

Committee for Linguistics in Education (CLiE)

Meeting 101

1.30 – 4.45, Friday 18th May 2012

King's College London, Department of Education & Professional Studies,
Waterloo Campus, Franklin Wilkins Building (Waterloo Bridge Wing)
Rm 3/7, 3rd floor*.

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/campuslife/campuses/waterloo/Waterloo.aspx>

Minutes

1. Membership and apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Present: Graeme Trousdale (LAGB, Chair); Esther Daborn (BAAL, Secretary); Sue Ellis (UKLA), Melissa Cudmore (BC), Mahendra Verma (Co-opted), Charlotte Franson (NALDIC), Vivienne Rogers (LAGB), Keith Davidson (NATE), Willem Hollmann (LAGB), Simon Coffey (BAAL); Elaine Harris representing EA (Ian Brinton); Jonathan Gibson representing HEA (Nicole King), Jim Houghton representing ISMLA (Nick Mair);

Apologies received from: Urszula Clark (BAAL); Caroline Coffin (BAAL); Dick Hudson (LAGB); Wasył Cajkler (Co-opted); Jonnie Robinson (BL); Kate Board (CfBT); Patricia Ashby (LLAS); Jo-Ann Delaney (NATECLA); Catherine Walter (Co-opted); Terry Lamb (Co-opted); Dan Clayton (Co-opted).

1.1 Membership matters

1.1.1 Representation of ALL: It was decided that GT will write to the Chair of ALL to ascertain whether they are able to fund attendance of a representative to CLiE. If they are not, it was felt that ALL's interests would be well served by Terry Lamb (co-opted). **Action: GT**

1.1.2 Other new memberships: GT informed the meeting that the Independent Schools Modern Languages Association (ISMLA) will be represented by Nick Mair, with Jim Houghton standing in at this meeting. He also noted that Dan Clayton has agreed to take up a co-opted member role, replacing Tim Shortis.

2. Minutes of Meeting 100 (Committee Meeting and Report of Open Session)

The minutes of the Committee Meeting were taken as correct. For the report of the Open Session, MV requested a correction in item 1.6. 'National Council for Community Languages' should read 'National Council for Mother Tongue Teaching'.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Item 3.1 As TDA no longer exists, it was agreed to leave the gathering of recommended sites to pass on until the role of the new Teaching Agency has become established. **Action: ED** to ask Ben Rockcliffe to recommend a representative for the TA.

3.2 Item 3.2 indicated the intention to upload the précis of BAAL good practice guide to CLiE website: check with DH. **Action: ED**

3.3 Item 3.3 Paper on Phonics for CLiE website: SE is happy to work on a paper for the web page on phonics with CW, if she still has the time. **Action: GT** to check with CW.

3.4 Item 3.4 GT talked to his circulated paper setting out requirements for an HEI to host UKLO. There were some questions about the time of year: Easter holidays. GT invited responses for 2013.

3.5 Item 4 SC reported that the list of Modern Language training providers is a work in progress. VR offered to send her collection to SC. **Action: VR & SC**

3.6 Item 5 Next Chair for CLiE : the BAAL executive has agreed that Esther Daborn will take this on. LAGB has agreed that Graeme Trousdale will take on the role of Secretary. There was some discussion that led to the possibility that VR might take on the Secretary role after a year.

4. Reports from member organisations for information (CLiE members)

4.1 Members had received reports and links with organisation news. MC circulated a handout about British Council Activities.

4.2 JG invited members to have a look at the HEA English page on funding and the page on events.

i) Funding is available on a small scale for workshops or small investigations. Money is still available this year if the work is completed before the end of July 2012.

ii) There are some specific language events- 14th June Winchester; Milton Keynes 28th June; 7th July transition from A level to BA; 23rd July corpora in LSP.

iii) As subject staffing has been reduced at HEA, a scheme has been set up to pay an HEA associate to run events and produce resources. Members can sign up as an HEA associate on the website. These associate members and their skills are listed so that requests to HEA can be matched.

iv) Nicole King is interested in visiting departments for general fact finding and to discuss possible links. The meeting suggested it would be useful for HEA to offer a site on teaching English for young career academics - to present the benefits of teaching the subject at university level.

5. Plans for Celebration meeting 100 (part 2) (DH)

It has been decided to put these plans on hold for now. DH discussions with BL seemed to suggest that The British Library aims were not concurrent with ours. The British academy event ended up being more about UKLO. These two events are now conflated and there will be one event with BA about UKLO.

MC informed the meeting that the British Council is planning an event in November which she thinks might be related to the topic that our second event wanted to cover (How teachers of all languages can share practice). Members can get more information from Melissa.

ED informed the meeting that there was a balance of £270 from the celebration fund of £600. The costs at Meeting 100 were travel expenses for invited guests and some refreshments after the meeting.

