



association for literary
& linguistic computing

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Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing

Committee Meeting, 5 July 1998

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing held at Lajos Kossuth University, Debrecen, Hungary on Sunday 5th July 1998 at 10.00 hours.

Present: Antonio Zampolli (President), Harold Short (Chair), Jean Anderson (Treasurer), David Holmes (Secretary), John Dawson, Marilyn Deegan, Paul Fortier, Stuart Lee, Lisa Lena Opas, Espen Ore, Michael Sperberg-McQueen, Susan Hockey (for items 1 to 4), Laszlo Hunyadi (for item 10 (a)), Willard McCarty and Allen Renear (both for item 10 (b)).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Lou Burnard, Christian Delcourt, Nancy Ide and Thomas Rommel.
 2. The Minutes of the previous meeting, held at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario on 2nd June 1997 were accepted as correct.
 3. There were no matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with as separate items.
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4. Text Encoding Initiative

Susan Hockey reminded the meeting that the TEI project had begun in 1988 as an initiative of the ALLC, ACH and ACL. Up until now it had been supported by grant funds and indirect contributions from the institutions of the TEI participants. For long-term viability, the Executive Committee of the TEI recently decided to pursue the idea of setting up a TEI Consortium to provide financial support for the future. The Committee put out proposals that resulted in some letters of intent being returned.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning support from the ALLC for the Consortium initiative. Concern was expressed that individual scholars and institutions should have access to any documentation and that there be tangible benefits of membership. It was agreed that the ALLC should offer guidance in the evaluation of the proposals for a Consortium.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman voiced his concern at the increasing burden on those people employed in academia and, in addition, giving their services to the Association, and promised to monitor the size of sub-committees in this respect. He noted that it was the first year in which the Father Busa prize would be awarded. The

Chairman thanked David Holmes for his services as Secretary since February 1995 and noted his wish to now step down from that office.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the accounts and the overall healthy financial position of the Association was noted.

7. Secretary's Report

The Secretary provided both institutional and personal membership figures covering the past five years. The final totals for 1997 were 451 institutional and 214 personal memberships, and he voiced concern at the latter figure, which was a significant drop from that of previous years. He advised the Committee that those members now serving and their years of re-election are: 1999: John Dawson, Espen Ore, Thomas Rommel 2000: Lou Burnard, Paul Fortier, Michael Sperberg-McQueen It was noted that Lisa Lena Opas had been re-elected to serve on the Committee for a further 3-year term, but both Nancy Ide and Christian Delcourt had decided not to stand again.

8. Election of Officers

Harold Short was re-elected as Chairman and Jean Anderson re-elected as Treasurer. With David Holmes standing down as Secretary after the conference, Lisa Lena Opas was elected to that office.

This meant that three vacancies now existed on the Committee, and proposed names for filling these vacancies were David Holmes, Laszlo Hunyadi, David Robey and Elizabeth Burr. The Chairman promised to arrange terms with these candidates, one of whom would serve as a co-opted member.

9. Reports of Publications: Journal

Marilyn Deegan and Stuart Lee reported that this was the first year of the Journal under its new editorship. An excellent working relationship existed with OUP. Special issues of the Journal are now appearing but there was still a need for more papers. Proposed new designs for the cover were circulated, and for the interior. It was noted that there would be an Editorial Committee consisting of officers of the Association and a proposed new "Academic Committee" and panel of referees. The idea of an electronic archive of past papers (with a two-year lag) was discussed and supported.

10. Conference Arrangement

(a) 1998 The Committee expressed its thanks to Laszlo Hunyadi, who welcomed us to the conference and provided information on support facilities. Appreciation was also expressed to Espen Ore and the Programme Committee for all their hard work.

(b) 2000 Presentations were received from the University of Cambridge (John Dawson) and the University of Glasgow (Fiona Tweedie) for hosting the year 2000

conference. The Committee decided to invite the University of Glasgow to act as hosts.

At this point (13. 00 hours), the meeting was adjourned to re-convene on Monday 6th July at 18. 00 hours.

11. Reports of Publications: Archives

The desirability of storing ALLC-related materials in an archive was discussed, along with the possibility of hiring someone to do archival work. It was noted that, in addition to material at Oxford and Manchester, there was approximately 100-shelf-feet of material at Cambridge. Harold Short promised to enquire at King's College to see if an ALLC archive could be based there.

12. Electronic Publications

Harold Short notified the Committee of the new ALLC Web site, with its own domain name "allc.org". Lisa Lena Opas agreed to act as interim webmaster. Redirection addresses to officers of the Association now existed. Harold Short would liaise with Willard McCarty and the ACH as regards Humanist and CHWP.

13. Current Initiatives

It was noted that the ACOHum project was continuing, with strong ALLC representation. This year there were five winners of the ALLC Bursary awards, Fabienne Baider, Aileen Clark, Mavis Coumane, Karen Gusto and Bruce Robertson. The feasibility of asking people to "tick" a box when submitting conference abstracts should they be both eligible and interested in applying for an ALLC Bursary was discussed and recommended.

A paper was circulated conceding Draft Protocol and Selection Guidelines for the Father Busa award. The issue of funding was debated, in particular how much the local organiser should contribute compared to the host organisation. The Draft Protocol was accepted, and Paul Fortier and Lisa Lena Opas would represent the ALLC on the next Father Busa award selection committee.

14. New Initiatives

There was nothing further to report as regards a programme of workshops, a committee of elders, project support, a student prize and developments in Eastern Europe.

15. 1999 Programme Committee

John Dawson and Lisa Lena Opas would serve on the Programme Committee, along with two other ALLC members, whom the Chairman would approach.

16. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 19.00 hours.

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