

Minutes ESFLA AGM, 25 August 2022

Meeting opens at 18.17. The Chair presents the ESFLA committee members.

1. Approve the minutes from 2021

The Chair shared the minutes on the screen and quickly presented them and opened the floor for comments. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Chair's Action

Chair: 2,000 Pounds were raised for a charity. It might be worth considering if we want, as a community, to establish a charity fund?

3. Treasurer's report – Lise Fontaine

The treasurer presented her report starting May 2019. The closing balance is **£5,313.09**.

The treasurer outlined the contributions for Bursary Awards. The PayPal account has costs, and was established by the current Treasure. As the Treasurer is stepping down, we may have to close the PayPal account. It will be up to the new Treasurer to decide if they want to open a new PayPal account. The treasurer explained why the ESFLA account is in Euros, not Pounds.

The treasurer reflected on the fact that she's been on the committee for 10 years and it is time for a new treasurer to be appointed.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer for her services as a treasurer.

4. Regional Updates - Information from Local European SFL Associations

David Banks presented a Study Day event that took place in France earlier this year.

Jorge Arús-Hita reported on the incorporation of Christian Matthiessen to the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. He added that they will be working towards a Masters in SFL.

5. Geoff Thompson Bursary – for a PhD student

The Chair provided an overview to the members about this Bursary and encouraged them to tell their PhD student to apply for the Bursary.

6. Should we introduce a Margaret Berry Award?

It was voted that there should be such award. Lise Fontaine suggested that a working group be formed to organize the award. David Banks suggested that it could be awarded to something other than a paper presented at the conference, to differentiate it clearly from Geoff Thompson's Award. Lise Fontaine, Anne McCabe, David Banks and Jamie Williams offer to be part of the working group. It was agreed that by January, the working group will present a proposal and the Committee will make an executive decision to approve it in advance of the ESFC 2023.

7. European SFL Conference:

- **2023:** Vigo, Spain. Convenor - Ana Elina Martinez Insua, 32nd European Systemic Functional Conference will take place in Vigo (Spain), on 15-17 June. The conference theme: "(Cognitive) developments in multimodal (digital) communication. Expanding traditional borders in SFL"

- **2024:** Politehnica University of Timisoara, Romania, Convenor - Claudia Stoian
- **2025:** ISFC Glasgow (No ESFC in 2025, as it's combined with the ISFC)
- **2026:** ????

- Next Year – ISFC Sousse Tunisia, 18-21 March, pre-congress institute 16-17 March, Chair: Akila Sellami Baklouti.

Ana Elina Martinez Insua shared a very brief overview of the Vigo conference and encouraged everyone to come to Vigo. The official presentation will be the last day of this conference, together with a short presentation about the ISFC March Conference in Tunisia.

Alexandra Holsting provided a brief summary of how the present conference is running. Everything ok but for a couple of minor technical glitches.

The Treasurer stated that, if there were any financial concerns, the association can help. The Chair makes extended this open invite for support to upcoming conferences.

Tom Bartlett confirmed that ISFC and ESFC in 2025 can be combined.

The Chair asked for volunteers to host ESFC in 2026.

8. Election of ESFLA Executive Committee Members

1. Chair – Gail Forey
2. Treasurer – Lise Fontaine
3. Regional Representatives (4) – Donna Miller, David Banks, Jorge Arús-Hita & Martin Kaltenbacher

The Chair asked if anyone would like to be nominated for Chair. No nominations were given at the AGM. However, a nomination was received prior to the AGM of Carlos Gouveia, from the University of Lisbon. This nomination was seconded and unanimously voted in. Carlos Gouveia will be appointed the new Chair of ESFC.

The Chair asks if anyone would like to be nominated for Treasurer. No nominations were given during the AGM. The current Treasurer nominated Ariana Maioranni. The nomination is seconded, as there were no other nominations, Ariana will be appointed as Treasurer.

Prior to the AGM, written confirmation was received that Carlos Gouveia and Ariana Maiorani were happy to be nominated for Chair and Treasurer.

The present Chair will remain as an ex-officio committee member.

David Banks asked for the outgoing treasurer, Lise Fontaine, to be co-opted as a committee member. She initially accepted. Mick O'Donnell suggested that we would need to create a fifth representative slot in the committee and thus change the constitution. Therefore, Lise Fontaine offered to help whenever needed, but didn't feel that the constitution needed to be amended.

Donna Miller, David Banks, Jorge Arús-Hita are willing to continue as regional representatives. Martin Kaltenbacher has not been able to continue for personal reasons.

The Chair thanked Martin for his fantastic support and work for the ESFLA and hopes that when he's ready he'll return as a committee member. Martin will be replaced by Nick Moore. All four are seconded, stand uncontested and are therefore appointed.

Lise Fontaine puts forward the question of which regions we think should be represented in the Committee. It is agreed that it is not easy to tackle.

David Banks and Donna Miller will have younger members replacing them at a later date.

Ana Elina Martinez Insua is invited to be a committee member as convenor of next ESFC.

The Chair also thanked Marta Filipe for her work on the committee and for being such a vibrant and hardworking member of the committee. She hoped that Marta would consider joining the committee again in the future.

9. AOB

An African attendee says that she expects they can have this sort of committee in Africa soon. Lise Fontaine speaks about the Tunisian Systemic Association, so Akila could be a good contact for her. Mick O'Donnell says there used to be a Nigerian Association. He shares their webpage through the chat.

The Chair put forward the idea of holding ESFLA seminars. She offered to organize these seminars.

It was suggested that we could have 3 or 4 a year.

At the AGM the chair found three volunteers to give the first ESFLA seminars: Tom Bartlett will do the first talk, Izaskun Elorza the second talk and Sheena Gardner the third talk. These would be online seminars bringing the community together throughout the year.

Anne McCabe offered a big thank you to the outgoing Chair for her hard work, which was seconded by all committee members. Gail thanked everyone for their hard work and added that it was a privilege to be the ESFLA committee Chair

The meeting closes at 19.16