LSA Executive Committee Meeting  
January 6, 2022  
Cardoza Meeting Room, Washington Hilton  
MINUTES

PRESENT: John Baugh (Vice-President/President-Elect), Alicia Beckford Wassink, Jennifer Bloomquist, Lenore Grenoble (Secretary-Treasurer), Larry Horn (President), Chris Kennedy, Sonja Lanehart, Marianne Mithun (Immediate Past President), Alyson Reed (ex officio), Rebecca Scarborough.

GUESTS: John Beavers (Co-Editor, Language), Andrea Berez-Kroeker (incoming at-large EC), Andries Coetzee (Co-Editor, Language), Tim Hunter (incoming co-chair, Program Committee), Carmen Jany (incoming at-large EC), Louise McNally (Co-Editor, S&P), Fritz Newmeyer (incoming Secretary-Treasurer), Kjell Johan Sæbø (Co-Editor, S&P), David Silva (Chair, Audit Committee), Tony Woodbury (incoming Vice-President/President-Elect).

Welcome and Introductions & Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am ET. Dr. Horn asked everyone to introduce themselves and welcomed the incoming members of the EC and thanked those concluding their respective terms of service.

Dr. Horn reviewed the agenda and invited any proposed revisions. He noted the addition of a few action items from committees and special interest groups which were received after the proposed agenda was circulated. The amended agenda was approved.

Strategic Discussion: Membership Recruitment & Retention

Dr. Horn invited Ms. Reed to provide an overview of the report, with particular attention to items requiring input from the EC. The EC offered various suggestions and ideas, including:

- Pursuing collaborative partnerships/relationships with the organizers of external linguistics conferences and events, to include assistance with marketing, website linkages, archiving of conference materials, hosting of Proceedings, and pop-up mentoring (via PUMP).
- Convening virtual member gatherings on various topics along the lines of what NCTE has done.

Ms. Reed noted that there had been considerable past activity on the first item initiated by previous iterations of the EC, resulting in more formal partnerships with SALT, AMP, and Tu+. In some cases, prior outreach efforts to external groups were inconclusive and/or declined.

- The EC rejected the recommendation in the report regarding alumni programming, while there were mixed views about attempting to set field-wide standards to be used by departments and programs.
- The recommendation to form a Professional Development Committee met with mixed reactions, but there was general support for the LSA continuing its programming around these topics, especially in consultation with the LBA-SIG.
- The EC agreed that there should be a formal process in place for reviewing the status of all LSA committees, SIGs and workgroups periodically to ensure that their charges and responsibilities are aligned with the strategic plan, and if necessary to revamp or disband selected committees.
that are no longer fulfilling their intended role. This process should begin with the committee leaders conducting an internal self-assessment, so it is not a top-down decision coming solely from the EC.

Secretariat Reports

Staffing Update: Ms. Reed provided a brief overview of the plans for hiring new staff included in her written report.

Website Revamp:

Ms. Reed provided a brief overview of her written memo requesting authorization to spend funds on planning and implementation for a new LSA website that would meet the LSA’s business needs, the needs of key stakeholders within the LSA volunteer leadership structure, the needs of members and participants in LSA programs/services, and the needs of the interested general public. She noted that all aspects of this work would involve the Website Advisory Workgroup appointed by the EC for this purpose, in consultation with other key stakeholders as appropriate.

There was considerable discussion about the appropriate level of involvement for the EC in planning and implementation work on this project. Following extensive debate, it was agreed that the incoming Secretary-Treasurer (S-T) should continue to be directly involved as the outgoing S-T has been throughout, and that the incoming President and Vice President should also be included in direct consultations with the advisory workgroup. It was further agreed that this should happen as an immediate next step in the planning process. Finally, the EC approved an authorization of up to $250,000 for the execution of this project, contingent on all of the above agreements.

Centennial Fund Proposal (revised): Ms. Reed provided a brief overview of the revisions that had been made to the proposal, as a result of consultations with the Centennial Planning Committee (CPC), potential funding agencies, and feedback received from the EC. Ms. Reed requested authorization to prepare grant proposals to both the NSF and the NEH for this purpose, drafted in consultation with the CPC. She noted that if grants are not approved, then there would be no effort to raise funds from individual donors. The revised proposal was approved.

