

## EUROPEAN SYSTEMIC FUNCTIONAL LINGUISTICS ASSOCIATION (ESFLA)

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAARBRÜCKEN, 25 JULY 2007

#### PARTICIPANTS

Erich Steiner, Chris Taylor, Stella Neumann, Geoff Thompson, Monica Holtz, Sabine Bartsch, Gordon Tucker, Elke Teich, Alan Hess, Sheena Gardner, Alois Heuboeck, Mick O'Donnell, Dimitra Anastasiou, Anne McCabe, Nick Moore, Robin Fawcett, Eija Ventola

Begin: 16.48

#### 1. Opening

The meeting is opened by Eija Ventola functioning as the chair.

#### 2. Business meeting secretary

Stella Neumann is selected as the business meeting secretary.

#### 3. Gorizia meeting minutes

The minutes of the Gorizia business meeting 2006 have been placed on the web and are approved unanimously.

#### 4. Executive committee clarifications and additions

4.1. The chair informs the audience on changes in the Executive Committee due to *ex officio* and *past* and *future conference organiser* status.

The Executive Committee (limited to 5 members in Lisboa in 2002) for 2006-2009 is:

Chair: Eija Ventola (Helsinki) (eija.ventola >at< helsinki.fi)

Treasurer: Robin Fawcett (Cardiff) (rp.fawcett >at< virgin.net)

Members of the executive committee:

David Banks (Brest) (David.Banks >at< univ-brest.fr)

Julia Lavid (Madrid) (lavid >at< ucm.es)

Erich Steiner (Saarbrücken) (e.steiner >at< mx.uni-saarland.de)

The following were the *ex officio* and *last year* and *next year conference organiser* members of the 2006-2007 Committee:

Chris Taylor (Trieste – 2006 Conference Organiser)

Geoff Thompson (ex-Chair)

Erich Steiner (Saarbrücken) (e.steiner >at< mx.uni-saarland.de) and Stella Neumann (as 2007 Conference Organiser)

The following are the *ex officio* and *last year* and *next year conference organiser* members of the 2007-2008 Committee:

Eija Ventola and Susanna Shore (Helsinki – 2008 Conference Organisers)

Geoff Thompson (ex-Chair, 2007-2009)

Erich Steiner (Saarbrücken) (e.steiner >at< mx.uni-saarland.de) and Stella Neumann (as 2007 Conference Organisers)

4.2. Eija Ventola proposes to elect our webpage keeper, Mick O'Donnell, to enter the executive committee for 2007-2009. He is of essential importance to our association as the keeper of our webpage and his being part of the executive committee as a regular representative would be beneficial for the co-operative work of the chair and the representative members.

He is elected unanimously.

## **5. Future conferences**

5.1. The 2008 European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference and Workshop will be held at the University of Helsinki, Helsinki, June 5-7, 2008. The conference theme will be "Linguistic and Multisemiotic Challenges in Europe and the World". Eija Ventola and Susanna Shore will be the conveners.

For 2009 and 2010 offers for sites and conveners are open. Eija Ventola will approach the following possible conveners: John Bateman, Thomas Andersen, Sonja Starc, Caroline Coffin, Elke Teich and Sheena Gardner.

5.2. The meeting decides unanimously not to have a European meeting in 2011, as Carlos Gouveia is hosting the international SFL conference in Lisbon that year.

## **6. Formation of a European SFL Association**

A committee is formed that will prepare the formation of a European SFL Association. It will look into all details of registering the association (which country?), bank accounts (preferably in Euros), etc.

Robin Fawcett, Mick O'Donnell and Geoff Thompson are appointed as members of the committee and are asked to report both by e-mail and on the website well in time before the next annual business meeting.

## **7. Special language day at ESFLCW**

Eija Ventola proposes to include a special language day for the ESFLCWs in the future. The meeting accepts the proposal to run a 1/2 half day EU language workshop or a 4-paper session (2-3 hrs) in Helsinki as an experiment.

## **8. Treasurer's report**

Robin Fawcett reports as the treasurer. The 2006 ESFLCW in Gorizia had a surplus and transferred it to ESFLA (via the bank account of ISFLA) to spend this money on paying the Kings College debt (resulting from the 2005 ESFLCW). Erich Steiner and Geoff Thompson put forward the motion to authorize the treasurer to establish a Euro bank account for the European SFL Association. The motion is accepted unanimously.

## **9. Tribute to Margaret Berry**

Geoff Thompson puts forward the motion to offer Margaret Berry a Honorary Life Associateship in recognition of her achievements as the "founding mother" of the European workshops and the European SFL Association. The motion is accepted unanimously.

## **10. ESFLCW 2007 report**

Stella Neumann reports on the conference organisation of ESFLCW 2007. There were 78 participants. There will probably be a surplus. At the moment it is not sure whether there will be a transfer to the ESFLA account. Thanks are expressed to the organizers.

## **11. Any other business**

Nick Moore proposes to create a logo for ESFLA. He will send a message to the sysfling mailing list asking for suggestions (to be sent to him). The designs will be published on the website for voting. Nick will consult with the committee of the dates.

Mick O'Donnell informs the meeting that 100€ will buy our own website which until now is part of the Isfla website and keep it up for five years. Donations will be collected during the

Saarbruecken conference and the rest of the money set to the account for future expenses in connection with the website.

Session closed 18.07

Stella Neumann  
The meeting secretary