

Annual General Meeting

Undergraduate Linguistics Association of Britain 2020-2021

Minutes

Time: 15:00

Date: 18th April, 2021

Place: Microsoft Teams/University of Aberdeen

Agenda:

1. Annual Report *from Cliodhna Hughes, National Chair*
2. Financial Report *from Beatrix Livesey-Stephens, National Treasurer and Local Chair*
3. Amendments to the Constitution
4. Policy and Other Resolutions
5. Proposals For and Election of Next Host Institution
6. Election of the Executive Committee
7. Other Competent Business
8. Close of the Meeting

ULAB Committee members in attendance:

National Committee: CH, BLS, RC, LVS, TRW

Local Committee: HV, TW, SW

Institutional Representatives: NB, JM, MG, JM

Journal Editorial Committee: RS, EK, MD

Magazine Editorial Team: CW

Total attendance: 34 at onset

Duration: 5 hours, 3 minutes, 38 seconds

1. Annual Report *from Cliodhna Hughes, National Chair*

- Great expansion
- 40+ people into subcommittees
- U-Lingua founded
- JoULAB founded
- Online events: TaskmArtie, UKLO markathon, etc.
- Opportunities for internships and jobs
- Newsletter continued
- IRs expanded internationally
- Great social media growth
- Website improvements
- Conference: advertisement to schools, BSL interpreters: 112 delegates, 35 institutions

2. Financial Report *from Beatrix Livesey-Stephens, National Treasurer and Local Chair*

- Recovered surplus from ULAB2019: £607.53
- Funding from UoA development trust: £1885
- Cost for BSL interpreters: £1885
- Conference registrations: £564.35
- BBB server costs: £61.91
- Balance: £1109.97

3. Amendments to the Constitution

Amendment 1: New Constitution Draft (new National Committee positions, policies for JoULAB and U-Lingua, etc.)

Points of discussion:

- Is introducing new Committee positions a good idea? As there are more activities ULAB undertakes, yes
- Is introducing paid membership exclusionary? That can be counterbalanced by assuring key benefits of ULAB membership are not sealed off with a paywall (e.g. voting in the AGM), and providing extra benefits (e.g. print copies of U-Lingua and JoULAB)
- How much would membership be? Fees most likely would be around £5
- Could membership be free? In principle, yes
- How could international members be helped to avoid troublesome transfer fees in paying membership? Treasurer working to ensure a better method of transfer can be found
- How can ULAB Committee members be supported to uphold important diversity principles?
Constitutional amendment vs. in a specific role description

Candidate votes: For, Against, Abstain

Vote: For

Amendment 2: Position of Journal Editor to be held for two years

Points of discussion:

- This is very important as continuity is essential for the role-holder to succeed
- Would other JoULAB Committee members be for 2 years as well? No

Candidate votes: For, Against, Abstain

Vote: For

(ACCESS BREAK)

Amendment 3: Institution-ULAB Membership Fee Link (10% of profits to ULAB for their members' membership to ULAB)

Points of discussion:

- Is having a fixed amount of 10% troublesome? Probably yes
- Would it require too much liaising and organising? Probably yes
- Would any linguistic society actually consent to this? Probably no
- This assumes that all linguistic societies accept paid memberships

Candidate votes: For, Against, Abstain

Vote: Against

Amendment 4: Diversity Acceptance Statement

Points of discussion:

- It is important to have something binding to this effect in the Constitution
- Might it make sense to incorporate this into one existing clause (to replace Section 7 Item 1) in the Constitution? Yes
- Expecting a requirement 'to actively promote social justice and equality' for each individual is a big (political) step to make and perhaps not one that all Committee Members may not be qualified to fulfil.
 - Could the responsibility instead fall upon a particular role? The whole Committee?
 - Is 'require' too strong? 'Shall' seems an appropriate replacement.
- Does this make sense to have as someone's specific role? Potentially, but best to keep it as an entire Committee's responsibility
- Forcing a position to have as part of its role to ensure inclusivity potentially puts the onus on the marginalised (to run for the position, for instance)
 - This is not necessarily the case, as anyone qualified could fill the role
- Does this kind of amendment make the AGM overly sentimental?
 - Potentially, but that's important for those from marginalised backgrounds

Candidate votes: For, Against, Abstain

Vote: For

4. Policy and other resolutions

Resolution 1: to ensure the National Committee of 2021-22 aims to gain charitable status for the organisation

Points of discussion:

- Very possible
- Useful legally
- Could be a wing of BAAL or LAGB (though the latter do not hold charitable status)

Candidate votes: For, Against, Abstain

Vote: For

5. Proposals for and election of next Host Institution

Institution: Edinburgh

Points of discussion:

