

International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association
Annual General Meeting
Aachen, July 30, 2015 16:00

Minutes

1. Apologies: Pauline Jones, Len Unsworth, Emi Emilia.

Present: Jorge Arùs-Hita, Akila Sellami Baklouta, David Banks, Tom Bartlett, Fatma Benelhadj, Margaret Berg, Maria Estela Brisk, Heidi Byrnes, Honglin Chen, Frances Christie, Ben Clarke, Michael Cummings, Jim Donohue, Robin P. Fawcett, Lise Fontaine, Tammy Gales, Jesse Gleason, Rosemary Huisman, Sally Humphrey, Derek Irwin, Victoria Zamudio Jasso, Helen Jenkins, El Mustapha Lahlali, Inger Lassen, Corinne Maxwell-Reid, Theun Meestringa, Estela Inés Moyano, Stella Neumann, Paula Niemietz, Mick O'Donnell, Gerard O'Grady, Neslihan Önder Özdemir, Alex Peng, Luz Elena Herrero Rivas, Makoto Sasaki, Marianna Ryshina-Pankova, Elena Schmitt, Ian Siebörger, Johann Streit, Geoff Thompson, Nesrine Triki, Gordon Tucker, Bart van der Leeuw, Helmut Johannes Vollmer, Masamichi Washitake, Zhao Xia.

2. Minutes of the 2014 AGM

The Chair asked for the following amendment: the representative for Japan at that time was still Masa-aki Tatsuki. This was confirmed by Geoff Thompson, and the minutes will be amended to reflect this.

3. Matters arising

The Chair requested formal confirmation of Makoto Sasaki as the representative for Japan. Mick O'Donnell raised a point of order that confirmation is not needed, and this was accepted. Makoto Sasaki named representative for Japan.

4. Chair's Report: Rosemary Huisman

Friday afternoon will include a time of remembrance for past members Ruqaiya Hassan and Bill Greaves, for which the Chair thanks Stella Neumann and the conference organisers.

Further thanks were offered to ISFLA for her confirmation as chair and Stella again for standing in at the Mendoza conference to make this possible. Thanks was offered to all of the ISFLA committee for the year's work.

The Aachen conference organisers were given particular thanks for the excellent ISFC Congress.

It was noted that while Masa-aki Tatsuki stepped down from the ISFLA committee on his retirement, he will continue to work on the Japan Committee, and we thank him for his contributions here.

In particular, Robin Fawcett deserves special thanks for his many years of service, which first began in 1974 as the organizer of the first ISFC and continued in many capacities over the following 40 years. Unfortunately, he is now stepping down from his post as ISFLA (Europe) Treasurer. Along with our gratitude for his

service, we would also like to thank him for arranging a suggested successor, which brings the next order of business:

5. Election of new ISFLA (Europe) Treasurer

Nomination (accepted): Carlos A. M. Gouveia

Proposed: Robin Fawcett

Seconded: Rosemary Huismans

The vote to support this was nearly unanimous, and passed.

6. Reports on the Congress Institute and ISFC 2015: Stella Neumann

This Congress saw 250 registered participants from 37 different countries. The Committee was able to give out six scholarships, comprising a bursary and five fee waivers, and along with the volunteers this left a total of 208 paid participants. There were five courses in the pre-conference institute, with 24 participants, and although it was small, it was excellent for all involved.

Sally Humphrey organized the Education conference, supported by the ISFC committee, both of whom deserve thanks. There were 34 participants total.

This conference was supported by 21900 Euros from a national grant, and RWTH supplied rooms rent-free. It was also supported by the Faculty and the School, all of whom we would like to thank.

The congress organisers expect to have a small sum to contribute to ISFLA at the end of the conference.

The entire congress would like to extend our special thanks to student helpers, and particularly to the student volunteers.

7. Reports on meetings held to honour Michael Halliday on the occasion of his 90th birthday:

Fran Christie, on behalf of the planning committee, reported on the February Australia meeting, which thankfully included Ruqaiya Hasan. Speakers were celebratory in tone and it was a great event for systemicists there.

There was also Symposium in Ruqaiya Hasan's honour in Sydney in December.

Alex Peng reported on the launch of the Halliday-Hasan International Fund for the Study of Language and Other Systems of Meaning at Beijing Normal University from April 23-26, 2015. Altogether it was a very happy occasion, which included a translation of Hasan's work into Chinese, as well as Halliday's ten-volume Collected Works, published by Peking University Press.

There will also be a memorial meeting for Ruqaiya Hasan at Sun-Yat-Sen in October.

8. Upcoming congresses

ISFC 2016 will take place in Bandung, Indonesia 19-24th of July 2016, with a post-conference institute 25-27 July.

ISFC 2017 will take place in Wollongong, Australia in July, 2017

ISFC 2018: Maria Brisk representing NASFLA proposed bringing the ISFC back to the US. The committee is currently comparing Miami, Washington and Boston as possible sites.

Other SFL (& SFL related) conferences: There will be the 3rd Legitimation Code Theory conference in Australia in 2017, adjacent to ISFLA.

The Summer School in Cardiff from Aug 31-Sep 2, 2016 will focus on SFL in languages other than English.

