

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Linguistic Association, Inc.
Held on 25 May 2001, 5 p.m., Laval University

1. Approval of agenda

0. Introductions

The members of the executive committee and the HSSFC representative were introduced.

1. Approval of the agenda.

The agenda for the annual general meeting was approved.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 26 May 2000 were approved.

3. President's report (Henrietta Cederegren, President)

i. Thanks

Thanks to the local representatives, Sarah Cummins and Darlene LaCharité. Thanks also to the outgoing committee members, Ruth King, Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee; Jim Black, Acting Secretary-Treasurer; and Elan Dresher, member of the Nominating Committee. Thanks also to those who helped organize the 2001 meeting, Carrie Dyck (Aboriginal Languages Committee), John Archibald (roundtable on research funding), Conrad Ouellon (joint session with CAAL on language, culture, and community), and Claire Lefebvre (editor of new Fides collection Champs linguistique).

ii. Outstanding Student Presentation Award

The winner of the 2000 Outstanding Student Presentation Award is Wenckje Jongstra of the University of Toronto.

iii. Newsletter

Thanks to Yvan Rose for his work on the e-mail newsletter.

iv. Web site

Thanks to Daniel Hall, webmaster, and Keren Rice, web adviser, for their work on the CLA web site.

v. Constitutional amendments

Two constitutional amendments will be brought to the membership in the fall of 2001, the addition of a student to the executive committee and the statement of a term for the Chair of the Program Committee.

vi. Membership

Jila Ghomeshi and Arden Ogg of the University of Manitoba are maintaining up-to-date records of members of the CLA, and have also compiled an e-mail list of addresses of linguists in Canada.

vii. Fees

Yearly fees will increase in 2002. Regular fees will raise from \$45 to \$50 and student fees from \$15 to \$18. Institutional fees will remain at \$60.

viii. Membership drive

The Association will undertake a membership drive in the fall, targeting individual members. A drive to increase institutional members will take place the following year.

ix. CAAL

For several years now, the CLA and CAAL have held a joint session at the Congress. This continues this year, with a joint session on language, culture, and community. Patricia Balcom has been appointed as CLA liaison to CAAL, and Anne-Marie Baraby as CAAL liaison to the CLA.

x. Upcoming meetings

2002: University of Toronto and Ryerson

2003: Dalhousie

Anne-Marie Brousseau and Emmanuel Nikiema will be the local organizers for the 2002 meeting.

xi. SSHRC Postdoctoral fellowships

As a consequence of discussion at the 2000 meeting of changes in deadlines for thesis completion to apply for SSHRC postdoctoral fellowships, Keren Rice wrote a letter to SSHRC laying out some of the problems the CLA saw with the changes. SSHRC later reconsidered the policy, and changed the qualifications for application.

xiii. SSHRC news

Henrietta Cedergren attended a SSHRC-sponsored luncheon at which a report entitled 'Alternative Worlds: The Humanities in 2010' was released. A new funding program of \$100 million over five years is being introduced at SSHRC, for targeted research (The New Economy).

xiv. Mathieu Ravignat

Henrietta Cedergren introduced Mathieu Ravignat, the program officer at SSHRC in charge of the Linguistics Committee to report to the assembly about what is going on at SSHRC. In terms of funding, the humanities and social sciences have 53.3% of the researchers of those represented by NSERC, CIHR, and SSHRC, but receive only 17% of the budget. More funds will be coming into SSHRC - \$100 million for targeted research on new economy issues. In 2000-01, there were a total of 1789 applications to SSHRC, with fifty coming from linguistics. This represents several challenges. One is that it is SSHRC policy to have a program officer for areas in which there are 100 applications or more. There has been talk in the past of merging the linguistics committee with another one; each year the committee communicates to SSHRC that this would be unacceptable, and it will not take place for the 2001-02 competition. The success rate has been quite stable over the past few years: 1999: 33.3%, 2000: 38.5% (52 applications), 2001: 38% (50 applications). The new researchers tend to have a lower success rate; while their

records are generally excellent, the proposals are often too broad. Of a total of \$52,966,055 that was requested, linguistics received \$2,000,805.

The doctoral fellowship increased from \$16,620 to \$17,700.

Student stipends (\$15000 Ph.D., \$12000 MA) can be requested.

The New Economy initiative is at this point vague, and it was suggested that projects could be defined to fall into one of the New Economy areas. These areas include management skills, education, life-long learning, and the nature of the new economy. The goals are to foster excellence in research, to support innovative and multidisciplinary research, to foster cooperation between the public, private, and non-profit sectors, and to inform decision making in both the public and private sector.

The issue of release time in SSHRC grants was discussed. (This was clarified at the roundtable on research funding, and I report on that here.) The SSHRC guidelines state that usually release time requests that are approved by the university are supported. The SSHRC committees do not consider release-time requests, but assume that they are granted if approved by the University. In reality, the release time budget is limited.

Release-time requests are granted according to ranking of the application: higher ranked applications receive this funding until the funding runs out; lower ranked successful applicants may not receive release time if that budget has been used up.

Other issues came up from the floor – the issue of equipment and what SSHRC allows, the problems with funding postdocs on research grants, the loss of Ph.D.s to the private sector because of funding issues.

