

AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

2008 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

Private Dining Room 2 on the third floor of the Chicago Hilton, with windows overlooking Balbo Street, was the setting for the 2008 meeting of the ADS Executive Council, beginning at 1:05 p.m. on Thursday, January 3. President William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., presided. Present were Council members Grant Barrett, Charles Boberg, Anne Curzan, Connie Eble, Joan Hall, Allan Metcalf, Sali Tagliamonte; Council member-elect Benjamin Zimmer; ACLS delegate-elect Richard W. Bailey; and Michael Adams, Robert Bayley, Charles Carson, Rob Dilworth, Wayne Glowka, and Luanne von Schneidemesser.

1. **Michael Adams**, editor of *American Speech*, thanked the Council for approving the pedagogical supplement last May. He said there were fewer submissions to the journal because there were fewer small articles. The current acceptance rate is 41 percent.

The Council approved the following appointments to the Editorial Advisory Board of *American Speech* for three-year terms 2008-10: **Mary Bucholtz**, U of California, Santa Barbara; **Anne Curzan**, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor; **Matthew Gordon**, U of Missouri, Columbia; **Kirk Hazen**, West Virginia U.

Since Ronald Butters had retired as General Editor of ADS publications a few months earlier, the question was raised whether that position should continue. **Charles Carson**, Managing Editor, said there was no need for a new General Editor in the current situation, where he is employed full-time by Duke U Press.

2. As customary, **Rob Dilworth**, Journals Editorial and Administrative Manager of Duke U Press, presented a folder of financial and circulation reports, along with marketing flyers for *American Speech* and *PADS*. He said *American Speech* ranks high among the 32 Duke journals. Though print numbers declined by nearly 3 percent, the journal is more widely read than ever before. In e-publishing, among Duke journals, *American Speech* earns third-highest royalties from EBSCOHost and J-Stor, although it is also third lowest in net profit for the Press; in fact, it has a negative profit. Nevertheless, "we love publishing the journal."

Net income to ADS from Duke U Press:

2007: \$22,095

2006: \$23,700.82

2005: \$25,276.67

2004: \$22,667.01

2003: \$20,506.02

2002: \$11,850.54 (lower because of PADS expenses \$8,498.74)

2001: \$19,246.90

2000: \$5,296.41 (lower because of PADS expenses \$9,195.49)

1999: \$10,720.20

The Council approved keeping membership dues for 2009 the same as in 2008: regular members \$50, students \$25, plus \$10 outside U.S. Dues have remained the same since 2003, but there was no financial need to increase them; annual income from Duke U Press is sufficient to support ADS activities comfortably, and Dilworth also encouraged the Society not to raise dues.

3. **Grant Barrett**, Vice President for Communications and Technology, noted that a number of high-profile ADS members have unsubscribed from ADS-L because they

consider it to have too much disrespectful or irrelevant material. In response, rather than closing the “bridge to our public” to ADS dues-paying members only, Barrett proposed communicating with members by replacing the once-a-year Newsletter with an ADS-M moderated e-mail list, which would be restricted to ADS members and would contain announcements only. He said he was willing to be the moderator and would be willing to get the necessary e-mail addresses for members. The Council unanimously approved his proposal.

4. **Robert Bayley**, editor of *PADS*, reported:

Maciej Baranowski’s volume, *Phonological Variation and Change in the Dialect of Charleston, South Carolina* (No. 92) is out. The next volume is Hans Boaz on Texas German, which will be mailed in February. Another manuscript is under review and other potential authors, including senior scholars, have expressed interest. The editor’s policy is first in, first out. The hardest job is getting people to cut their manuscripts.

5. **Allan Metcalf** distributed copies of the auditors’ report for calendar year 2006.

Owing to the change of Kurath Fund investments from a managed fund to E*Trade, the ADS auditors recommended that the Society officially appoint an investment manager and establish an investment policy. (“An investment policy should include items such as who is authorized to make the investments, how funds should be invested, who is responsible for the investments, and what happens if the investments decline drastically.”)