9. ISFLA Treasurers' reports

Robin Fawcett (Europe) – the immediate situation is good for ISFLA Europe. It is worth noting that there are not treasurers for each ISFLA area, but just three. For example, the system excludes China, from which we cannot move money in and out, so even International congresses there must be and are self-sufficient. This account will be converted to Euros under the new treasurer, who is from Portugal. The report explained the split between ISFLA and ESFLA accounts, and the subsequent banking issue, with just over 21 pounds being accidentally moved into the new ESFLA account. We can hopefully accept this.

The reason we keep money in the account is to cover potentially disastrous conferences, and so it is important to keep these funds in place. Most congresses do not make money, and 4-5 in the past 20 years have lost significant funds. Fundraising is very difficult overall, and so the Treasurer strongly recommends keeping a buffer of at least 6500 pounds.

We should also think about what we can do positively with any extra money, such as sending delegates to areas who request them. ASFLA is a good example of such practice, as scholars have been funded recently to visit Indonesia, for example.

Bernie Mohan (North America – no report, and Chair will contact him)

Honglin Chen (Australia) – there is not much new to report. The ISFLA account has 17000 Australian dollars, which has not changed in the past year. 1585.61 AUD have been left in the Maria Helena Foundation, which we will have to check with Geoff Williams to confirm the terms of access. Geoff Thompson believes the time is running out to use these funds, and Mick O'Donnell confirms that the deadline has officially passed (2014) so we will follow-up with Geoff Williams.

The Treasurers' reports were accepted, moved by Fran Christie and seconded by Mick O'Donnell, then passed.

10. Regional news and welcomes

We welcome the new Tunisia Association, represented by Akila Sellami Baklouti. Tunisia launched the association and its first conference this past year. They wish to give many thanks to the team at Cardiff for all of the support, and hope to continue events every 2 years.

Japan has issued a bi-annual journal, which is now in its 8th volume, along with the proceedings of JASFLA. On October 10th and 11th, 2015, they will host their annual conference.

11. Discussion on ISFC Regional Cycle of Locations

The cycle of congress locations has historically been Europe / Australasia / Asia / Americas, with some flexibility (for example, in 2016/2017, Indonesia will precede Australia). The question is whether 'Americas' be replaced by two

regions: North America and South America? If so, what should be the new cycle? Sally Humphrey commented that North America is expanding rapidly, so it might be a good consideration to encourage expansion.

Mick O'Donnell pointed out that if we keep dividing (i.e., China and "other Asia") we could end up with too many regions.

Robin Fawcett argued that it is important to return to places (as per Jim Martin) to keep things in memory, and pointed out that communications between the Americas is the crucial question.

Estella Montoya confirmed that there is little funding for South Americans to travel to North America, and links between them are few.

Stella Neuman argued that it is positive to organize conferences in as many areas as possible, which is more important than bringing them back to a certain place.

Robin Fawcett stated that part of the great history of ISFLA is going into areas for the first time, which helps to spread the word and keep growing.

Lise Fontaine asked if there was recognition of growth, particularly given which associations are where, and to ensure we are looking globally and inclusively.

Mick O'Donnell stated that if there are any potential hosts outside of a region, they do not necessarily need a slot, but that we can fit them in.

12. Any other business:

None brought up. Meeting declared adjourned.

ISFLA Account (Australia) Treasurer Report 2015

ISFLA account

Brought forward (May 29 2015):	\$17,203.90 (AUD)
Balance as at 30 June 2014:	\$17,203.90 (AUD)

Outgoing:	0
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The Maria Helena Foundation

Brought forward (9 July 2015):	\$1561.48 (AUD)
Balance as at 9 April 2015:	\$1584.61 (AUD)

Outgoing:	0
Interest:	\$23.13 (AUD)

ISFLA (EUROPE) TREASURER'S REPORT 2014-15
Summary of the ISFLA (Europe) account with the Co-operative Bank

Date	Description	Paid in GBP	Paid out GBP	Balance GBP
15.04.14	Carried forward from last report			10,177.32
24.02.15	Correction to figure on separating The combined ISFLA (Europe) and ESFLA account into separate accounts			10,156.12
02.04.15	Interest to this date	11.79		10,167.91

Summary of ISFLA (Europe) account

My recommendation to the 2007 AGM (so 8 years ago!) was that we should keep at least GBP 5,000 in this account, to enable us to cover any possible shortfall in a future congress held in Europe, and we achieved that.

Then in 2013 I suggested that, if we allowed for a 4% increase per annum till 2013 and 3% thereafter, we would by that time need to have around GBP 6,500 in reserve. However, interest rates have decreased in the period since then and to has the retail price index (a British measure), though les, and I see no need to increase the target figure above that sum. ISFLA's European account therefore holds a surplus of almost £3,700 over my recommended reserve fund figure of GBP 6,500.

The association might therefore wish to ask the committee to invite requests for support from this fund, e.g. to assist in organizing conferences in, I suggest, the continent of the world which is both immediately adjacent to Europe and which has a high proportion of countries in which funding for conferences is limited, i.e. Africa.

Robin Fawcett, 23.07.15