6. National Curriculum Review (DH)

The meeting was pleased to receive the upbeat report that DH had sent, appreciating the freedom offered to the review group. GT advised that we can look forward to an update from Dick in November to see whether there is further progress with the

secondary strategy. The meeting noted that the implementation would present challenges to practice (teacher training, Ofsted inspection and exam marking).

7. UKLO update (GT)

Statistics for participation (available on the UKLO website) continue to show numbers rising at both Foundation and advanced level. Distribution between m/f is more balanced at advanced level, with numbers of boys rising this year. The international competition will be in Slovenia, in late July.

Results are good, but private schools tend to outperform state schools. Since it is clear that students need encouragement to feel confident in their skills, there was discussion about how to offer this. On the website there is a set of training slides and DH has set up resources there that talk through some sample UKLO questions/problems. It was suggested that support for students before they start round one needs to be increased – particularly to help state schools. Some possibilities would be podcasts (SE) and talking heads. GT is developing University outreach to work with local state schools on this. In fact the ULAB is encouraging university departments to go out to school to talk about linguistics.

GT reported UKLO has received a 10K British Academy grant to carry out an evaluation of UKLO practices: what works and what doesn't. There are challenges with developing problems with links to the languages that students are learning. Paul Meara has joined the team of problem setters. The study will use quantitative and qualitative methods to gather data, including interviews with teachers and discussions with participants. Interim results from the initial survey will be presented at the next CLiE meeting (102).

JH raised the point that Schools have a problem with where UKLO fits in the school structure. Who takes charge of it? In one sense it does not matter as the target audience is the child, regardless of subject. It offers a chance for 'interdisciplinary learning' that link it with as many subjects as possible.

8. BSL as an examinable subject in schools (Signature Campaign <http://www.signature.org.uk/gcse.php>) (ED)

ED reported to the meeting that Graham Turner (Herriot Watt) had asked if CLiE would be interested in joining the campaign for BSL to become an examinable subject in schools. The following information was set out. Jim Edwards, CEO of Signature, had reported that the campaign had attracted a number of supporters. A presentation had been made to the Department of Education, who were willing to be supportive. There are legal difficulties around defining BSL as an 'examinable' language, as there should be 4 skills. There are possibilities of offering BSL within the English Baccalaureat. The exams were originally offered to hearing candidates who wished to have a qualification, but it seems there is now a shift in the candidate group to deaf people.

Further questions were raised by members as to whether these exams would be for L1 BSL users or L2 learners. It was agreed that a further briefing would be desirable. Perhaps Graham Turner could be invited to talk to us. **Action: ED**

9. CLiE the future: how to make CLiE work more effectively and spread the work-load? Create some named portfolios to be filled by BAAL or LAGB reps? **Discussion based on 'CLiE the future' table circulated in advance. (ALL)**

Members discussed in groups, looking at their own ideas and those sent to the meeting by Catherine Walter and Wasyl Cajkler. The points emerging from discussion were as follows.

9.1 CLiE should have a webmaster. VR volunteered. **Action: VR** liaise with ED and GT.

9.2 Rather than develop a research agenda, CLiE would be better placed as a portal for enabling sharing research, linking research networks such as AFLS for French Linguists. **Action: ED** to check out AFLS and how other such sites could be offered on the CLiE portal

9.3 We should find out how the BAAL media Officer could assist with publicizing CLiE interests. **Action ED**

9.4 It was suggested that CLiE apply to the HEA fund to tweet information of relevance to schools, teachers, and non-HE language students. WH volunteered **Action: WH**

9.5 There is interest in 'new' 'A' levels, especially in linguistics. Members would be interested in supporting this. This led to the suggestion that we should learn from the processes by which the 'A' level in English language was established. Take advantage of the 'trickle down' effect. SC mentioned that his colleague Brian Street (BS) was instrumental in seeing through the launch and follow up of the A level in Anthropology. **Action: SC** to speak to BS about this and get some idea of the logistics involved.

9.6 JH asked whether or not it would be possible to have some sort of booklet on linguistics to support MFL, especially for G & T pupils. Perhaps there is a gap in the market for some supplementary course material to support inclusion of linguistics in MFL **Action: SC** consider follow up with JH?

9.7 On the same topic, it was suggested that an application might be made to HEA to fund an outreach programme to encourage students to do linguistics degrees **Action: GT**

10. AOB

10.1 VR reported that there is a day long seminar on '*Methodology in Applied Generative SLA: current practices in analysing second language development*' at Newcastle University: 9:30-5pm, 25 June 2012

10.2 Speakers for next meetings: **Action: ED** to establish whether Angela Creese or Adrian Blackledge are able to attend on 2nd November. Others on the list are Graham Turner, Debra Myhill.

10.3 GT asked any members who wished to undertake a piece of research into an area of CLiE interest, to contact him by the end of May. GT will then contact JG before next meeting to establish the potential. The meeting also considered asking for funding for an HEA sponsored event to be held at a CLiE meeting. **Action: ALL** to have a think

11. Date of meeting 102: 2nd November 2012 (venue British Council? **Action: MC** to check).

The meeting closed at 4.45pm