



Association of University Language
Centres in the UK and Ireland

December 2000 AULC Meeting
London School of Economics
Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research

European Year of Languages

Friday 7 & 8 December 2000

Minutes approved 21/04/01 @ AULC general meeting, Queen's University, Belfast

Present

55 Members attended from 32 institutions in the UK and Ireland:

Name	Institution
1. Christine Burgess	University of Aberdeen
2. Hilary Sugai	Anglia University
3. Tim Francis	Bath University
4. Lydia Priestly	Birmingham University
5. Paul Barnes	University of Bournemouth
6. Ray Satchell	University of Bristol
7. Nicola Howells	Cambridge University
8. Liisa Cleary	Cambridge University
9. Fred Marshalsea	Cardiff, University of Wales
10. Clare Power	CILT
11. Dawn Ebbrell	CILT
12. Linda Parker	CILT
13. Mary Ruane	Dublin - UCD
14. Sandrine Pac	Dublin - UCD
15. Peter Glasgow	University of Edinburgh
16. John Glendinning	University of Edinburgh
17. Jacky Devis	FCO Diplomatic Services Language Centre
18. Mar Menendez	FCO Diplomatic Services Language Centre
19. Jane Baker	Goldsmiths' College, University of London
20. Laura Rundle	Goldsmiths' College, University of London
21. Andy Hagyard	University of Lincolnshire and Humberside
22. Carmen Perea-Gohar	Imperial College, University of London
23. Marta Nunez	Kings' College, University of London
24. Carmen Mortara	Kings' College, University of London
25. Nick Byrne	LSE
26. M. Coca	LSE
27. John Heyworth	LSE
28. Riyan Hani	LSE
29. Jenny Gibbons	LSE
30. Cecile Alais	LSE
31. Astrid Küllmann-Lee	LSE
32. Anne Gallagher	Maynooth College
33. Roger Frisby	Middlesex University
34. Kate Donovan	Middlesex University
35. Ines Alonso	Middlesex University

Name	Institution
36. John Rees-Smith	Middlesex University
37. Masha Garibyan	Middlesex University
38. Darby Edwards	Napier University
39. Jonathan Lippman	North London University
40. Crispin Partridge	North London University
41. Chris O'Reilly	North London University
42. Trevor Pull	Nottingham Trent University
43. Taube Marks	Oxford University
44. Anne Harrap	Oxford Brookes University
45. Robert Vanderplank	Oxford University
46. Pam McIntyre	Queen's University, Belfast
47. Rob Kennedy	SOAS
48. Sandra Kremer	University of Surrey
49. Matthew Platts	University of Sussex
50. Robin Lee	University of Sussex
51. Michael Jones	University of Ulster
52. Reinhild Weiß	UWIC
53. Philip Parker	University of Warwick
54. Michelle Laufer	Westminster University
55. Marie-Christine Press	Westminster University

Apologies were received from the following members:

Name	Institution
1. Alison Robson	Newcastle University
2. Bill Oleske	University of Leeds
3. Marina Mozzon McPherson	University of Hull
4. Steven Dodd	University of Cork
5. Colin Richardson	University of Hull
6. Emma Thompson	University of Plymouth
7. D. Morley	University of Strathclyde
8. Mike Howell	Southampton Institute Centre for Languages and European Studies
9. Caroline Graham	University of Limerick
10. Tim Hooton	Aston University
11. Paul Edmondson	Portsmouth University

Day 1 - Friday 7 April

Opening Session - Welcome and Introduction

Ray Satchell, Chair of AULC welcomed all and introduced the agenda for the day. A message of thanks was passed to Nick Byrne, LSE Language Centre Director and LSE Language Centre staff for agreeing to host the meeting.

Nick Byrne then welcomed all attendees and invited them to visit the Language Centre at intervals throughout the day.

Plenary Speaker and Presentation on the European Year of Languages - Pat Semple, CILT

Pat Semple gave AULC members a full presentation on the aims of the European Year of Languages, including planned activities and how to become involved. Full details of the presentation, including a downloadable version plus speaker's notes which are available to use in your own presentations of the event are available from:

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/eyl2001/ppt.htm>

The year is intended to give a higher profile to language teaching and learning, with CILT designated the UK co-ordinator. The whole

event is backed by the Council of Europe with a co-ordinator for each country. CILT is working with an executive group of partners, e.g. cultural institutes, the BBC, the DfEE and the Institute of Linguists. The year is not just an educational initiative but is intended to celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity in any sector.

The message that the year hopes to put across to the general public is to take up a new language, enjoy using your own languages, celebrate multi-lingualism and open your eyes to a new world through learning a language.

The message that the year hopes to put across to the politicians and decision makers and employers is to motivate people of all ages to learn a language, recognise competence in another language as a key skill, appreciate other skills acquired through language learning and plan for better provision for language learning.

See the presentation for further details.

Business meeting

1. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes from the meeting held in Dublin on 7 and 8 April 2000 were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

Ray Satchell outlined AULC's achievements since its inauguration in 1999:

- one unit and one identity has been formed and have indeed achieved strength through our diversity.
- meetings have been held all over the UK and Ireland too thus satisfying regional demand.
- AULC has a well established web site thanks to the work of Roger Frisby at Middlesex University.
- Mailbase/Jiscmail mailing lists have been established for all the Special Interest Groups.
- the Special Interest Groups [SIGs] themselves are well-established - the groups will not however remain static, but will develop as interests develop and change
- the AULC SIG model will now be taken and developed on a pan European basis through CERCLES.
- AULC now has a firm financial footing.

