

AAAL Executive Committee Meeting via Zoom  
Thursday, October 30, 2025  
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET

## **Minutes**

**Present:** Ryuko Kubota, President; Manka Varghese, President-Elect; Mari Haneda, 1<sup>st</sup> VP; Francis Hult, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP; Peter De Costa, Immediate Past President; Paula Winke, Treasurer; Usree Bhattacharya, JEDI Officer; Elizabeth Miller, Member-at-Large; Andy Gao, Member-at-Large; Yumi Matsumoto, Member-at-Large; Stephen Moody, Chair of OEOC; Sarah Howard, PhD Student; Valerie Smith, Ex Officio; Agnes He, Secretary.

### **Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks**

Ryuko welcomed all participants and called the meeting to order at 3:04pm ET

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

**Motion:** It was moved by Ryuko and seconded by Manka to approve the meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of June 2025 EC Meeting Minutes (Exhibit #2)**

Agnes called for a motion to approve the June 2025 EC meeting minutes.

**Motion:** It was moved by Usree and seconded by Mari to approve the June 2025 EC meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **President's Report – Ryuko Kubota**

Main points:

- Thank you to all EC members and all members of the business office for hard work in various roles.

- *Language Learning* will provide funds (10K every other year, starting with the 2027 conference) to sponsor a colloquium at AAAL meetings, similar in nature as the Wilga Rivers Colloquium.
- Revision of AAAL promotion/tenure guidelines is overdue (should be updated every 5 years); Ryuko has assembled a Task Force to take on this task. They will submit a recommendation for the March 2026 EC meeting.
- We need to be mindful of the nature of DPSA, particularly its eligibility criteria. A revision will be discussed in the January 2026 EC meeting.
- We need to conduct annual review of our conference strands; analysis of trends of these strands is ongoing; results will be shared at the March 2026 EC meeting.
- We will continue our collaboration with TESOL; Peter, Steve, and Ryuko will be presenting at the next TESOL Conference.
- We need to have more thoughtful discussions about JEDI: our membership's reactions and responses to our JEDI practices and a broader understanding of JEDI. Ryuko's informal conversations with a few established members indicate that some long-time members have stopped participating or dropped their membership. Developing more inclusive strategies by listening to minority voices is needed.

### **Financial Reports – Paula Winke (Exhibit 3)**

Paula presented Exhibit 3.

**Motion:** Peter moved and Ryuko seconded to purchase 2 years of service by Whova. The motion passed unanimously. [*After the meeting, EC voted to purchase 3 years of service by Whova*]

**Motion:** Paula moved and Lis seconded to approve FFAL recommendations (Exhibit 4). The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** Paula moved and Ryuko seconded to approve the 2026 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- We may need to increase more than 2 rooms for our virtual conference.

### **Membership Report – Val Smith (Exhibit 5)**

Val presented Exhibit 5.

Discussion:

- We need to take a comprehensive look at all the potential reasons for losing tenured members by almost 20% over the past four years – including, but not limited to COVID, replacement of tenure lines, trend in the last 10 years, as well as members’ reactions to JEDI.
- We may be able to do something to attract more retired faculty members.

### **BREAK**

#### **JEDI Discussions – Usree Bhattacharya (Exhibit 6)**

Usree presented Exhibit 6.

Discussion:

- Ryuko thanked Usree for her leadership.
- Increasing break time between conference sessions is challenging; putting presentations in the same strand in close spatial proximity may be a solution, but also has the risk of creating disciplinary silos.
- University campus as conference site is even more costly.
- Regarding accessibility concerns, what is the standard of the field of conference management? Val will look into this.

#### **Operations: Leadership Reports (Exhibits 7-9)**

Report: AILA – Agnes He (Exhibit 7)

- No discussion.

Report: AIALA – Agnes He (Exhibit 8)

- Service as AIALA co-coordinator does not need AAAL EC approval.
- Next AAAL representative to AIALA will be appointed by AAAL President; no need for EC action.

Report: Conference Connections – Francis Hult (Exhibit 9)

- No discussion.

### Operations: Conference (Exhibits 10-13)

#### 2026 Conference – Mari Haneda (Exhibit 10)

- No discussion

#### 2026 Virtual Conference – Peter De Costa (Exhibit 11)

##### Discussion:

- Should virtual and in-person conference presentation submissions be together OR separate?
- How will funds from Duolingo be allocated to students? – Answer: Priority will be given to students from Global South. 32 students will be selected by virtual conference organizers.
- We could consider inviting Duolingo to give a job fair, as a special session at the conference.
- We should maintain good relationships with Multilingual Matters (MM), even though MM declined to increase sponsorship from \$5500 to \$7000. MM’s offer of 20 book titles for free can be important and meaningful to students and international members. The conference chair and planning team need to make sure that their requests are met.

#### 2027 Conference – Francis Hult (Exhibit 12)

##### Discussion:

- The innovation and diversity in the current plan look great.
- How many of the invited speakers have been engaged with AAAL?

#### Virtual Conference Task Force – Ryuko Kubota (Exhibit 13)

**Motion:** Ryuko moved and Mari seconded that EC approves the Online Conference Task Force recommendations for establishing an appointed position for organizing an annual online conference for a three-year term: Vice Chair (1<sup>st</sup> year), Chair (2<sup>nd</sup> year), and Past Chair (3<sup>rd</sup> year) with qualifications, responsibilities, and appointment procedures as outlined by the Task Force (in Exhibit 13).

Discussion:

- The EC thanked Ryuko for the incredible amount of work completed.
- Do we need a past chair – the length of tenure may be too daunting. Response: The workload for the third year as Past Chair is minimal.
- Is it the right time to put this in place, since virtual conference is still at experimental stage?
- We should make it clear that this motion is for the short term, till 2028 – amendment accepted. This, together with the workload as Past Chair, will be reflected in the language of the “Call for Volunteers” for the Vice Chair.

All voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

**OEOC Report – Steve Moody (Exhibit 14-15)**

OEOC Report (Exhibit 14)

Discussions:

- Social media: is it ok to open a TikTok channel?
- In the interest of time, this discussion is tabled .

AAALetter Report (Exhibit 15)

- No discussion.

**GSC Report – Sarah Howard (Exhibit 16)**

No discussion.

**Operations: Bylaws Update – Ryuko Kubota (Exhibit 17)**

To be tabled for the January 2026 EC meeting.

**Advocacy Task Force Report – Manka Varghese (Exhibit 18)**

Discussion:

- Members express fear of participation for political reasons.

- How to talk about this without using Zoom? -- will work with business office to work out a plan.

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

**Adjournment**

Ryuko thanked everyone for their participation and contribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m. ET

Respectfully submitted,  
Agnes He