The Council unanimously approved Bill Kretzschmar as the investment manager. Kretzschmar and Metcalf will draft a policy proposal for Council approval.

6. Financial support for future meetings, already approved:

\$3,000 for ADS professorship at 2009 Linguistic Institute at Berkeley (see below)
\$3,000 for ADS professorship at 2011 Linguistic Institute at Toronto

Dennis Preston was unable to attend the ADS Council meeting, but he sent this request: “Berkeley has asked that we double our usual ADS LSA-Professorship contribution (from \$3,000 to \$6,000) for summer 09 since the ADS professor will be asked to teach a 6-week course in variation and dialectology rather than the usual 3-weekers we have funded in the past. In fact, we doubled for the MIT-Harvard Institute (to get two three-weekers) so this is not without precedent, and I think this is also a worthy contribution to continue that keeps our name in front of the field in general.”

Considerable discussion followed. Kretzschmar, who was one of the two ADS professors at MIT, said he lost money with \$3000 because his expenses were so high. He suggested that ADS pay expenses plus a stipend.

It was generally agreed that further information would be useful, and Metcalf was delegated to ask Preston how ADS professors are chosen and what procedures are followed. Curzan moved that the Council agree in principle to support six weeks for \$6000 but ask for further information. The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Curzan’s motion to donate \$500 in support of NWAV 2008, as suggested by Preston, was also approved and passed by voice vote without dissent. The Council did not accept Preston’s use of *obligation* in his request, however: “We should contribute our obligation

to the NWAV meeting, to be held at Rice next year. . . . Apparently Penn did not ask for it last year (and there was no ADS session), but OSU certainly did the year before, and we should continue to keep our name in front of NWAVers.”

At **Michael Adams**'s request, the Council approved a grant of \$500 for the 2009 meeting of the Dictionary Society of North America in Bloomington, Indiana.

6. **Bill Kretzschmar** commented on his two-page Kurath Fund report: Income to the fund is many times what it used to be, thanks to our own management using e*Trade.

The Council appointed **Edgar Schneider** (U. Regensburg) for a three-year term 2008-10 as trustee of the Hans Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, as recommended by Editor Kretzschmar. The other two trustees are **Ellen Johnson** (Berry C.), term ending 2008, and **Lee Pederson** (Emory U.), term ending 2009.

7. Regarding archives, **Joan Hall** reported that transcripts of some of the interviews from the Linguistic Atlas of New England, held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will be sent to the LANE archives at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Hall will consult with Bill Kretzschmar about sending copies to the archives at the University of Georgia.

8. Program Chair **Connie Eble** thanked the members of the program committee, consisting of elected members of the Executive Committee and the Nominating Committee: **Charles Boberg, Patricia Cukor-Avila, Anne Curzan, Matt Gordon, Nancy Niedzielski, and Sali Tagliamonte.**

They got all the work done quickly between August 16 and 28. Out of 44 proposals for this year's program, 20 were accepted, for a 44 percent acceptance rate.

Recipients of \$500 travel grants to present papers at Annual Meeting 2008:

Katie Carmichael, Tulane U

Wil Rankinen, Michigan State U

Jack Grieve, Northern Arizona U

Tyler Kendall, Duke U-North Carolina State U

Also, ten students will be the Society's guests at the Annual Luncheon 2008.

9. President Kretzschmar announced the appointment of two new Presidential Honorary Members:

Traci Nagle (Indiana U.), nominated by Michael Adams

Wil Rankinen (Michigan State U.), nominated by Dennis Preston

10. From **Dennis Preston**: “New ADS t-shirts will not make it this year, but next year when I am off the LSA Executive Committee, I hope for a return to sanity (and the long-awaited Kurath shirt).”

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Annual Business Meeting

Shortly after, the short business meeting was held. Metcalf gave an overview of the

Council meeting just concluded. **Benjamin Zimmer**, editor of U.S. dictionaries for Oxford U Press, was duly elected as Executive Council member for the years 2008 through 2011, as recommended by the Nominating Committee. With no further business, the Business Meeting adjourned at 3:20.