

**International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association  
Annual General Meeting  
Vancouver, 22 July 2010**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Jorge Arús-Hita, Leila Barbara, Sabine Bartsch, Jim Benson, Chang Chenguang, Caroline Coffin, Cecilia Colombi, Jim Donohue, Robin Fawcett, David Fiki-George, Jonathan Fine, Nan Fries, Peter Fries, Carlos Gouveia, Bill Greaves, M.A.K. Halliday, Carolyn Hartnett, Ruqaiya Hasan, Sue Hood, Huang Guowen, Rosemary Huisman, Sally Humphrey, Derek Irwin, Helen Jenkins, Adriana Lima, Annabelle Lukin, Jim Martin, Bernard Mohan, Mick O'Donnell, John Polias, Dianne Potts, Poonam Sahay, Mary Schleppegrell, Erich Steiner, Maite Taboada, Geoff Thompson, Geoff Williams

**1 Apologies for absence:** Honglin Chen, Fang Yan.

**2 Minutes of the 2009 AGM:** These were accepted as an accurate record.

**3 Matters arising**

– item 3b. Increasing nominations for new positions on the international committee

The committee had carried on the discussion over the year, and agreed that it should encourage regional representatives from Africa and India. However, it had been difficult to identify candidate representatives who would be attending future ISFCs and also who are seen as representative of the region; and therefore discussions are ongoing. Next year's committee elections should be an ideal time for further steps to be taken.

– item 8. Guidelines on using ISFLA funds

There had been discussion amongst the committee about setting up a hierarchy of different ways of using funds (e.g., providing support to scholars for conference attendance, experts for workshops, conference funds, etc.). The committee did not find it possible to set definite priorities, but has established criteria and online instructions for those who might want to apply for support. It has left the application process open but has added dates for cutoffs.

**4 Proposed changes to constitution**

These had been emailed to sysfling in advance of the meeting. GT noted that the proposals were mainly designed to bring the text in line with current practice, and to make explicit certain points such as the duties of the committee. Additions to the changes circulated were proposed at the meeting. It was agreed that a single position of “moderator of the email discussion list” should be established as an ex-officio member of ISFLA. It was also agreed that the mail ballot provision should be removed, and that a provision that proposed changes to the constitution can only come from a member of 3 years' standing should be added.

The changes were agreed unanimously.

[The revised constitution is available on the ISFLA website (<http://www.isfla.org/>)]

## **5 Reports on the Pre-Congress Institute and ISFC 2010 (attached below)**

Although the full budget was not yet available, it was likely that the event would break even, and perhaps have a surplus.

GW raised the issue of the general principle that a top-slice of 10% of Congress budgets should be set aside for scholarships. He noted that it was often difficult to predict how much income would be generated until after a reasonable deadline for awarding scholarships had passed. It was suggested that one possible alternative was to maintain the recent custom of offering a grant of 3000 Euros from ISFLA funds towards the cost of scholarships. However, these funds are limited and it may not always be possible to top them up even if a congress generates a surplus: not only are there problems with countries which have currency restrictions, but universities in the developed world do not always permit monies to be transferred to ISFLA.

GW stressed the need for great care with student support, given the difficulties of obtaining visas and potential issues with deceptive practices.

It was agreed that the committee should monitor the financial situation, and offer support whenever necessary/possible.

## **6 Upcoming congresses**

2011: CG noted that planning for the Congress in Lisbon is going ahead apace and that several of the plenary speakers are outside SFL but share fundamental beliefs with it. He stressed that Lisbon is a wonderful city to visit, with accommodations, good food and good wine at a reasonable cost. It was noted that the European SFL conference will not take place in 2010 to avoid a clash.

2012: Because of staffing changes, Adelaide was no longer in a position to host the Congress. A provisional offer has been made by University of Technology Sydney: SH will confirm as soon as possible.

2013: One official proposal had been received from Indonesia, and one was about to come in from Guangdong. The Committee will discuss these two proposals, and bring back a recommendation to the next AGM.

2014: Mendoza was proposed, as it is 10-year anniversary of ASFAL (which was founded in Mendoza); and the proposal was supported by the Committee. It was accepted unanimously.

2015: The Congress is due to be held in Europe; Aachen is a possible candidate.

## **7 Timing of congresses**

GW raised the question of whether ISFLA should have a discussion about shifting international congresses to a two-year cycle, with regional ones in alternating years. The current financial situation made regular international trips increasingly difficult. ISFLA should simultaneously explore the development of technological resources so that more people have access to what goes on at congresses.

It was agreed that this should be discussed first by the Committee, and, if it was felt to be appropriate, the discussion should be moved to the email list and feedback should be sought

## **8 Other upcoming SFL conferences**

Information on ASFLA conference is available online.

