

Linguistic Society of America
Minutes of the Annual Business Meeting

Friday, January 9, 2015 ~ 6:30 – 7:30pm
Hilton Portland, OR

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the President, Joan Maling, at 6:30 pm.

Introductory Remarks

Dr. Maling welcomed the attendees and recognized all former Presidents of the LSA in attendance.

Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

Patrick Farrell offered highlights from his written report (which was published in the meeting handbook and is attached as Addendum A). He provided an update on the LSA's finances, membership numbers and related information.

Report of 2014 Election Results

Dr. Farrell confirmed the results of the LSA election:

- Vice-President/President-elect: Alice Harris
- Executive Committee (At-Large): Jeff Good; Natalie Schilling

In Memoriam

Dr. Farrell requested a moment of silence in memory of the following LSA members who passed away since the last Annual Meeting: Emmon Bach; Kurt Baldinger (2007); Frank G. Banta; Ana Maria Barrenechea (2010); Ana Morpurgo Davies; Charles J. Fillmore; Ward Goodenough (2013); James Higginbotham; William H. Jacobsen; Aryon Dall'Igna Rodrigues; Rev. Denice J. Szafran; Peter Meijes Tiersma.

Program Committee Report

Molly Diesing offered highlights from the committee's written report (which was published in the meeting handbook).

Editor's Reports

Language

Greg Carlson offered highlights from his written report (which was published in the meeting handbook).

Semantics and Pragmatics

Kai von Stechow (on behalf of co-editor David Beaver) offered highlights from their written report (which was published in the meeting handbook).

Archivist Report

Brian Joseph reported that he had received donations to the LSA archives of papers and correspondence of two former Editors of *Language*, and encouraged those present to consider donating papers of a similar nature to the LSA Archive in Missouri. He noted that all of the recent donations have been digitally scanned and are available on the LSA website.

Approval of Honorary Members

The following individuals were recommended by the LSA Executive Committee to receive honorary life memberships in the LSA:

- Geert Booij (Universiteit Leiden)
- Janet Holmes (Victoria University of Wellington)
- Theo Vennemann genannet Nierfield (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität)

The honorary memberships of the three individuals cited above were approved.

Resolutions of Thanks

A resolution was presented by Tucker Childs:

“Whereas, the LSA relies on the efforts of numerous members and volunteers to organize the Annual Meeting and to conduct its work throughout the year.

Therefore, be it resolved that the following individuals be formally thanked for their contributions to the LSA:

- The officers of the LSA, Patrick Farrell, Ellen Kaisse, Joan Maling and John Rickford, for their leadership and service.
- Molly Diesing and Marlyse Baptista, for leading the program committee in delivering another successful Annual Meeting.
- Kai von Fintel and David Beaver for their work as Editors of *Semantics and Pragmatics*.
- Greg Carlson, Stan Dubinsky and Helen Goodluck, for their editorial leadership of *Language*.
- Linguistics faculty and students at Reed College and Portland State University for their assistance with recruiting volunteers to help staff the meeting, and also with the local logistics.
- All of the LSA’s various committee chairs and members, as we work together to implement the LSA’s ambitious strategic plan.
- The sister societies of the LSA, for their contributions in making the Annual Meeting a more vibrant and dynamic gathering of linguists.
- Colleen Fitzgerald at the University of Texas Arlington, for organizing CoLang 2014.
- Alan Yu and Karlos Arregi at the University of Chicago, for planning the 2015 biennial Linguistic Institute.
- The LSA Executive Committee, including those concluding their service at this meeting: Susan Fischer, Lisa Green and Troy Messick.

- The Secretariat staff, Alyson Reed (Executive Director), David Robinson (Director of Membership and Meetings), Brice Russ (Director of Communications), and Rita Lewis (Executive Assistant), for their outstanding work.”

The resolution was approved by acclamation.

Induction of LSA Fellows

Dr. Maling presented the 2014 class of Fellows for induction:

- John Baugh, Washington University in St. Louis
- Lyle Campbell, University of Hawai'i
- Andries Coetzee, University of Michigan
- C.-T. James Huang, Harvard University
- Patricia Keating, University of California, Los Angeles
- Donna Jo Napoli, Swarthmore College
- Robin Queen, University of Michigan
- Bernard Spolsky, Bar-Ilan University, Emeritus
- Donca Steriade, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Thomas Wasow, Stanford University

The Fellows in attendance were presented with certificates and rosettes by Dr. Maling.

