

COMMITTEE FOR LINGUISTICS IN EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING 46 (ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING)

HELD ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 1994 IN LECTURE THEATRE 4,

WINDEYER BUILDING, MIDDLESEX SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Present: Lynne Cameron (Chair) Henrietta Dombey
Larry Trask (Secretary) Joe Reynolds
Tom Bloor Kay Richardson
Peter Daw

46.1 Apologies for absence were received from Katharine Perera, Connie Cullen, Nigel Falby, Ben Rampton. Fab6

46.2 Minutes of Meeting 45 - Apologies were also received from Henrietta Dombey, and Joe Reynolds was omitted from the list of those present. Under 45.3 (first line), it was Lynne Cameron who wrote to Sue Horner. With these amendments, the minutes were confirmed as correct.

46.3 Matters Arising

45.3 Sue Horner had been invited to attend the meeting, but had sent apologies. It was agreed that Sue Horner would be invited to a future meeting to speak to issues on the English curriculum and the organisation of SCAA. It was noted that Janet White would be joining SCAA soon, and might also be a person with whom CLIE should establish contact.

Larry Trask had received multiple copies of the Dearing Report, and would circulate these.

45.6 Tom Bloor reported that Hilary Nesi was not able to update her Working Paper on dictionaries at present, due to other commitments, and would contact Tom Bloor if this became possible in the future.

Other items appeared on the agenda for meeting 46

46.4 Chair's Report

Lynne Cameron tabled a report (attached) noting the communication networks which CLIE and its members have access to, and the scope for gathering and disseminating information. Chair went on to outline possible areas for further action, including the establishment of better links with SCAA, development of better information-sharing with other associations represented on CLIE, further development of Working Papers and Information Sheets, and the co-ordination

of efforts round a particular issue for the coming year.

a). Members were unsure whether it was appropriate in principle to invite an officer of SCAA to be a member of CLIE, and whether SCAA would themselves wish this. But it was agreed that efforts should continue to bring a SCAA representative to a future meeting, and that the longer-term objective should be to devise arrangements for regular and frequent contact with SCAA. It was also agreed to request some appropriate representation from OFSTED (following the resignation of Peter Gannon from CLIE).

b). It was noted that there is a variety of linkages into other bodies represented on CLIE, and that there could be benefit from providing workshops to appropriate national meetings, and using other routes to raise the issues about language in education. CLIE could be instrumental in supporting developments in other bodies and in promoting a less negative view of linguistics among some teachers and others.

c). It was noted that the CLIE Working Papers had become more formal and finished pieces of work, and that this should be recognised by re-titling them 'CLIE Papers' or 'CLIE Studies'. Members asked whether it would be worth moving to a refereed-paper format, and setting up an Editorial Board. Tom Bloor felt that it would be difficult to get a periodical journal off the ground, but agreed to bring proposals to a future meeting for an upgraded format, considering the implications of having papers refereed.

It was also agreed that the price of Working Papers should go up to £2. More sales and distribution outlets are needed, particularly through a wider range of meetings and conferences. The 'honesty box' system usually works well.

It was agreed that CLIE Information Sheets could be offered for sale in the same venues for 10p., to improve revenue and profile.

d). Members agreed that there would be merit in following through a theme and trying to use networks to develop ideas and disseminate information.

At this point the meeting proceeded to discuss the recent NCC Consultation report on the English curriculum, arising out of the above areas.

46.9

National Curriculum for English: update

Copies of the Consultation Report on English (Sept. '93) had been received by Larry Trask and distributed to members. Those present expressed their concern about the perfunctory nature of the consultation, the failure to report back the full range of points raised in consultation, and the failure even to list CLIE and other bodies who had submitted comments. Members wondered how useful it was to submit comments in the current climate, but it was considered important to keep putting alternative points of view forward, in spite of the unhelpful responses. Members noted that the proposed curriculum (Sept. '93 version) neglects the notion of 'text' and the features of different sorts of texts, and has lost the earlier strands of 'knowledge about language'. The revised statement of the nature of standard English remains very unsatisfactory.

