

ULAB
Queen Mary, University of London
11th-13th April 2019

AGM Minutes
Saturday 13th April 2019

This version of the minutes has the numbers of elected position votes redacted, as per a motion passed at the AGM held on Saturday, 13th April 2019, at Queen Mary, University of London.

National Committee's report:

What we did:

- Rebuilt and maintained website
 - Archives, current committee, links to relevant events
- Active on social media: twitter, facebook
- Help and support to local committee with programme, advice on funding and logistics, etc

What went well:

- New website - has all the information you will ever need!
- Enhanced social media presence which is mega helpful
- First year of institutional reps (added last year): localised outreach to students and institutions

What could be better:

- Outreach could have been better locally
- Advertising, fundraising, activities
- More proactive engagement of people on national committee
- End-of-year report not completed by all members

Local Committee's report

Summary

- Received 52 applications for presentations and 9 for posters: those rejected for talks were recommended for posters
- 45 talks, 7 poster presentations (2 no-shows), 20 raffle books, 20 Universities attended
- £570 in bursaries
- £504 handover for ULAB 2020
- Key focus had been bursaries
- Not as successful in contacting universities, 14 less people than last year

What went well/highlights

- Bursaries
- Plenary speakers
- Careers panel

What could be better

- Socials' organisation
- Had drop-outs from local committee which made the organising team quite small

Funding

- £1000 from University Campus Community Fund for T-shirts
- LAGB and Birbeck funds for bursaries
- Expenses: catering needed to be used to not need to pay for rooms
- Printing programmes - thank you, James!
- Handover: £504 for ULAB 2020

Constitutional amendments

Voters: 46

Additions:

A. Wherever appropriate: **DID NOT PASS**

No person who is not an undergraduate student at the time of their election shall be eligible to serve on the committee in any role whatsoever.

Motivation: While all linguistic research is important, the purpose of ULAB is to provide an opportunity for undergraduate students, in particular, to present their work. The constitution does not currently reflect this purpose, and it would be possible under the current rules to elect a committee of primarily non-undergraduates, which would be against the spirit of ULAB. I believe that our constitution should therefore be updated to reflect our primary goal.

Vote: **Does not pass**

In favour: 0

Abstain: 4

Against: 42

B. 3.9 - Handover between committees: **AMENDMENT PASSED**

There shall be a handover process between the national and local organising committees of successive years. Each outgoing committee shall compile a document detailing all relevant information regarding the website, social media accounts, funding, official documents (including the national ULAB bank account and finances), minutes, key contacts in LAGB and any other relevant organisations. Each local organising committee member and each elected member of the national committee (excluding ordinary members) shall provide a paragraph detailing their activities in their role for the incoming committee. These paragraphs shall be compiled by the national chair and the local chair.

Motivation: Streamlined handover process simplifies the transition between committees. This would help sort issues such as expenses which have occurred this year and would ensure that surplus money is passed to the new local committee ensuring they have some funds to start organising.

Vote: **Passes**

In favour: 42

Abstain: 4

Against: 0

C. Relating to local committee finances: **AMENDMENT PASSED**

On taking up post, the treasurer of the local committee shall establish an official account registered under a name identifiable as belonging to ULAB and not use a personal account. There shall be one national bank account, managed by the national treasurer and passed on to the next national treasurer every year.

Motivation: Looks more professional and is less likely to be questioned by potential funders than using an account registered under the name of an individual undergraduate student. This would help sort issues such as expenses which have occurred this year and would ensure that surplus money is passed to the new local committee ensuring they have some funds to start organising.

Vote: **Passes**

In favour: 40

Abstain: 6

Against: 0

D. 5.25: DECIDED UPON IN OVER-SPILL SESSION OF AGM

If there is only one candidate (person or institution) running for a position members shall be able to vote for the candidate or to reopen nominations. If the number of RON ballots cast exceeds that of the standing candidate there will be a second round of nominations. In the case of the election of host institution the minimum year stipulation (see 5.13) is reduced by one year. This is done iteratively until a host institution is found.