New Business

Geoff Nunberg (on behalf of co-author Andrew Garrett and the sponsors listed below) offered the following resolution from the floor:

OPPOSING THE USE OF NATIVE AMERICAN-THEMED MASCOTS AND SYMBOLS BY SPORTS TEAMS

WHEREAS, since its founding, the Linguistic Society of America has been committed to the documentation, study and preservation of Native American languages and cultures, to collaboration with Native communities, and to the principle that all languages and cultures are equally deserving of respect by scholars and the public; and

WHEREAS the use of Native American-themed mascots, logos and nicknames by sports teams and educational institutions reduces Native cultures to crude, one-dimensional stereotypes and shows disrespect for Native American spiritual and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS such stereotypes distort the historical record and disparage present-day Native Americans, undermine education about Native American history and life, harm Native Americans, and encourage racial prejudices and preconceptions that coarsen American culture in general; and

WHEREAS the continued use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport has been condemned by numerous academic and educational organizations, including the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, the American Sociological Association, the American Anthropological Association, the American Psychological Association, the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, the Modern Language Association, and the National Education Association, among others;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA calls for abandoning the use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport, while respecting the right of individual tribal nations to decide how to protect and celebrate their respective tribal heritage.

Sponsors: Sandy Chung, UC Santa Cruz, Penelope Eckert, Stanford U., Andrew Garrett, UC Berkeley, Geoff Nunberg, UC Berkeley, Keren Rice, U. of Toronto, Richard Rhodes, UC Berkeley, Patricia Shaw, U. of British Columbia, Alice Taff, U.of Alaska Southeast, Sally Thomason, U of Michigan, Thomas Wasow, Stanford U.

Following a brief discussion, the resolution was unanimously approved by those in attendance. Alyson Reed noted that the resolution would be presented to the full LSA membership for a vote in the next few weeks.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned by Dr. Maling at 7:30 pm.

Addendum A

Secretary-Treasurer's Report Patrick Farrell

Budget and Finance

The LSA's financial position continues to be strong. Although the expanding content of *Language* led to spending over budget, as did expenses incurred for the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, expenses associated with the migration of eLanguage content, and the implementation of our expanding communications strategy, operating income was such as to leave a surplus of more than \$20,000.

The Society's investment portfolio performed well during the year, due not just to the generous endowment of the Charles J. Fillmore Fund but also to earnings on investments and increases in charitable contributions to other new funds, including the Ivan Sag Institute Fund, the LSA News Stories Initiative, and the Fillmore Student Fellowship Fund. The total value of our Smith Barney Morgan Stanley investments rose from \$1,104,842 at the end of September, 2013 to \$1,499,711 at the end of September, 2014.

The LSA's budget documents and financial statements are available for inspection by any member. If you wish to see them, contact the Secretariat.

Membership

The total number of individual memberships on October 2, 2014 was 3,365. This is down from about the same time last year, when the total was 3,762. This decrease is due in part to a 10% decrease in memberships generated by the Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in 2014 and the lack of a fellowship competition for an upcoming Linguistic Institute. As the fellowship application for the 2015 Institute in Chicago is now available and the Annual Meeting in 2016 will be in Washington, D.C., which is a popular destination, there is expected to be membership growth in the next fiscal year. Nevertheless declining membership continues to be a concern. David Robinson, Director of Membership and Meetings, has organized a membership consultancy group consisting of representatives of student members, regular members, sister society members, linguists in industry, and others, with the goal of making additional concrete proposals for services, features, and events that will encourage existing members to retain their LSA memberships and encourage potential members to join.

Election Results

Online voting was open to all LSA members from September 1 to November 8, 2014. The votes cast resulted in the election of Alice Harris (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) as Vice-President/President-elect and Jeff Good (University at Buffalo) and Natalie Schilling (Georgetown University) as members at-large of the Executive Committee for three-year terms. A suite of amendments to the LSA Constitution and Bylaws was also approved.

In Memoriam

Regrettably, the following LSA members passed away (in 2014, unless another year is noted):

Emmon Bach

Kurt Baldinger (2007)

Frank G. Banta

Ana Maria Barrenechea (2010)

Ana Morpurgo Davies

Charles J. Fillmore

Ward Goodenough (2013)

James Higginbotham

William H. Jacobsen

Aryon Dall'Igna Rodrigues

Rev. Denice J. Szafran

Peter Meijes Tiersma