Members identified the difficulty that the Dearing review assumes that the Sept. '93 version of the English curriculum is satisfactory as a basis for the future, whereas there is no convincing evidence that the Cox curriculum needed to be replaced. It appeared that the case for a major revision was based on prejudice; the study of the Cox curriculum conducted in Warwick suggested that only minor adjustments would be needed.

The question of the role of CLIE, in taking the various concerns forward, was raised. It was agreed that CLIE's networks with other bodies were important, and that CLIE should aim to help teachers develop their thinking, and to continue to erode the antipathy felt by some teachers towards linguistics. It was important to have this issue addressed both through ITT, and through INSET. The CLIE response to the draft curriculum could itself provide useful guidance to teachers; but the difficulties in getting a clear and satisfactory view across to teachers were recognised.

It was agreed that Henrietta Dombey would obtain a copy of the Warwick project report which appeared in the MATE journal.

The final version of the English curriculum is expected to be published in April for a further period of consultation. It was agreed that members would provide draft comments on particular features of the curriculum, with comparisons to 'Cox' where appropriate.

- MD initial reading
- PD advanced reading
- KR KAL
- LC grammar
- JR speaking and listening (and Standard English where relevant)

In her absence members wondered whether Katherine Perera would be willing to update her previous comments on Standard English. Comments should be sent to Larry Trask, to the scale of about half a page of A4.

46.5

The Accounts for the period 93-94 were tabled by Larry Trask. They show a reasonable balance, which will cover outstanding obligations, and it was agreed that the sponsoring bodies should be asked to provide the same level of grant for the coming year as they did last year.

46.6.

Membership was reviewed. Peter Gannon had written to resign, since his job within OFSTED had changed; OFSTED would be invited to nominate a new representative. Jenny Cheshire had not been able to attend meetings recently; Larry Trask would write to ask whether she would still wish to be a co-opted member. CILT would continue to receive minutes. Larry Trask would ask ALLJ to nominate another representative, since Ann Miller had not been able to attend regularly.

46.7

Election of Chair and Secretary

Lynne Cameron was nominated to continue as Chair (proposed Henrietta Dombey seconded Tom Bloor). Larry Trask was nominated to continue as secretary (proposed Lynne Cameron, seconded Peter Daw). Both were returned unopposed.

46.8

Working Papers Editor's Reports

Tom Bloor proposed that he should try to identify a colleague at Aston to assist in selling and in handling enquiries about CLIE WPs, particularly when he (TB) was abroad or absent from the University. This was agreed to be a good idea. Tom Bloor raised the question of whether it would be sensible to develop a more formal association with Aston University, whereby the University might contribute to the costs. Members felt that it was more important to preserve the independence of CLIE Working Papers at present. Working Paper number 2 had been reprinted and was currently available.

46.9

This item was discussed under 46.4

46.10

CLIE Information Sheet No. 2

A draft of the material gathered by Lynne Cameron and Katharine Perera was tabled. It was agreed that this should be sent to admissions tutors to allow them to comment, before a paper could be issued. Kay Richardson mentioned that St. Katherine's College, Liverpool had now amalgamated with another institution. Larry Trask said that Sussex University had accepted Linguistics graduates in the past, and agreed to look into the current position.

46.11

CLIE Information Sheet No. 3

Connie Cullen is pursuing the information needed. Lynne Cameron agreed to contact her and to offer assistance in producing the information sheet.

46.12

Possible CLIE Session at IAGB Conference

The spring meeting programme has already been published. The autumn meeting will take place on September 13 - 15th in London. The programme and theme have not yet been finalised. There was some discussion about possible themes for a CLIE session, focusing mainly around the question of how far linguists should take an interest in the developments within the National Curriculum, and whether this would provide a useful framework for a session.

46.13

Dates of Meetings:

Mon. June 13 1994
Mon. Oct. 31 1994
Mon. Feb. 6 1995

Venues to be confirmed.

46.14

Any Other Business

It was agreed that it would be valuable to have a CLIE Working Paper which traced the history of National Curriculum English, reviewing the Sept. '93 consultation report, and arguing why linguists should be interested in this. Henrietta Dombey agreed to consider this, but could make no definite statement on timescale.