Motivation: This avoids there not being a host institution or elected candidate.

Address this in over-spill session. See G (5.25a and 5.25b) below.

E. Wherever appropriate: DID NOT PASS

The national committee should be involved more in the organisation of the conference, not just the local committee, regardless of where they live or where they are during that time. Otherwise, the national committee who is acting as an advisory team, should be constituted by people (not all) who have previously been part of the local committee (who have therefore experience and knowledge about how to organise the conference in order to be able to give said advice).

Motivation: I am suggesting this, because I believe it is important that people with the relevant experience should be able to give advice to the next local committee. Also, if not, they should be more implicated in the organisation, meaning, help the local committee as much as possible, to learn more.

Vote: **Does not pass**

In favour: 2

Abstain: 5

Against: 39

No removal amendments

Changes

F. 1.4: AMENDMENT PASSED

ULAB was founded in 2011 by undergraduate students of linguistics in the University of Edinburgh, where the first conference was held. A full list of subsequent conferences is to be hosted in the appendix of the constitution and on the ULAB website.

Motivation: This list will continue to grow and take up too much space. A website is also more user-friendly and accessible than the constitutional document.

Vote: **Passes**

In favour: 39

Abstain: 6

Against: 1

Spill-over AGM Session **Saturday 13th April 2019**

Constitutional amendments

Voters: ~30 (attendees leaving throughout session)

Changes and additions

G.

5.25a: DID NOT PASS

If there is only one candidate (person or institution) running for a position members shall be able to vote for the candidate or to reopen nominations. If the number of RON ballots cast exceeds that of the standing candidate there will be a second round of nominations. In the case of the election of host institution the minimum year stipulation (see 5.13) is reduced by one year. This is done iteratively until a host institution is found.

Motivation: This avoids there not being a host institution or elected candidate.

5.25b: AMENDMENT PASSED

If for any election less than 50% of the present eligible ULAB members cast a vote, the nominations are re-opened automatically. In the case of the election of host institution the minimum year stipulation (see 5.13) is then reduced by

one year. This is done iteratively until a host institution is found.

Motivation: This avoids there not being a host institution or elected candidate. It also prevents an institution bound by 5.13 to purposefully trigger RON.

Vote: **5.25b passes**

In favour of 5.25a: 10

In favour of 5.25b: 18

Against any changes: 2

H.

3.5a: AMENDMENT PASSED

The executive committee will act as a national advisory board with a maximum of seven positions (president, treasurer, secretary, webmaster, social media coordinator, archivist and institutional rep coordinator). In addition, there shall be an institutional reps' group/board headed up by the institutional rep coordinator.

3.5b: DID NOT PASS

The executive committee will become a national advisory board with a maximum of seven positions (president, treasurer, secretary, webmaster, social media coordinator, archivist and institutional rep coordinator). In addition, there shall be an institutional reps' group/board including ordinary members headed up by the institutional rep coordinator.

Motivation (for both): Having upwards of 20 members of the national committee is not feasible. Many are surplus to requirement and it makes efficient decision making much more difficult. I question the need for vice positions on the board which is why I suggest limiting it to six. The institutional reps would be guided and advised on how they can market and support ULAB to their respective institutions by the institutional reps' coordinator. Currently there is nobody on the national committee with this specific role and it has fallen on the web/tech people to track which institutions have been advertising.

Vote: **3.5a passes**

In favour of 3.5a: 14

In favour of 3.5b: 11

Against any changes: 2

I. 7.1 Relating to local committee treasurer: AMENDMENT PASSED

It is recommended that the treasurer will have served on the previous local committee. The relevant section of the constitution shall be read before voting for

individual members of the national committee if and when constitutional recommendations are outlined and contain key information for potential candidates.

Motivation: Organising and funding a conference is a challenge for any student. In order to be of use on the national committee it is recommended that we elect candidates who served on the previous local committee and therefore have knowledge of what works and what does not in terms of finances.

