



BAAL AGM DRAFT Minutes

Friday 6th September 2024, 5:45-6:45 p.m.

**BAAL Annual General Meeting, Ivor Crewe Auditorium A, University of Essex and Zoom
(<https://essexuniversity.zoom.us/j/99948338615>)**

1. Introductions, apologies, and confirmation of minute-takers

The chair, Zhu Hua (ZH), welcomed everyone to the AGM. Sultan Turkan (ST) and Pawel Szudarski (PS) were confirmed as the minute-takers.

Executive Committee (EC) members present: Zhu Hua (ZH), Bettina Beinhoff (BB), Caroline Tagg (CT), Pawel Szudarski (PS), Glenn Hadikin (GH), Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (AHCL), Gee Macrory (GM), Sultan Turkan (ST), Vander Viana (VV), Rachel Wicaksono (RW), Sal Consoli (SCo), Sathena Chan (SC), Tracey Costley (TC), Sin Wang Chong (SWC), Yi Zhang (YZ), Piotr Wegorowski (PW)

Apologies: Maria Arche, Mel Evans, Gavin Brookes, Zhi Ma

52 delegates including EC members attended in person and 16 joined online.

2. Confirmation and ratification of minutes from the 2023 AGM

ZH invited members to offer corrections for the minutes of the AGM in 2023. No corrections were suggested. The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's report (ZH):

ZH reflected on her term as the chair and noted that it has been a busy time driven by BAAL's 5 strategic priorities (multilingual representation; EDI; support and recovery from the pandemic; engaging with and influencing UK government and Higher Education policies; developing an international outlook).

The events and activities organised by BAAL reflect these priorities.

- The 55th Anniversary Big Survey was discussed as a good example of this. Three main findings emerged as areas to focus the attention of BAAL as it moves forward: Mentoring members (e.g. online open days, ECR event during the conference, BAAL stand), promotion and advocacy (e.g. looking into increasing support for SIGs), network and community building (regional hubs, working closely with other organisations)

ZH also provided an update on the successful bid with UKALTA to the Academy of Social Sciences and Economic Social Research Council's EDI small grant. The fund was utilised to host the EDI Leadership Workshop at the BAAL conference. The planning of the second workshop to be held at UKALTA's annual conference in November is currently underway.

ZH invited questions about the Chair's report. Ros Mitchell (RM) congratulated BAAL on the active year and asked what BAAL's response is to the disappointing news about the

unsuccessful AILA Conference bid. ZH reported that we have received no formal feedback on the unsuccessful bid, therefore it is hard to formally comment on this outcome. ZH identified one possible explanation or reason which might be related to the location and high costs of running conferences in the UK generally.

CT briefly noted the EC's thanks to ZH for her leadership and service as the chair for the past three years. She explained that a more formal thank you will be given at the closing ceremony of the conference.

3. Treasurer's report (BB)

BB presented the Treasurer's Report, full details can be found in her AGM report (<https://www.baal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-09-06-BAAL-AGM-Reports.pdf>). She noted that overall the financial position of BAAL is very good and therefore we are able to commit to funding more activities (see the updates from RW and VV in the AGM 2024 reports and item 4 below.).

She noted the rather sizeable surplus from the Belfast conference in 2022, with ST explaining how the surplus came about, which is attributable to the generous sponsorship from Visit Belfast.

Following the presentation, the audience were invited to ask questions about the report. Tess Fitpatrick (TF) asked what BAAL is planning to do with the surplus. BB explained that new types of funding are being considered by the EC (e.g. money to be given to regional hubs as a response to the results of the BAAL survey), increased funding for scholarships, live streaming of keynotes during the annual conference (which is costly), and solidarity membership funds.

ZH added that BAAL's approach to its funds is to give the money back to the BAAL community. The audience also provided some suggestions which include considering the lowering of fees for some conference attendants (e.g. for ECRs, attendants from specific geographical locations) and providing more funds for Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

Lynda Taylor (LT) raised another question concerning the contingency fund and whether BAAL had one. BB provided an affirmative answer to that.

