

Minutes from ISFLA meeting, July 17, 2009

Present: Caroline Coffin, Pauline Jones, Honglin Chen, Clare Painter, Michael Cummings, Xue Yahong, Gao Cuiyu, Zhang Zhuli, Mao Haoran, Liu Cuiling, Benedict Lin, Lifang Wang, Ye Yongmei, Peng Xuanwei, Huang Guowen, Yu Hui, Dong Min, Chang Chenguang, Guo Enhua, Li Jun, Zhang Yanjun, Wang Lu, Yang Caiying, Zhang Zheng, Susanto, Tri Wiratno, Yang Tingting, Fang Yan, Bob Hyo-Chang, Adegboye Adeyanju, Wang Pin, Chai Xiujuan, Zhou Yufang, Xu Yan, Yang Chunli, Liu Lijuan, Hong Chan, Sue Hood, Jim Martin, Yanli Meng, Mingjian Xiang, Yuling Wu, Lihong Xu, Yu Yang, Xuan Wenhui, Lu Zhongshe, Xu Xunfeng, Xiao Tangjin, Liao Chuanfeng, He Hengxing, Zhou Jingjing, Huang Xugang, Li Hui, Qin Yan, Michael Halliday, Ruqaiya Hasan, Wendy Bowcher, Robin Fawcett, Rakesh Tripathi, Eija Ventola, Hong Lin, Yang Xiujuan, Derek Irwin

- 1) **Apologies:** Cecilia Colombi, Rosemary Huisman, Bernie Mohan, Gillian Moss, Mick O'Donnell, Mary Schleppegrell, Masa-aki Tatsuki, Geoff Williams
- 2) **Minutes of 2008 AGM** have been on the ISFLA website thanks to Wendy Bowcher for about 11 months. Geoff proposes one week's leeway to point out any inaccuracies; no objections to this proposal.
- 3) **Matters arising:**
 - a. There was some uncertainty over whether Gillian Moss' (Latin American representative) length of service has been 1 or 2 years. Geoff proposed that we accept her as having been elected last year. No objections.
 - b. Increasing representations on international committee. Last year the incoming international committee was asked to discuss this matter, but failed to do so. The committee agrees with the idea that there should be increased representation for other areas of the world, but asks for more time to discuss the issue, and then to approach representatives within the next month and ask them to serve on the committee until 2011, whereupon they would be up for re-election. The committee will welcome suggestions on where they should come from. No objections.
- 4) **Upcoming congresses**

2010 Vancouver, BC, Canada. Michael Cummings for Geoff Williams welcomes all to the beautiful city of Vancouver in BC, Canada – the theme is “Language Evolving” and yet open to all strands of SFL. Dates of pre-congress are July 12-16; congress proper is 18-23. Basic fee will be \$425USD, but much cheaper for students. Congress website will be available at end of July via the ISFL website, featuring fully integrated submission, registration, accommodations, and abstract database. The pre-Congress Institute will have three strands: an advanced strand and a beginner's strand (predominantly for education), and a Visual Analysis strand. For the athletically-inclined, the post-congress hike and camp will run for three days (!), and there will be trips to several other tourist areas. The Preliminary Report is attached to these minutes.

2011 – Lisbon, Portugal. Carlos Gouveia was unable to attend this meeting, but details will be forthcoming. A wonderful place for sun and fun.

2012 – The bid from Peter White in Adelaide is off due to him no longer being there – but it was proposed that we accept that it will be in Australia, with the venue to be agreed as soon as possible. No objections raised.

2013 – Back to Asia. There was a strong expression of interest from Indonesia. Any other possible locations can contact Geoff Thompson by the end of August for a proper proposal.

2014 – Latin America is one possibility – or perhaps “America” according to Robin, since too many regions will make the rotation too long to any one area. Leila suggests getting in touch with Cuba, as we have no current members. Geoff points out that another idea is Africa. No firm proposals yet.

5) Other upcoming SFL conferences:

Meeting on Slovenia’s coast for European Association, over the weekend before the institute in Vancouver in July.

Latin American Systemic Society having 5th congress in November 2-7 in Argentina (lovely beach). Next year will be in October in the north-east of Brazil, which is the most beautiful part of the Brazilian coast. Brazil now has 6-8 universities working with systemics at the graduate level.

MUST3 in Helsinki in August 2009, still accepting abstracts on analyzing film – the plenaries include Bateman (MUST.Finland@hotmail.com)

Multimodality 5th International Congress at UTS.

National conference on Discourse Analysis Shanghai or Shandong, and Systemics Week in Wuhan, and The University of Technology in Beijing also has a congress.

