

**AAAL Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday, January 29, 2025  
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET**

**Minutes Approved March 20, 2025]**

**Present:** Peter De Costa, President; Ryuko Kubota, President Elect; Manka Varghese, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Mari Haneda, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Scott Jarvis, Treasurer; Yasuko Kanno, Member-at-Large; Elizabeth Miller, Member-at-Large; Andy Gao, Member-at-Large; Nasiba Norova, GSC Co-Chair; Katherine Christofferson, Chair of OEOC; Valerie Smith, Ex Officio; Agnes He, Secretary.

**Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks**

Peter welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order at 3:01pm ET.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda (Exhibit 1)**

Peter called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

**MOTION:** it was moved by Scott and seconded by Ryuko to approve the meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of October 2024 EC Meeting Minutes (Exhibit 2)**

Peter called for a motion to approve the October 2024 EC meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Manka and seconded by Liz to approve the October 2024 EC meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**GSC Report-(GSC Co-Chair Nasiba Norova)**

Nasiba went over the written report submitted to Val in the morning of the day of the meeting (the item between Exhibits 2 and 3 in the shared folder).

Discussion:

- EC thanked GSC for their efforts
- More details regarding childcare: size and location of family room, feasibility of adult supervision

### **OPERATIONS: 2025 Conference – Manka Varghese (Exhibit 3)**

Manka reminded everyone to review Exhibit 3, which is self-explanatory.

Discussion:

- GSC matters - how to identify 20 students for travel awards?
- GSC committee chair appointment
- multilingual presentations – has the number grown from last year?

### **OPERATIONS: 2026 Conference – Mari Haneda (Exhibit 4)**

Mari went over Exhibit 4 and sought input from EC.

Discussion:

- Research Methodology can be added as a topic of focus.
- Recommendations of potential speakers were made.
- Job hunting and job application can be a focus for pre-conference workshop that will benefit graduate students

### **OPERATIONS: Virtual Conference – Ryuko Kubota (Exhibits 5, 6, 7)**

Ryuko went over Exhibits 5-7.

Discussion

- It will be an additional responsibility for the Past President to serve as online conference chair.
- Budget model for virtual conferences – it appears that we will be spending more than revenue generated.
- The goal is not to generate revenue, but to provide opportunities for students and scholars/students from the global south, who otherwise are not able to attend AAAL conferences.

- The recommendation in Exhibit 6 contains two parts; without a clear definition of a successful virtual conference, it would be difficult to vote on the recommendation as is. Perhaps we should only vote on the first part (AAAL will hold a virtual conference in 2026)?
- We could offer online conferences for 2 consecutive years so that we can assess results more reliably.
- Is it possible to submit to both in person and online conferences, especially for those who cannot get visa, etc.? – No.
- What services will be available for deaf participants? Closed captions may be used, but there will be challenges during Q&A.
- OEOC may be able to provide support for the online conference.

**MOTION:** Ryuko moved that AAAL offer a pilot one-day online conference in 2026 and 2027. Liz seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**OPERATIONS: Committee Reports: OEOC – Katherine Christofferson (Exhibit 8)**

Kati went over Exhibit 8.

Discussion:

- Eligibility for OEOC Chair and Vice Chair – nothing beyond what is stated in the SR 13B.

**BREAK**

**Task Force Report: Membership – Peter de Costa (Exhibits 9, 10)**

Peter asked Val to share info regarding the composition of our current membership by professional status. He thanked all members of the task force and Val for their dedication to this task, before providing a summary and a brief analysis of the results.

Discussion

- Did we ask how often the survey participants take part in our existing programs/activities?
- How representative are the survey respondents of the general membership?
- Some recommendations may reflect a lack of mentorship/advisement for graduate students.
- Can we sustain the mentor-mentee relationship beyond the conference and throughout the year?

- We could review the objectives and the implementation of the Conference Connections.
- Development of SIGs could be another effective way to address some of the concerns – creating a SIG Task Force?
- Maybe adding an item in the post conference survey to see whether membership will be interested in SIGs.
- We need to be careful not burdening the EC or the Business Office.
- Can we provide more financial assistance? If so, we'd need to make cuts elsewhere.
- We need more discussion/communication about JEDI.

### **Open Access Journal Task Force - Peter de Costa**

Peter proposed launching an open access journal that belongs to AAAL. Rationale:

- No progress has been made re ARAL since our last meeting. No contract with ARAL at this point.
- ARAL is by invitation only, very exclusive – compatible with our JEDI values?
- In general, the field is moving toward open access.

Discussion:

- An open access journal for Applied Linguistics is a great idea, but how to fund it? Open Access is not free.
- An open access journal will need to be a separate entity from the EC.
- One more journal will spread the reviewer pool even thinner.
- Who will publish in a new journal with no history and no ranking?
- We can consider choosing an existing journal such as Language Learning that is not owned by the publisher.
- The mission of Language Learning is considerably narrower than the current stated mission of AAAL.
- What about Applied Linguistics, or some other journal that has the word “applied linguistics”?
- Peter will compile a list of prospective journals.
- We will continue this discussion.

### **Committee Report: JEDI – Liz Miller (Exhibit 11)**

Liz asked the question: How will the JEDI Standing Committee be formed?

Discussion:

- We need to refer to SR 6G.
- Peter and Ryuko will discuss with Usree before the March 2025 EC meeting.

**Annual Meeting Format Discussion—Manka Varghese**

Manka asked: How can we make the meeting more interactive and more engaging for the membership?

Discussion:

- SR 18 stipulates what items must be covered at the annual General Business Meeting.
- Allowing open discussions during the meeting could lead to a loss of structure and make it difficult to address key issues within the time limit of the meeting. Instead, we could consider introducing a separate session, such as a Town Hall Meeting.
- A Town Hall can also serve as a response to the membership survey results which called for more communication.
- We will continue this topic at our June meeting.

**Other Business**

- Peter announced that the current AAAL Rep to AILA-AIALA Anne Marie Guerrettaz will be reappointed.
- Val asked whether we should charge non-members for attending AAAL Webinars -- No. It will be a small financial cost if we indeed have to expand our Zoom capacity, but the goodwill gained will be very valuable.

**Review of EC Action items – Val Smith**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. ET

Respectfully submitted,  
Agnes He