Strategic Discussion: Representation Issues

New Business: Potential Changes to Governance Structures and Practices

Dr. Horn provided background information on the briefing paper and the accompanying call for comments issued to the membership. There was considerable discussion about ways to ensure that the EC includes representation from a diverse array of perspectives and backgrounds. Some ideas and suggestions included:

- Providing more explicit guidance to the nomination committee to identify and recruit nominees from specific perspectives and backgrounds prior to each nomination cycle.
- Providing more “framing” information to LSA members prior to voting for the at-large members of the EC about the importance of having diverse perspectives represented on the EC.
- Adding a new seat to the EC designated to represent a specific perspective that is lacking and could be modified over time along with the overall composition of the EC in any given year. This could potentially be a seat that is appointed by the rest of the EC rather than elected by the members.

Much of the discussion focused on linguists beyond academia and the related recommendations that had been made by the LBA-SIG regarding representation. It was agreed that a subgroup of EC
members (Horn, Baugh, Wassink and Reed) would consult further with the LBA-SIG leadership to address their specific recommendations and report back to the EC.

**Old Business: IDIL Waiver Request + Update on N4L Items**

Ms. Reed provided a brief overview of recent activity on these items since the last meeting of the EC, noting that progress had stalled due to competing time demands on the subgroup tasked with formulating a response. It was agreed that the subgroup should reconvene via email to finalize the draft document included in the briefing packet and return it to the EC for decision-making as soon as practical.

**Confidential Requests from a small group of LSA members**

Dr. Horn led a discussion about three requests received from the above group and included in the packet.

1) That the LSA endorse the “Chicago Principles” on academic freedom. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the group be encouraged to draft a resolution of endorsement for a vote by the entire LSA membership, using the process that is already in place for this purpose.

2) That the LSA cease the voluntary collecting and reporting of demographic information as part of its individual member profiles and aggregated in its database. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that all of the points raised in the staff memo and annotation of the request be reaffirmed, and that the request therefore be rejected.

3) That the LSA cease publication of Perspectives articles and any other opinion/commentary in *Language* and/or its other scholarly publications. Following a brief discussion that included feedback from the Editors present at the meeting, it was agreed that this request be rejected.

Dr. Horn will draft a response to the group for EC review prior to its dissemination.

**Secretary-Treasurer’s Business**

**Review and discussion of FY 2021 Audit**

Dr. Grenoble invited David Silva to present the report of his committee, who provided a brief overview of the audit process and findings. He expressed concern about the timeliness of the audit services provided by Altruic Advisors and recommended changing audit firms for the next cycle. Following a brief Q&A with the EC, it was agreed that the FY21 audit be accepted with thanks to the committee and LSA staff.

**Report of the Finance Committee**

Dr. Grenoble provided a brief overview of the LSA’s current financial position, noting with gratitude the recent bequest from the Siegel estate, the operating surplus for FY21, and the healthy earnings from the LSA’s endowment, including the general unrestricted fund. This places the LSA in a stronger position to weather the financial shortfalls anticipated from the 2022 Annual Meeting, and the considerable cost of revamping the website.

**Future Annual Meeting Site Selection & Financial Implications**

Dr. Grenoble presented two alternatives for dealing with the anticipated financial shortfalls associated with the 2022 Annual Meeting.
1) Honor the original contract with the Hilton and pay a penalty estimated at up to $120K (and possibly more depending on how many further cancellations are made to our contracted room block).

2) Honor the amended contract, which will reduce the penalty by 50% but include 100% of the wifi expenses (which were free in the original contract). This reduction is contingent on the LSA signing a contract to hold the meeting at the DC Hilton in 2028 under the original terms of the 2022 contract.

In either scenario, the penalties could be paid out of a combination of potential funding sources: the Siegel bequest, the FY21 surplus, and a draw down from the unrestricted general endowment fund.

After considerable deliberation, the EC authorized the staff to pursue option #1 if total penalties are less than $120K. If total penalties exceed that amount, then the staff are authorized to pursue option #2, and to seek further concessions for 2028 that would reduce our contractual obligations compared with the original 2022 contract. Under either scenario, the EC would be consulted prior to the execution of any contract or the payment of any final penalty amount.

