

BAAL/LAGB COMMITTEE FOR LINGUISTICS IN EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING 44

held on Monday 7 June 1993 in Room 5, 20 Gordon Square, London

Present: Lynne Cameron (BAAL, Chair), Connie Cullen (LAGB), Alison Littlefair (UKRA), Henrietta Dombey (NATE), Peter Gannon (OFSTED), Katherine Perera (Co-opted), Ben Rampton, Larry Trask

Apologies for absence were received from Tom Bloor, Peter Daw, Kay Richardson

44.1 Minutes of Meeting 43

The Minutes were signed as correct.

44.2 Matters arising

43.5 DFE representation

Peter Gannon stated he now represents OFSTED. A representative from DFE would be a civil servant which might not be a satisfactory arrangement. NCC and SEAC become SCA on 1st September. Appropriate representation could perhaps be discussed with Sue Horner. One possibility would be to issue ad hoc invitations to meetings.

No reply had been received from Jenny Cheshire.

43.11 PGCE courses

No reply had been received from Baroness Blatch concerning acceptance of a linguistic qualification for teacher training. Katherine Perera had written to her MP to complain about the absence of a reply. Her MP had received a reply from Tim Yeo saying that any course which includes sufficient covering of English is acceptable for post graduate teacher training. Heads and professors of linguistics should be advised of establishments which will not consider PGCE students with a linguistic qualification. They should also be advised to stress 'Applied' Linguistics' and to present the course coverage fully.

Lynne Cameron and Katherine Perera are to monitor the attitude of teacher training establishments and to report to this committee.

43.10 CLIE Working Papers

The Working Papers sold well at the Birmingham Conference. Papers will be sold at the UKRA conference in July.

A UKRA member may submit a new Working Paper on Reading.

43.9 CLIE Information Sheet 1

The A Level information paper is to be distributed by BAAL and LAGB.

Information Sheet No 2: Connie Cullen suggested 'Courses in Linguistics in Higher Education'.

43.7 LAGB/BAAL representation

It was noted that BAAL executive would like a CLIE input at a BAAL meeting. Any input must have educational credibility - a workshop would seem an ideal format.

44.3 CLIE response to NCC Proposals for the curriculum in English

Katherine Perera is collating the responses she received from CLIE members. It was agreed that there should be a positive introduction but that the main response should be that the proposals should not be accepted because:

this is a change for the worst and should be abandoned until there is a full and properly informed curriculum
this is not a rewrite of the Cox Report but is completely different
there is an overhaul of the National Curriculum in progress

Specific aspects noted:

knowledge about language replaced by grammar
no mention of media studies, drama, information technology
prescriptive tone

underlying understandings are wrong
simplistic view of language with restricted selection of language
points
no view of language learning
narrowed and impoverished multi-lingual perspective
little attention to bi-lingualism

A copy of the final response will be circulated to CLIE members and to Sir Ron Dearing. No further publicity will be sought without the approval of LAGB and BAAL.

44.4 Any Other Business

Henrietta Dombey reported on the Institut Europeen de tous les Enfants, an organisation set up by individuals in France. The organisation is eager to collaborate internationally. There are several themes:

a book is to be published concerning parental involvement in UK, France and Spain.

a report has been commissioned by the EEC about the important factors of pre-school experience for future learning.

It was agreed that the initiative of increasing language learning in primary schools should be an item on the agenda for the November meeting.

Alison littlefair
23 August 1993