

LEF AGM 2011

1 September 2011, UWE Bristol

1. In attendance: Jeff Bezemer (chair), Fiona Copland, Frances Giampapa, Sara Shaw (minutes), Rika Yamashita, Katherin Kaufhold, James Simpson

2. Apologies from: Julia Snell, Max Spotti, Tom Van Hout, Julia Gillen

3. Minutes approved from last year's meeting.

4. Reports

Comms

418 members currently. SS reported that there is a mix of UK and international (around 70/30) and also a mix of members who are/not BAAL members.

Treasurer:

LEF has 913.06 in account. Few outgoings since last year.

Invoiced the ELC RDI fund held at KCL by Ben Rampton for funds held over following the training programme which the group has agreed to transfer to UK LEF to support meetings, conferences and so on. The sum is £1,000

There is currently a £5 levy on UK LEF events however this has never been applied, partly due to such events having been run on a shoestring. Agreed not to levy this on events affiliated to UK LEF. But agreed to continue with the levy of up to £5 for the conference.

Revised budget form: been in consultation with BAAL about their form. Julia Snell – a qualified accountant – has revised the form that we use and BAAL have agreed that this is ok.

Agreed that we can use some funds to support development of a logo and including BAAL logo/reference. This will be used on e.g. conference advertising (NB: need to feedback to Copenhagen group to add logo/UK LEF reference to the flyer). Fiona to email membership list about someone possibly doing a logo (agreed to e.g. give £20 Amazon voucher in return).

Meetings:

8 meetings have taken place over 2010-11 (see meetings secretary report for detail).

E-seminars have been successful. But need some feedback from members. Those at the meeting confirmed high quality/prominent person is key and one a year is probably enough. Committee probably shouldn't worry about numbers of people contributing as many people like to 'lurk' and also use the seminar as a resource once it is over.

Suggestions for the future: Ingrid Piller (book: language on the move), Mike Baynham (sketched out an agenda for researching language and migration), Don Kulick (capitalising on the plenary that he will be giving in Copenhagen in Sept 2012), Rick Iedema, Celia Roberts

Frances reported that all of the information is available on the website about running events (guidelines and FAQs are on the website) however there are have not been many takers.

5. Plans for 2011/12

Academic meetings are planned included:

1. ELC research training (Julia Snell and Adam Lefstein)
2. Sociolinguistics of writing (Frances Giampapa)
3. EELC conference in Copenhagen

The group have sent through flyer, budget, timeline and dedicated stream. Fiona will contact Lian and offer float to ensure that the group has sufficient finances.

Publications and projects

1. Edited book emerging out of the EELC conference. Brings together some of the papers from that conference to create an edited collection, using some of the plenary speakers as well as new/emerging researchers. Abstracts are now in and talking to publishers. Planned publication for 2014.
2. RDI multilingualism master class with Monica Heller, planned for May 2012.

6. Vision

Challenges: exponential growth, more international, share of BAAL membership declining; virtually no active members; committee works in spare time; BAAL demands/admin burden gone up, no income

Should we continue to promote the possibility of organising a dedicated UK LEF event?

Solutions:

Focus on quality of events, not quantity. Maximise benefit from BAAL infrastructure by focusing on one BAAL colloquium, one excellent SIG track. Shift away from idea that we can encourage people to do something and be more proactive about inviting people to and coordinating. In addition, organise one excellent e-seminar and one EELC conference (probably biannual).

Then, other events may 'borrow' LEF brand at our discretion (cf: 'in association with').

Agreed. And that allocate responsibilities for each of the four events amongst committee members. Coordination via meetings secretary.

7. Amendments to the constitution

Firstly, drop the prefix of UK: as we are becoming more international change to 'Linguistic Ethnography Forum'.

Secondly create a new post as member of the coordinating committee and take on the position of membership secretary.

Replace phrase in constitution: LEF will encourage its members to consider BAAL membership. BAAL membership gives LEF members the right to vote. LEF membership is free of charge, but fees may apply to attend academic meetings.” Agreed to put this forward for approval to BAAL.

Amendments to the website: should we transfer to online database? E.g. via wordpress/buddypress

- Agreed that not happen, system is currently simple and works so no need to change. And transfer would be costly.

Amendments to reporting: As BAAL only require on annual report, agreed that we therefore just have one report rather than lots of separate ones from individual secretaries.

8. Elections

Statements from comms sec (TVH, ordinary member (SS) and convenor (JB) who are up for re-election. All positions confirmed.

Julia Snell also co-opted for a further term and hope to upgrade her as a full member of the committee in due course.

9. AOB

Chapter on LE by Janet Maybin and Karin Tusting in James Simpson’s new book - helpful in reinforcing LE field.