**Bylaw Amendment: Threshold for Write-in Campaigns**

Dr. Grenoble invited Ms. Reed to provide a brief overview of the rationale for these changes. There was considerable discussion about the merits of a percentage vs. a numeric threshold and the precise amount of either one. In the end, the EC approved the bylaw amendment as proposed. It will be forwarded to the LSA membership for a vote during the Fall 2022 election cycle.

**Action Item: Financial Account Signatories**

A motion was offered, seconded and approved to add John Baugh to the LSA’s financial accounts and to remove Laurence Horn.

**Standing Agenda Item: Connecting core activities: Publications, Meeting & Institute**

Ms. Reed provided a brief history of why this is a standing agenda item. There was no further discussion.

**Committee, Delegate, and Editor Reports**

**Old Business: Update on Committee/SIG Communication Issues**

Dr. Horn noted that various groupings of LSA officers had met with selected committee and SIG leaders to address these issues, and that some progress had been made, with more ongoing work to be done. Ms. Reed noted that the website revamp and new format for the committee orientation should also be helpful in addressing some of the communication issues that have arisen in recent years.

**New Business: Status of the AP Lx Committee (APLC)**

Ms. Reed provide background information on the history of this ad-hoc committee since its inception, and recent concerns that have resulted in the resignation of a key member of the committee, the subsequent resignation of the Chair, followed by expressions of concern from other key members of the committee, including two former presidents of the LSA. There was considerable discussion of how to resolve these concerns, with special emphasis on the role of the long-standing Lx in the School Curriculum Committee (LiSC). The EC agreed that the APLC should be retired, and that LiSC should be charged with addressing issues relating to an advanced placement linguistics program in the broader context of their work on K-12 teaching and learning in language and linguistics. Ms. Reed noted that the communication of this decision will be critical to
reducing/preventing bad will and/or objections to this action on the part of the membership of both committees.

**New Business: Ethics Committee Request**

Dr. Horn asked if there would be any objections to the committee’s request for collaboration with CELP and N4L on formulating a policy on the obligations of linguists when working with local communities. Hearing none, there was no further discussion.

**Oral Reports: Editors (Language, PDA and S&P); Program Committee Representative**

There were brief overviews of written reports provided by all of the above individuals, with the exception of the designated Editor of *PDA*, who was not present at the meeting.

**Honors and Awards**

**Action Item: Approval of Honorary Members 2021 and process recommendations**

The recommended nominees were approved without discussion. The recommendation to lift the cap to allow for more members via a proposed Bylaw amendment was approved.

**Action Item: Zwicky Award monetary component**

Following a brief discussion, the EC agreed that the recipient should be offered a one-year free membership as part of their prize. Ms. Reed noted that it would be beneficial to regularize all of the “prizes” association with particular awards, since some receive plaques, others receive monetary prizes, and some just certificates. Some are endowed and some are not. This could lead to potential complaints of inequitable treatment grounded in disrespect based on the nature of the awards and/or the recipients.

**Information Item: Awards Committee recommendations**

Dr. Horn noted that most of the recommendations could be left up to the committee to decide internally, and that the issues with the Best Paper in *Language* Award are somewhat intractable.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

- Minutes: May, August and September 2021 meetings
- Ratification of electronic action items (September–December, 2020)
- Report of LSA Election Results: Newmeyer, Woodbury, Berez-Kroeker, Jany

A motion regarding the above items was offered, seconded and approved.

**Next Meeting**

Ms. Reed noted that the EC has traditionally met the first weekend in May, but that she has a scheduling conflict with an ACLS Retreat that she is leading as Chair of the CEO organizing committee. An informal straw poll about the two weekends before and after April 30-May was conducted and at least one EC member had a conflict on each of those weekends. It was agreed that Ms. Reed would conduct a doodle schedule poll to confirm that the original date is the best option for the remainder of EC members. There was also some discussion about the feasibility of returning to having the EC meeting in-person and if so, whether to meet in Denver, where we have the option of a low rate at the conference hotel for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

*There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.*