****Future conferences will be posted on the Tsinghua website, and can be emailed to Mick O’Donnell to go onto the ISFLA website****

6) Reports on the Pre-Congress Institute and ISFC 2009 by Professor Fang Yan.

Thanks to all the participants and the host, the pre-congress institute went very well. The planning committee for this congress did not expect so many participants (over 400, according to lunch tickets). There were some problems in registration associated with China being a developing country – credit cards could not be accepted, and some people did not properly attribute funds sent to the bank. There were some other minor issues relating to abstracts and program printing. Otherwise, all went quite smoothly, and thanks to all for the enthusiasm in participation in the congress. ISFLA via Geoff offers official, on the record deep gratitude to Fang Yan and her team for organizing a wonderful congress despite larger numbers than expected, and making a spectacular job of it.

7) Treasurer’s reports. Attached to these minutes. Essentially, we need to think about more ways to generate funds in order to support worthy expenditures. Honglin Chen, ISFLA treasurer Australia, and Robin Fawcett, Treasurer for Europe area, report. Our first need is when congresses make a loss to have monies to make up for them; we have had 4 thus far that have mostly been resolved locally. It is important, then, to keep a significant amount in reserve – but Robin suggests that we do not really need more than about \$10,000. It is expensive to support travel to ISFC, as opposed to flying in scholars to another country. Jim Martin asks for clarification on the Macquarie situation, but Honglin does not have first-hand data. Her suggestion, though, is that the ISFLA account

does not get used in future as the operating account for an ISFC, and the meeting agrees.

- 8) Guidelines on using ISFLA funds:** Geoff notes that the Committee will be discussing ways of prioritising different calls on ISFLA funds, particularly 1) Sponsoring scholarships, 2) Funding scholars to visit developing countries, and 3) Sponsoring regional congresses. Any views on priorities, or other possible ways of supporting SFL activities, to be emailed to Geoff by end August.

9) Motions from the floor.

There are no formal motions, but the following points are raised:

- a. Wendy Bowcher: as the ISFLA executive committee is indeed the executive, perhaps they could discuss suggestions in Eija Ventola's plenary (which included using central professional funds to support academic activities in SFL).
- b. Adegboye Adeyanju raises a plea for Africa and help for them. Geoff recognizes that the area is definitely in need of assistance, but we are constrained by limited funds.
- c. Jim Martin suggests exploiting the increasing resource of retired members who have the flexibility and wherewithal to provide services such as Eija suggests.

- 10) Other business:** Geoff brings up that Michael Hoey is ill, has had an operation and is recuperating, and has a number of cards for people to sign at the dinner.

- 11) Date of next meeting** will be during the congress in Vancouver next year, specifics to be announced.

THE ISFLA ACCOUNT 2008-9

Report by **Robin Fawcett, Treasurer for the Europe area, July 2009**

The figures in the lower half are revised figures that are take account of Honglin's estimates for the Australian account, as presented at the AGM. The total is a little higher than I estimated it would be in my oral summary to the AGM.

A: Europe account (Triodos Bank, account no. 03862200)

Note: The Triodos Bank is an ethical bank (based in Holland). It does not merely avoid investing in unethical companies; it **only** invests in explicitly ethical companies.

The figures are in GBP, and are extracted from the relevant bank statements.

Date	Description	Out	In	Total
01.07.08	Carried forward			7240.00
01.04.09	Net interest		124.50	7365.50

Summary of ISFLA (Europe) account Thanks to the profits from the very successful 2007 Odense Congress, we are now in a healthy position. My recommendation to the 2007 AGM was that we needed to have at least GBP 5000 in our reserves in order for it to be adequate as a reserve to cover any possible shortfall in a future congress, and we have now achieved that.

B: SUMMARY OF ALL THREE ISFLA ACCOUNTS (very approximate figures)

Totals are in USD for comparison (using July 2009 rates of exchange, so the figures in USD are down from 2008!).

	AUD	GBP	CND	USD
Australia	c.13,000			10,600
Europe		7,365		11,700
North America			1,992†	<u>1,840</u>
Total				c. 24,000

† data supplied by Mary Schleppegrell

Thanks mainly to the large profits from Cardiff 1998 (diminishing), Sydney 2005 (diminishing, but still substantial) and Odense 2007, ISFLA is currently in a healthy financial position. We could consider supporting further regional conferences - or at least sponsoring the air fares of visiting speakers and teacher/organizers of workshops (preferably with each supported visitor doing both, to give value for money!) - in countries where financial support for academics is limited. Note, however, that since 1990 three international congresses have involved significant losses (though in fact only one asked for assistance from ISFLA Funds). It could happen again at any time.