3. Elections

These should be held biannually. Between now and the next AULC meeting to be held in April elections would be organised for the new Executive. Submissions for nomination to stand for elections would be sought in late January followed by a postal ballot. The election results would be announced at the next meeting.

Some continuity would be guaranteed as not all the current Executive Committee members intended to resign. The post occupied previously by Edith Esch of Cambridge University needed filling, as Marina Mozzon-MacPherson had only been co-opted.

Some concern was expressed at the fact that the entire Executive could resign at any one time and the question was put as to whether in future this could be staggered. The Constitution is not specific on this question. If this were to happen in future the wording of the Constitution would have to change and this would have to be put to the vote. It would be too late to do this for the current elections but could be considered at a future meeting. Members were reminded that voting on such matters was institutional with the vote cast by the 'delegated representative'.

4. Publicity

A new poster and leaflet had been designed for AULC by the Reprographics Unit at Goldsmiths' College, University of London, and sent out to all member institutions.

5. European Year of Languages [EYL]

Ray Satchell outlined the project he had proposed for the University of Bristol, participation in which could to be widened to become the AULC EYL project with an AULC prize for the winner.

See <http://www.aulc.org/EYL.htm> for further details.

6. CERCLES Report - Mary Ruane, University College Dublin

Mary Ruane gave a report on the activities CERCLES. The CERCLES Secretariat had moved to University College Dublin from Plymouth in September 2000. As well as its regular services in the area of publications and conferences she said that CERCLES had just approved new initiatives at its Antwerp conference. These were a CERCLES version of the European Language Portfolio, a new language accreditation project, and the setting up of a number of Significant Interest Groups. These were in four areas: New Technologies, Management, Minority Languages and Commercial activities. She also said that the 2002 CERCLES conference would take place in France in September 2002.

Day 2 - Saturday 8 April

MALTED project

c.hoffmann@ucl.ac.uk
Christine Hoffman

<http://haig.cs.ucl.ac.uk:80/malted/>
<http://www-malted.cs.ucl.ac.uk/malted/uk/>

Lingua 1

Linda Parker
<http://www.cilt.org.uk/socrates/>

Chair's report

At the December 2000 meeting in London, the Chair presented the considerable achievements of the organisation in its first two years:

- The merging of two very different organisations (DULC and ALSS) and the successful launch of the Association at the University of Bristol under the theme 'Strength through Diversity'
- A regional focus to meetings. Since AULC is an association of University Language Centres in the UK and Ireland, there has been a policy of arranging meetings and seminars to cater for members in all regions. Meetings have been held in the South West of England (University of Bristol), Scotland (University of Edinburgh), Ireland (University College Dublin) and even London (London School of Economics). Further activities are planned during 2001 in Northern Ireland and Wales.
- Interest groups in the areas of management, teaching/advising, technical applications and research are now well established. The system caters well for the diverse activities which take place in university Language Centres and the model was adopted by Cercles at the September 2000

Antwerp conference.

- The treasurer's report showed that the membership had increased to 65 institutional members and that the organisation was in a strong financial situation.
- Through Cercles, AULC and its members were forging strong links with RANACLES, NUT, AICLU, AKS and other sister organisations in Europe.
- The Association has enhanced its UK national reputation through representation on organisations such as University Council for Modern Languages and the Advisory Board of the new Subject Centre for Modern Languages.

The meeting was well attended and offered presentations and workshops in the following areas:

- the plenary speaker, Pat Semple from CILT, presented the European Year of Languages. Planned projects were included from all sectors of education and AULC members were given useful information on funding rules and application procedures. For further information, please contact <http://www.cilt.org.ukJeyI200I/>
- a presentation and tour of the new Higher Education Information Centre for Modern Languages at CILT was given by Dawn Ebrell and the new Subject Centre for Language Teaching, Linguistics and Area Studies was presented by Vicky Wright from the University of Southampton. For further information, please contact <http://www.lang.ltsn.ac.uk>
- the new Socrates programme, with particular reference to Lingua I, was presented by Linda Parker from CILT. Lingua I makes particular reference to university Language Centres and AULC/Cercles members were encouraged to obtain further information on funding and application procedures (<http://www.cilt.org.uk/socrates/>).
- Two papers were presented by Laura Rundle and Roger Frisby 'Digital Language Laboratories — What and Why?' and 'Digital Audio'. These papers dealt with the logistic and practical issues surrounding the application of new technologies for Language Learning.
- The Multimedia Authoring for Language Tutors and Education Development project (MALTED) was presented by Christine Hoffman, University College London. MALTED will offer, telematically, a new generation of authoring tools specially created for the requirements of the language tutor.
- British Council — Accreditation and New Directions. Cherry Gough presented new accreditation procedures for English Language programmes, the 'English in Britain' scheme and the new Education @UK branding project <http://www.britcoun.orgeducation/>

Ray Satchell, Chair

January 2001