report			2,013.40
7/7/2016	Correction to previous report (£1.61 rather than £11.61 interest)			2,003.40
7/7/2016	unknown		0.96	2,002.44

Lise Fontaine, 07.07.16