

## MwALT Business Meeting Minutes (2017) Saturday, October 28, 2017 at Wright State University

(0) Present were: Mark Chapman, Natalie Nordby Chen, Deborah Crusan, Sarah Goodwin, Dan Isbell, Hyun-Sook Kang, Nancy Kauper, Ryan Lidster, Dan Reed, Scott Walters, Paula Winke, Muchun Yin, Monique Yoder.

Conference attendance:  $n = 71$  including walk-ins

(1) The meeting was called to order at 12:48 p.m.

First caller: Natalie Nordby Chen      Second caller: Deborah Crusan

(2) 2016 minutes: Approved as emended.

(3) Secretary's Report by Scott Walters

All's well!

(4) Treasurer's Report by Dan Reed

[See attached third page for Report; the handwritten "after award" note on that page refers to the Best Student Paper and Best Student Presentation awards]

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Further: Dan asked the group whether they wanted the treasurer to have a more detailed, itemized report in the future. Report-items would include: how many registered for the conference, the costs pertaining to the conference, amount of money from sponsors, money from registrations, total membership fees, and how much was paid to the host university to run the conference. If such details were required, then it would mean that whoever is running the conference has to provide the above information to the treasurer. The suggestion was approved by the attending members.

(5) Report by Member-at-Large Hyun-Sook Kang:

The Awards Committee received nine submissions domestically. The graduate-student members of the committee did a good job advertising the award program. The committee selected one paper from Columbia Teachers College, by Heidi Bannerjee, who will receive an award of \$500. At this year's conference, we will have 13 presentations, and four judges will observe these. Best Presenter either get a certificate -- or (Hyun-Sook asked) should we order a book?

Paula responded: Books have been paid through other means due to difficulty in paying from the MwALT funds. She suggested that Routledge could donate a book for next year. We should talk whether a student award-winner should be allowed to choose a book or whether we should just offer a recent one. She further suggested that this info be put on the MwALT webpage. The group agreed to this.

(6) Graduate-student representative report by Dan Isbell:

The six grad reps all have done various kinds of work, reviewing papers, reviewing abstracts for the conference, and covering session chairing. Dan said that the grads would like to recruit more grad reps; there is currently a predominance of grad-reps from MSU and Purdue, but it would be nice to have more from other schools. Scott responded that he would inform the Language Testing Research Group (LTRG) at UIUC about the need for more graduate participation in MwALT and would tell them to contact Dan.

Deborah commented: Dan's been a real trooper.

### MwALT 2017 Officers

**President:** Natalie Nordby Chen,  
Questar Assessment,  
[nnchen@comcast.net](mailto:nnchen@comcast.net)

**Treasurer:** Dan Reed, Michigan  
State University, [reeddan@msu.edu](mailto:reeddan@msu.edu)

**Secretary:** F. Scott Walters, Univ.  
of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,  
[fwalters@illinois.edu](mailto:fwalters@illinois.edu)

**Member-at-Large:** Hyun-Sook  
Kang, Illinois State University,  
[hkang@ilstu.edu](mailto:hkang@ilstu.edu)

(6) Discussion topics:

NON-PROFIT STATUS FOR MwALT?

Dan Reed brought up the question of whether MwALT should apply for 501(c)(3) status. He said that he did not see an advantage to MwALT having this since we are in good standing with the IRS. However, if anyone had a good reason to incorporate as a non-profit, we could talk about it.

*Decision:* The attendees briefly discussed the matter and decided not to incorporate MwALT as a non-profit at the present time.

FUTURE MwALT CONFERENCES

MwALT 2018: University of Wisconsin, Sept 2: Mark reports that a venue has been reserved. We are hoping to have a workshop on the afternoon of Friday, September 21 -- or possibly two workshops. Theme: LT in K-12 contexts (since WIDA is hosting, this is apropos). Examples: Assessing spoken language development in K-12; assessing K-12 writing development. WIDA and CAL researchers are expected to present. Hopefully there will be sufficiently large attendance to have two concurrent workshops. Mark said that we should see how sign-up goes, and decide on the number of workshops later.

MwALT 2019

The group then had a discussion on UIUC's possibly hosting the conference in 2019; however, at the present time this was deemed difficult. Paula suggested an alternative venue, the Big Ten conference center in Rosemont (advantages: it is "neutral territory" and cheap).

No decision on MwALT 2019 venue was made. For the moment, Natalie will reach out to Carol at IA State for 2019.

STATUS OF BOARD MEMBER TERMS and BY-LAWS

- Natalie reported that she was happy ("excited") to be president for one more year, but suggested that we would need to look for a replacement after that.
- Dan reported that he was still willing to serve as treasurer.
- Scott reported that he was likewise willing to serve as secretary.

After some discussion, it was decided not to create a by-laws committee this year, since it was felt that the current administration of the conference and organization was working fine.

LISTSERV NEWS

Paula reported that she had dropped the MwALT listserv. She suggested that we broadcast MwALT-related news and announcements via LTEST-L.

*Decision:* Continue to use LTEST-L. It was also observed that the MwALT Facebook page would be a good way to disseminate information also.

Scott moved that the meeting be adjourned and Dan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.



**MwALT**  
**Midwest Association**  
**of Language Testers**

**Financial Statement**

Prepared October 25, 2017

**FY 2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017)**

**Cash Balance** at the end of FY16 June 30, 2016 12,071.47

**Income** for FY 17 ending June 30, 2017 2,250.00

**Expenses** for FY 17 ending June 30, 2017

Check Disbursement (student travel scholarship) 500.00

Monthly contractual Fee 75.00

Technology Services Fee 12.00

**ENDING Balance** 13,734.47 ← *offer award*

**FY 2018 (October, Month 4 of fiscal Year 2018)**

**Cash Balance** at the end of FY17 June 30, 2017 13,734.47

**Income** as of 10/25/2017 .00

**Expenses** as of 10/25/2017

Check Disbursement (student travel scholarship) 500.00

Monthly contractual Fee 5.00

**CURRENT Balance** 13,211.47