4. Report from the Humanities and Social Science Federation (Louise Forsythe, Past President of HSSFC)

A total of 67 learned societies are members of the HSSFC, with a total of 90 societies meeting at the 2001 Congress. All but one of the Canadian universities are members of the HSSFC. The HSSFC serves as a powerful voice for humanists and social scientists. They arrange the Congress and run the Aid to Scholarly Publications Program. They lobby with SSHRC for increased government funding, and were a participant with SSHRC in an initiative to investigate humanities and their role in the 21 century. The theme of the 2002 Congress is Borders; gender, genre, and geography are the subthemes.

Louise Forsythe recognized Elizabeth Cowper, the CLA representative to the HSSFC, as a valuable member.

Henrietta Cedergren requested that the HSSFC host a meeting of association presidents at the Congress. Louise Forsythe announced that such a meeting would be taking place, beginning this year.

5. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer (presented by Keren Rice)

The budget was presented informally. Basically, the CLA is taking in what it is spending each year. In order to meet increased expenses and to take on new activities, the CLA will (i) raise fees in 2002, as reported in 3vii, and (ii) undertake a membership drive, targeting individuals, in the fall of 2001.

The report was approved (Rice, Archibald).

6. Canadian Journal of Linguistics (Anne Rochette)

A copy of the report is attached. A managing editor of the journal is being sought. The executive is investigating electronic publishing.

Anne talked about the success of the thematic issues, and suggested that someone undertake to edit a thematic issue on languages that are spoken in Canada. (Cedergren, Heap)

7. Nominating Committee (Keren Rice)

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate:

Member-at-large: Patricia Shaw (UBC)

Committee member, Nominating Committee: Jila Ghomeshi (Manitoba)

These nominations were approved (Cowper, Shaw)

Nominations were sought for Secretary-Treasurer. Martha McGinnis (Calgary) volunteered to take on the job of secretary and Marguerite MacKenzie (Memorial) to be treasurer; seconded and approved. The position remains 'Secretary-Treasurer' in the constitution and by-laws.

Marie-Odile Junker was appointed by the Executive Committee as the representative to the HSSFC.

8. Program Committee (Diane Massam)

The report was presented, as attached. There was discussion about thematic sessions and invited speakers. It was suggested that the committee be more proactive in trying to attract thematic sessions, with advertising in the early fall that proposals for symposia are encouraged. People could then submit abstracts for these sessions. Moved and seconded (Massam, Gold), approved.

9. Aboriginal Languages Committee (Carrie Dyck)

The committee is working on their web site, focusing on an interactive map with interfaces about languages and on improving the list of language activists in Canada. A roundtable on formal and functional approaches to organizing grammars is being held on Saturday May 26, and a joint session on language planning with CAAL (organized by Conrad Ouellon) on Sunday May 27.

10. Women's Issues Committee (Pat Balcom)

Information on the CLA resolution on sessional appointments, approved at the 2000 meeting, is being circulated to chairs. Fair Employment Week will take place from October 28 to November 3 2001. This is sponsored by CAUT and a coalition of unions, professional organizations, and activists across the US and Canada. The week involves coordinated action on academic labour issues for contract academic staff.

11. CLA Proceedings

Thanks to the University of Ottawa for publishing the 2000 proceedings; they have agreed to publish the proceedings of the 2001 meeting as well. James Walker will look into electronic publication of the proceedings.

12. HSSFC (Elizabeth Cowper)

The HSSFC is now primarily concerned with how it can help associations. It is effective in lobbying at the federal level, and might think about getting involved at the provincial level as well. They deserve credit for help in changing the SSHRC postdoctoral application requirements and in lobbying for increased funding for SSHRC. There are few staff at the HSSFC, and they are doing an excellent job with very few resources.

13. Other business

- i. Henrietta Cedergren responded to a letter from the HSSFC regarding the failure of people to register for the Congress. Henrietta analyzed the CLA 2000 records, and found that this is not a problem in the CLA.
- ii. Job announcements for Canadian jobs of interest to linguists should be sent to Yvan Rose for the CLA newsletter and to Daniel Hall to post on the web site.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m. (Walker, McGinnis)

Margaret Stong-Jensen
John Jensen (Ottawa)
Marguerite MacKenzie (Memorial)
Carrie Dyck (Memorial)
Kimary Shahin (Birzeit/UBC)
Sarah Cummins (Laval)
Wladyslaw Cichocki (UNB)
Marie-Therese Vinet (Sherbrooke)
Carole Paradis (Laval)
James Walker (York)
Daniel Hall (Toronto)
Elizabeth Cowper (Toronto)
Mathieu Ravnat (SSHRC/CRSH)
Martha McGinnis (Calgary)
Elaine Gold (Toronto)
Diane Masam (Toronto)
Hotze Rullmann (Calgary)
Denis Dumas (UQAM)
Louise Emirkanian (UQAM)
Maite Taboada (SFU)
Anne Rochette (UQAM)
Pat Balcom (Moncton)
Louise Beaulieu (Moncton)
Ann Laubstein (Carleton)
John Archibald (Calgary)
Henrietta Cedergren (UQAM)
Keren Rice (Toronto)
David Heap (UWO)
Marie-Odile Junker (Carleton)
Anne-Marie Baraby