RPF, 06.07.09, revised 28.07.09

ISFLA (Australia) Treasurer Report 2009

ISFLA account

Balance as at June 30, 2007: \$17,119.13 (AUD)

Balance as at April 1, 2008: \$19,512.39 (AUD)

Balance as at June 30, 2009: **\$21,984.57** (AUD)

Notes:

- \$3,000 (USD) of the ISFLA Conference Scholarship is yet to be paid out of this account.
- “The institute had a positive result of just under \$2,000. The congress shows a loss of \$3,492 as a result of us not receiving all the sponsorship that was committed to from the Macquarie University Department of Linguistics. Importantly \$11,555 of the bill for the venue remains unpaid and some \$7,320 of registration income has not been received from the Department. David is trying to resolve all this.”

The Maria Helena Foundation

Balance as at June 30 2007: \$10,253.02 (AUD)

Balance as at March 31 2008: \$10,502.67 (AUD)

Balance as at June 30 2009: \$ 10,866.37 (AUD)

Note: \$1,400 (USD) of the Marilyn Mohan Scholarship yet to be paid out of this account.

Report prepared by Honglin Chen, ISFLA Treasurer (Australia)
12/07/09

37th International Systemic Functional Congress
University of British Columbia
Vancouver Canada

Preliminary Report to ISFLA
7 July 2009

1. Congress Dates

Pre-congress Institute: 12 – 16 July, 2010
Congress: 18 – 23 July, 2010

2. Congress Committee

Members of the committee are:

Bernie Mohan, Margaret Early, Diane Potts, Jessica de Villiers, Maite Taboada, Alfredo Ferreira, Kathie Shoemaker, Ji-Eun Kim, Cathy Humphries, Jeremie Seror, Sandra Zappa-Holman, Sylvia Helmer.

3. Congress Location

All pre-congress and congress events will be held on UBC's Point Grey campus.

4. Congress Theme

The general theme is 'Language evolving'. We intend to net in work on a wide variety of SFL claims about the evolution of language. An orienting statement is being drafted and will be circulated with the first round of publicity.

5. Plenary Speakers

We are inviting nine plenaries. Confirmed speakers so far are:

Terrence Deacon
Mary Schleppegrell
Christian Matthiessen
Jim Martin
Gunther Kress
Annabelle Lukin
Giovanni Parodi

We will be discussing participation with two other very prominent scholars following the Beijing congress.

6. Registration Cost

The basic fee for registration prior to about May 15 will be \$CAN495, which is equivalent to \$US425. We are still working on a graduate student fee but hope this will be as low as \$CAN400.

7. Budget

The budget is a major challenge, as always, but particularly in Vancouver because of the travel costs of plenary speakers. We are applying to various sources for funding support. At the moment the budget does not have good provision for scholarships but we will be working to remedy that lack over the next few months. The draft budget has been scrutinized for feasibility by UBC Faculty of Education's Director of Finance.

8. Congress Administration

The congress will be administered by UBC Conferences, which has a strong reputation for professional support.

9. Congress Website

The first form of the congress website will be available by the end of July. In its full form it will provide integrated registration, including credit card payment, facilities; proposal submission facilities; and a link to an accommodation booking site for on-campus accommodation. A searchable abstract and program database will be available in the conference lead-up. These facilities will be designed and maintained by UBC Conferences.

10. Accommodation

A range of campus accommodation, from private suites to dormitory-style rooms, has been booked. UBC campus is very busy during July because of summer schools so, if there is a larger than expected number, participants will probably need to stay downtown, which is about 20 minutes away by an excellent bus service. We have had to be careful in reserving on-campus accommodation because we will incur a penalty charge if a low proportion of the reserved accommodation is taken up.

11. Congress Welcome and Dinner

The congress welcome will be held in the Department's Digital Literacy Centre, and the congress dinner will probably be held in Sage Bistro, an on-campus restaurant that overlooks the Georgia Strait, but this is yet to be confirmed.

12. Pre-congress Institute

We are planning 3 strands:

- an advanced strand in grammar and discourse
- a beginners' strand, with a particular emphasis on language description for education
- a visual image analysis strand

Three experienced colleagues have agreed 'in principle' to teach these strands, and we are currently working on administrative and financial details for each. These will be finalized by the end of July. It is likely that the visual image analysis strand will be available for UBC credit (a 3-credit course), and this might also be achievable for one of the other strands.

Accommodation has been booked for the pre-congress institute.

13. Post-congress Events

Alfredo Ferrera, a graduate student in the Department of Language and Literacy Education at UBC and an experienced excursion leader, is planning a 3-day hiking/camping trip into a rare wilderness region of British Columbia.

We will use Tourism Vancouver's facilities to assist people to arrange visits to Whistler (main site of the 2010 Olympics and about 90 minutes drive from Vancouver) and Tofino, a spectacular region on the west coast of Vancouver Island.