- Will be a good place to be after two years of no conference
- Edinburgh has been able to get funding in the past for conferences, and from discussions internally (from the Student-Staff Initiative Fund within the School of PPLS) that could be possible next year too - could be a few thousands of pounds' worth. There are also funding opportunities elsewhere at the University of Edinburgh
- No specifics have been researched yet about forming a team, locations to hold talks, places for people to stay etc. - seems as if this might be better done later on

Candidate votes: University of Edinburgh, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: University of Edinburgh

6. Election of the Executive Committee

National Chair

Candidates: Clíodhna Hughes (Edinburgh), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- What could you improve on from this last year?
 - Expanding JoULAB team to make it run more smoothly
 - Get more engagement from IRs
 - More regular online events

Vote: Clíodhna Hughes

National Vice Chair

Candidates: Hafren Vaughan (Aberdeen), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- What do you want to achieve in the role?
 - Support National Chair of course
 - Get involved with social events specifically

Vote: Hafren Vaughan

National Secretary

Candidates: Louis Van Steene (Cambridge), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- How might you improve the newsletter?
 - Easter eggs?

Vote: Louis Van Steene

National Treasurer

Candidates: Beatrix Livesey-Stephens (Aberdeen), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- How will you aim to get charity status?
 - Working with LAGB, already doing this with a different organisation
- Where do you want to put money into with ULAB?
 - Print copies of U-Lingua? Of JoULAB? Putting on a better conference?

Vote: Beatrix Livesey-Stephens

(ACCESS BREAK)**Archivist**

Candidates: Lydia Wiernik (Edinburgh), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- What kinds of thing would you like to have within the ULAB archives?
 - It would be useful to have comments from reviewers on abstracts submitted to the conference

Vote: Lydia Wiernik

Webmaster

Candidates: Louis Van Steene (Cambridge), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- What's next for the website?
 - JoULAB plug-in, translation?
- How will you balance your two roles?
 - Coding is for fun anyway, and the secretarial role is an extension of his involvement in ULAB already

Vote: Louis Van Steene

Social Media Coordinators

Candidates: Riley Crouch (Edinburgh), Roma Dhasmana (Aberdeen), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- Will you make a TikTok account? Yes
- Will you help us do promotional materials? Yes
- What's your favourite social media platform? Riley: Twitter - Roma: Tumblr

Vote: Riley Crouch, Roma Dhasmana

Institutional Representative Coordinator

Candidates: Caitlin Wilson (Edinburgh), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- How will you recruit IRs and how will you make the most of them?
 - Growth at the start is important, getting active collaboration from IRs on recruitment rather than it being entirely led by the Coordinator

Vote: Caitlin Wilson

Journal Editor

Candidates: Tom Williamson (Cambridge), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- How will you speed up reviewing?
 - Discussions on this are already underway, reducing workload of reviewers is a good start, as is recruiting reviewers in more niche areas and finding an automated system to deal with this in the future

Vote: Tom Williamson

Magazine Editor-in-Chief

Candidates: Caitlin Wilson (Edinburgh), Stephanie Jat (Cambridge), Re-Open Nominations

Points of discussion:

- What would be the one thing you would improve about U-Lingua? Caitlin: different forms of content. Stephanie: more of a focus on the culture behind languages in articles written
- Is it better to come in with a fresh understanding or with knowledge of the magazine's background?

Vote: Stephanie Jat

Events Coordinator

Candidates: Eloise Parr (Birmingham), Re-Open Nominations

- What's your favourite ULAB event?
 - TaskmArtie of course.
- What events do you want to run?
 - More quizzes!

Vote: Eloise Parr

Opportunities Coordinator

Candidates: Eloise Parr (Birmingham), Re-Open Nominations

- What opportunities did you wish you had as an undergrad?
 - Knowing about ULAB! Gained experience having to reach out actively to lecturers (etc.) to find out more about what opportunities were available so can apply that to the role!

Vote: Eloise Parr

Accessibility Officer

Candidates: Beatrix Livesey-Stephens (Aberdeen), Re-Open Nominations

Vote: Beatrix Livesey-Stephens

Institutional Representative - University of Oregon

Candidates: Jaidan Rose McLean, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: Jaidan Rose McLean

Institutional Representative - University of Ulster

Candidates: Grace Cotton, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: Grace Cotton

Institutional Representative - University of Aberdeen

Candidates: Roma Dhasmana, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: Roma Dhasmana

Institutional Representative - University of Cambridge

Candidates: James Morley, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: James Morley

Institutional Representative - University of Birmingham

Candidates: Eloise Parr, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: Eloise Parr

Institutional Representative - University of Alicante

Candidates: Tina Wolff, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: Tina Wolff

Institutional Representative - University of Edinburgh

Candidates: Michael Gössler, Re-Open Nominations

Vote: Michael Gössler

7. Other competent business

No further matters to discuss

8. Close of the meeting