

**AULC Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday 28 October 2008, LSE**

Present: Peter Howarth, Evan Stewart, Val Boyle, Nick Byrne, Caroline Graham, Peter Glasgow, Wei Jin, Andrew Grenfell

Apologies: Vicky Wright

Peter Howarth welcomed both Wei Jin (new committee member) and Andrew Grenfell (new technical/resources SIG convenor) to the AULC Executive Committee.

1. All members of the committee expressed their sadness at the death of Paul Edmondson who had been Vice Chair of the Association. Peter reported that Roger Frisby had represented AULC at the funeral. It was decided that the vacancy on the committee for the post of Vice Chair would be announced at the Limerick AGM. The AULC mailing list managers would be contacted with a view to updating lists as necessary.

2. Limerick January 8-9 2009

The main item on the agenda was the AULC Conference and AGM. Peter informed the committee that information about travel/accommodation and an online registration form were already on the AULC website. Caroline Graham had produced a draft programme which she said followed the basic format of the last few years. She reported that Limerick's new Language Centre was nearing completion and was due to be opened in December. The President of the University of Limerick will be opening the Conference, other commitments permitting. Two academics from the University will be speaking and other talks already confirmed include 'The VLE as Language Lab' (Trevor Pull) and 'The Loc Tool' (LLAS). Ernesto Macaro had also agreed to give a talk and the committee agreed that the preferred topic was 'Codeswitching in the Communicative L2 Classroom'.

There was a lengthy discussion about how best to organise the presentation of the various reports scheduled and SIG presentations. It was decided that it would be a good idea to include brief presentations of the Loc Tool and the Languages Diploma in the Introduction to SIGs slot, so that delegates could make an informed choice as to which SIG to attend. More detailed information and discussion on these topics will then be included in the respective SIG meetings. Regarding the role of SIG convenor for the Management and Teaching SIG, Nick will be contacting Pam to see if she is willing to take this on as he steps down. SIG agendas are to be drawn up by convenors prior to the event.

It was agreed that, rather than having a string of short reports from CercleS, CILT and LLAS, this part of the programme should take the form of a 'Trends' panel, to which a representative from Eire would be invited. It was also decided that very brief SIG reports could be included in the AGM (12.00 – 1.00) on Day 2, with more detailed reports to go on the website later. Andrew

offered to deliver a session on social networking for language learning, time permitting.

Caroline agreed to rejig the programme, after which it will be put on the web and Peter will email members informing them of the Conference and registration procedure. Registrations will go directly to Caroline. She undertook to check whether any non-UK delegates required visas to travel to Eire.

The budget for the conference was discussed. There should be no charge for room hire and a sponsor for lunch on day 1 has been found, but AULC funds will have to cover tea breaks and the drinks reception and will also have to pay expenses for speakers.

Stands have been offered to some companies for a fee and there is room for more.

The winners of the AULC prize for 2008 will be mentioned at the AGM and a new competition launched for 2009.

There will be an Executive Committee Meeting on the evening before the conference and it was agreed that committee members would book accommodation in town rather than near the University campus.

3. Taulcing Pages

There was a discussion as to the viability/usefulness of reviving Taulcing Pages, an occasional online newsletter in PDF format. It was felt that this would not be of benefit to the Association at this point, but that in fact what is required is a redesign of the AULC website. It was suggested that a working party be set up to plan any such redesign and that this might be put on the agenda for the technical/resources SIG meeting. In the meantime Peter will continue to maintain the website.

4. CercleS report

Peter reported briefly on the 2008 conference, held in Seville in September. There were few representatives from AULC institutions and when Nick steps down from the CercleS executive committee there will be no AULC representation on that body. It was hoped that by 2010 when the conference will be held in Helsinki AULC members will have put themselves forward for the committee, particularly since it has been proposed that the next conference (2012) be held in the UK at the LSE. Since the UK and Ireland are seen to be leaders in language-learning technologies there had been considerable interest in the idea of AULC hosting a CercleS seminar on the subject.

5. EL Gazette article

Peter reported that he had been approached about writing an article on EFL teaching for EL Gazette but did not intend to pursue this.

6. AULC Finances

Discussions about the conference budget led to more general consideration of AULC finances. Evan reported that, despite the fact that membership fees had risen in 2008, funds were somewhat depleted. It was proposed that fees go up again in 2009 to £75 for the following reasons:

- subscription rates have been unrealistic in the past
- compared with other associations AULC subs have been very low
- we wish to keep registration at AULC conferences free to all staff from member institutions
- institutions now likely to charge for conference facilities
- cost of guest speakers
- costs incurred this year (eg DIUS survey)
- costs incurred through euro conversion (CercleS subs)

7. Work placement schemes for small projects

The committee were interested in the idea of using work placement schemes to carry out AULC projects, such as website design and Language Centre survey.

8. Associate membership

Andrew had been asked by representatives from European HE institutions whether they could attend AULC conferences. The committee had already agreed that institutions without a national association could pay the normal subscription to become associate members of AULC. This would then give them the right to attend conferences free of charge like any other members.

Val Boyle 07.11.08