Following this discussion, the financial report has been approved by the delegates at the AGM.

4. BAAL funding announcements

Applied Linguistics Fund (RW)

RW announced the results of this year's Applied Linguistics Fund. These will be available shortly on the website (<https://www.baal.org.uk/what-we-do/funding/baal-applied-linguistics-fund/>). The next call for applications will be in autumn 2025.

BAAL/ CUP Seminars, Researcher Development Workshops, and Regional Hubs (VV)

VV announced the winners of this year's call for BAAL/Cambridge University Press seminars (<https://www.baal.org.uk/what-we-do/seminars/>) and Researcher workshops (<https://www.baal.org.uk/workshops/>), and drew members' attention to key dates in the next round: 15 November 2024 is the submission deadline, with seminars/workshops to be held between January and December 2025. VV also announced a new exploratory call for funding for Regional Hubs to facilitate networking within geographical regions and provide open and

inclusive spaces for anyone interested in applied linguistics. BAAL is offering a total of £4500, with a maximum of £1500 per application. Only BAAL members are eligible to be hub leaders.

The audience raised a question about the possibility of doubling the figure for the regional hub initiative, given BAAL's surplus. ZH responded that our consideration will depend on the demand and that the EC will look into this for future rounds.

5. BAAL Book Prize (AHCL)

AHCL provided a summary of the results for the BAAL Book Prize 2023-24. The winner is *Engaging Children in Applied Linguistics Research* by Annamaria Pinter, Cambridge University Press and the runner-up is *Multilingual Families in a Digital Age: Mediatonal Repertoires and Transnational Practices* by Kristin Vold Lexander and Jannis Androutsopoulos, Routledge. AHCL noted his thanks to the support of the nominating publishers and the BAAL membership in contributing to the reviewing process.

6. Applied Linguistics journal (KH)

Kristina Hultgren (KH) reported on the journal's impact factor and top articles.

7. Elections to EC (ZH/ CT)

The following EC posts were up for election and nominations had been sought through BAALmail over the summer.

ZH led the proceedings and explained the election procedure. She started by announcing the positions of the new chair, secretary, and publications secretary whose candidatures were unopposed. They are as follows:

- Chair: Caroline Tagg
- Secretary: Alex Ho-Cheong Leung
- Publications Secretary: Sal Consoli

CT and Zhu then led the elections for the following positions: Media coordinator, Newsletter editor, SIG coordinator, Postgraduate liaison and development coordinator, and Ordinary member x 3.

Candidates present (in-person and online) were given a minute to introduce themselves. Votes were then cast both in person and online. The votes online were counted automatically, all the votes were counted and cross checked by three EC members.

The following members are elected to fill the respective positions:

- Media Coordinator: Mel Evans (second term)
- Newsletter Editor: Robbie Love
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator: Timothy Hampson
- SIG Coordinator: Sathena Chan (second term)
- Ordinary Member: Peter Browning
- Ordinary Member: Gee Macrory (second term)
- Ordinary Member: Sultan Turkan (second term)

These results were to be announced at the closing of the conference on 7th September, 2024.

8. A.O.B.

There was no other business.

(Written) Reports from officers (available online: <https://www.baal.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-09-06-BAAL-AGM-Reports.pdf>)

- Chair (Zhu Hua)
- Treasurer (Bettina Beinhoff)
- Secretary (Caroline Tagg)
- Media Coordinator (Mel Evans)
- Meetings Secretary (Glenn Hadikin)
- Membership Secretary (Rachel Wicaksono)
- Newsletter Editor (Sal Consoli)
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator (Zhi Ma)
- Publications Secretary (Alex Ho-Cheong Leung)
- Seminars Coordinator (Vander Viana)
- SIG Coordinator (Sathena Chan)
- Website Editor (Sin Wang Chong)
- CLIE Representative (Maria Arche)