

MwALT Business Meeting Minutes (2015)

Saturday, October 3, 2015 at the University of Iowa

(0) Conference attendance: $n = 82$

(1) Calling the meeting to order:

First caller: Scott Walters

Second caller: Natalie Nordby Chen

(2) 2014 minutes: Approved by unanimous vote

(3) Activities

1. Voting on the new president, to begin 2 or 3-year term Jan. 1, 2016:
Natalie Norby Chen (CaMLA) was elected by unanimous vote
2. Voting on the new member-at-large, to begin 2 or 3-year term Jan. 1, 2016.
Hyun-Sook Kang (Illinois State University) was elected by unanimous vote
3. Currently Paula Winke is working as the website editor, and she would like to continue doing that. Reminder to all that if you would like to have something added to the website, you may email Paula Winke (winke@msu.edu) to add information. The website also has information on how to join the MwALT Listserv. (*It was decided that all members should sign up for the MwALT listserv.*)

(4) Future MwALT meetings

1. New MwALT student representative: Laura Ballard
It was discussed how greater student participation could be effected. Greater use of the MwALT listserv was one possibility. Also suggested was greater networking among students.
2. MwALT 2016 will be at Purdue. April Ginther reported that the date of MwALT 2016 will be October 3, 2016, and that the theme will be "Policy and Practice in Language Testing."

(5) Treasurer's Report by Dan Reed

1. Membership dues in 2014 were collected by CaMLA & directly (via check) to Anna Davis at Michigan State University, where the MwALT account is held (as a subaccount within the English Language Center).
2. **MwALT Budget Report, July 2014 – June 2015:**
Dan reported that the ending balance for FY 2014-15 was \$9849.51, the contribution from CaMLA was \$2248.96, giving a total of \$12,098.47 to be carried over into FY 2015-16 – "a healthy reserve." It was then discussed what might be done with this money. Student travel (within the U.S.) to MwALT, perhaps \$200-250 per student according to some criterion (possibly to first-time attendees) was considered, but not decided upon.
3. It was considered whether membership dues should be required again. (They had not been collected for a number of years.) Lia asked Dan to find out whether MSU would be able to accept dues online. Also, Natalie suggested that there be a four-tier arrangement to the dues.

(6) Secretary's Report by Scott Walters

(All's well!)

MwALT 2015 Officers

President: Paula Winke, Michigan State University, winke@msu.edu

Treasurer: Dan Reed, Michigan State University, reeddan@msu.edu

Secretary: F. Scott Walters, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, fwalters@illinois.edu

Member-at-Large: Mark Chapman, Cambridge Michigan Language Assessment (CaMLA), chapman.m@cambridgemichigan.org

(7) Report by Member-at-Large Mark Chapman:

There was only one submission for Best Student Paper Award (from the U.K.). In discussing possible ways of improving participation in the award, ideas that emerged included offering a cash award (instead of only giving a book) and encouraging faculty-members to plug the award in their classes. Lia said that she would remind the attendees at the end of the conference about the BSP Award deadline.

(9) Old Business

1. Deborah Crusan reported that MwALT would be at Wright State in 2017.
2. Mark Chapman said that it was possible, though confirmed, the MwALT might be hosted by Wisconsin in 2018; he would keep everyone updated.
3. The idea, introduced last year, of asking conference presenters to allow their PowerPoint files to be uploaded to the MwALT website, was again discussed. It was decided to try to implement the decision this year; Mark would ask some of the presenters. However, Scott reminded the others that, at the business meeting of 2014, it had been decided that members' email address be *not* made available on the MwALT website, for privacy reasons, though institutional information could be included; thus, whoever uploaded the .ppt files to the website (likely Paula) would have to strip the email addresses from the files.

(10) New Business

The question arose as to whether future MwALT conferences should have pre-conference workshops. Mark reported that the workshop given last year (2014), which focused on rater training, was well received, though it required a lot of work, a number of months, to set up. Another member present suggested that a workshop on introductory-level statistics would be good. Nothing on this question was decided. (It seemed possible that several of the above-mentioned ideas would be discussed over the listserv in the coming months.)

Meeting adjourned at: 1:14 p.m.