Latin American conference 5-9 Oct. in Brazil, 2011 in Argentina (Santa Fe). See website.

## **9 Treasurers' reports (attached below)**

RF spoke to the report; in HC's absence, he also covered the position in Australia. He had recommended in 2007 that ISFLA should have about £5000 at all times in funds, thus with cost-of-living increases it should now be about £5460. ISFLA has a fairly substantial sum overall (28,901 USD) – he stressed, however, that there are no mechanisms other than congresses to increase funds, and that congress participation is sensitive to external problems.

Some uncertainty over the accounts for the Macquarie Congress in 2008 has been cleared up, and it appears that the ISFLA accounts have not suffered.

The Marilyn Mohan fund is administered by ISFLA and is used to support SE Asia scholars. It must be used up over the next few years.

RF proposed that the European ISFLA account be moved from a super-ethical bank which pays almost no interest to a quite ethical bank which gives some interest. Seconded by MO; and passed unanimously.

## **10 Any other business**

Mary Schleppegrell wished to step down as North American Treasurer as she is also Chair of the NA Association. Bernie Mohan was confirmed as her replacement.

## **11 Date of next meeting**

July 2011, during the Lisbon congress.

International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association  
Annual General Meeting  
Thursday July 22nd, 2010  
University of British Columbia

Preliminary Report on ISFC 37

Number of Participants: 217

Number of Graduate Students: 55

Number of Countries Represented: 24

Number of Proposals Submitted: 193

Number of Papers and Workshops Accepted: 171

Number of Papers and Workshops Presented: 136

**Scholarships:**

Danielle Almeida, Brazil

David Fiki-George, Nigeria

Gopal Ram, India (part-scholarship)

Poonam Sahay, India (Marilyn Mohan Scholarship)

13 graduate students from Language and Literacy Education received part-scholarships funded by the Department

**Sponsorship:**

Xerox (printing of signs and the program book)

Department of Language and Literacy Education

(graduate scholarships, honoraria)

Faculty of Education

Centre for Research in Chinese Language and Literacy Education

(welcome event)

Alfredo Ferreira (plenary travel)

Maite Taboada (plenary travel and accommodation)

Equinox (book launch)

**Finance:**

It seems likely that the Congress will report a modest surplus

**Publication:**

We will be building a website, commencing next week, which will include videos, PPs and documents.

# THE ISFLA ACCOUNT 2009-10

Report by Robin Fawcett, Treasurer for the Europe area, July 2010

## A: Europe account (Triodos Bank, account no. 03862200)

Note: The Triodos Bank is an ethical bank (based in Holland). It does not merely avoid investing in unethical companies; it **only** invests in explicitly ethical companies.

The figures are in GBP, and are extracted from the relevant bank statements.

Date	Description	Out	In	Balance
01.04.09	Carried forward			7365.50
06.07.09	Repayment to ISFLA of gift to ESFLA After loss of £1000 on Kings College London conference		300	7665.50
01.04.10	Interest		7.17	7672.67

## Summary of ISFLA (Europe) account

We are in a healthy position. My recommendation to the 2007 AGM was that we needed to have at least GBP 5,000 in this account, to be able to cover any possible shortfall in a future congress held in Europe, and we have achieved that. However, if we allow for just 3% increase per annum, we now need to keep £5,460 in reserve. I recommend moving the account to a “smile” account with the Co-operative Bank, in order to obtain higher interest (and to facilitate the movement of cash). This bank avoids investing in unethical companies.

## B: SUMMARY OF ALL THREE ISFLA ACCOUNTS

Note that (i) the figures below incorporate Honglin Chen’s report for the two accounts held in Australia, and (ii) the figures for the North American account are from 2007 and so need to be updated to include interest.

Figures are also expressed in USD to facilitate comparison.

	AUD	GBP	CND	USD
Australia (ISFLA)	17,254			14,987
Marilyn Mohan Fund	<u>5,327</u>			<u>4,627</u>
Total	22,581			19,614
Europe		7,677		11,853
North America			2,000†	<u>1,926†</u>
Total				28,901

† Since this was the 2007 figure, interest will have increased this sum.

Thanks to profits from Cardiff 1998, Sydney 2005 and Odense 2007, ISFLA is in a healthy financial position. We could consider supporting further regional conferences, e.g. by paying the airfares of visiting speakers and leaders of workshops (preferably with each such visitor doing both, to give value for money!) - in countries where financial support for academics is limited. Note, however, that since 1990 four international congresses have experienced losses - though only one asked for assistance. But it could happen again at any time.

RPF, 17.07.10