Vote: **Passes with the 'reading the constitution' addition**

In favour as the amendment stands: 3

In favour with the addition regarding reading the constitution on committee roles when appropriate during the election: 14

Against: 8

Contingent amendments

Voters: ~30 (attendees leaving throughout session)

J. 6.19: AMENDMENT PASSED

The archivist shall be responsible for the collection of presentations given at conferences and assessed dissertations upon which such presentations are based for the purpose of publication in a format deemed appropriate by the executive committee. Participation by presenters in any publication produced by ULAB shall be entirely voluntary.

(NB: only relevant if 3.5 amendment a or b pass.)

Motivation: It would be beneficial for students to be able to refer to an archive/publication which includes their work.

Vote: **Passes**

In favour: 30

Abstain: 0

Against: 0

K. 4.8: AMENDMENT PASSED

Publicity and communications for the conference shall primarily be the responsibility of the the national social media manager along with the organising committee, though all the members of the national and organising committees shall help to publicise the conference in their own institutions and beyond.

(NB: Only to be passed if the proposed 3.5 change is passed.)

Motivation: To specify that the management of social media and promotions to do with the conference should be handled by the social media manager.

Vote: **Passes**

In favour: 25

Abstain: 5

Against: 0

Policy and other resolutions

None

Proposal of the next host institution

Oxford University

Proposed by Anna Sapuntsova, First Year Master's student, University of Oxford

Seconded by Matthew Sung, University of Edinburgh

No other institutions pitched.

Proposed activities and arrangements:

- Tour of Language and Brain Lab (eyetracking, EEG)
- Creative multilingualism (?? project)
- Bodleian Library tour
- Formal hall dinner
- Cohen Quad Exeter College with 110 and 42 max capacity (Worcester College also possible)
- Dorm rooms as B&B rooms not free but discounted. Could hire rooms in the same hall.
- John Fell fund (up to £7500), AHRC up to £30000 for several years
- Anna pitched as local chair

Vote: **Oxford to host 2020**

In favour: 28

Abstain: 0

Election of Executive Committee

National Chair

Running for position (votes):

Brandon Papineau, Edinburgh (X)

Macarena Chiclana QMUL (X)

Abstain: X

Elected: Brandon Papineau (University of Edinburgh)

Secretary

Running for position (votes):

Tom Williamson, Lancaster (X)

Yin Jue Chang, UCL (X)

Anne Eschenbrücher, Aberdeen (X)

Abstain: X

Elected: Yin Jue Chang (UCL)

Treasurer

Running for position (votes):

Macarena Chiclana, QMUL (X)

Abstain: X

Elected: Macarena Chiclana (QMUL)

Social Media Coordinator

Running for position (votes):

Anne Eschenbrücher, Aberdeen (X)

Anna Sapuntsova, Oxford (X)

Abstain: X

Elected: Anne Eschenbrücher (Aberdeen)

Webmaster

Running for position (votes):

Justin Cambridge (X)

Abstain: X

Elected: Justin Malčić (Cambridge)

Archivist

Running for position (votes):

Jamie Bailey, Cambridge (X)

Tom Williamson, Lancaster (X)

Abstain: X

Elected: Jamie Bailey (Cambridge)

Institutional Reps' Coordinator

Running for position (votes):

Poppy Plumb, Lancaster (X)

Anna Sapuntsova, Oxford (X)

Abstain: X

Elected: Poppy Plumb (Lancaster)

Institutional Reps

Jasmine Chapman (York St John)

Maria Ples (QMUL)

Anna Sapuntsova (Oxford)

Jasper Friedrich (Aberdeen)

Clodhna Hughes (Edinburgh)

Catherine Yuefang Tang (UCL)

Jamie Bailey (Cambridge)

Tom Williamson (Lancaster)

Emergency amendment:

The local chair is automatically granted a position on the national committee. Holding the position of local chair on the national committee does not preclude the role holder from running for one of the other positions.

Voted in by all.

Other competent business

Brandon proposed a motion to redact the numbers of elected positions for minutes published on the website.

Voted in by all.

Close of meeting

Delivered by the new national chair, Brandon Papineau.

