



**BOARD
REPORT
for SLLS GM
TISLR12
5 Jan. 2016**

OVERVIEW OF SLLS BOARD ACTIVITIES (2013-2016)

Board members:

Diane Lillo-Martin (chair)
Johanna Mesch (vice-chair)
Adam Schembri (secretary)
David Quinto-Pozos (treasurer)
Kearsy Cormier (webmaster)
Christian Rathmann (international relations - stakeholders)
Victoria Nyst (international relations - academics)

NB for all financial activities see Financial report

1. Board organization

- a. The incoming board members express our gratitude to the previous members for their efforts on behalf of the Society.
- b. Last General Meeting for members during TISLR 11 in London, July 11th, 2013.
- c. Board has held e-meetings two to three times a year, with email correspondence in between meetings, and electronic document sharing and archiving.

2. TISLR meeting organization

- a. Board has had constant contact with the TISLR12 organizers through Adam Schembri, local organizing chair and member of the Board.
- b. Survey carried out with participants in TISLR11 post-conference. A summary of the responses was provided for TISLR 12 and future conference organizers.
- c. Membership fee (one year) is included with full TISLR registration.
- d. Board agreed to provide registration fee for four delegates from developing countries. Given the expense of such support, it is explicitly a one-time commitment, with no guarantee of similar bursaries for future meetings.
- e. For TISLR12, language policy continues to follow Amsterdam Manifesto suggestion: (i) encourage direct communication by presenters using a sign language; (ii) conference provides interpreting in local sign language (Auslan) and ASL (this time through US funding), as well as real-time open captioning. Provision of IS interpreting was considered but since (a) there was almost no demand expressed through online registration and (b) funds were not available, there is no IS interpreting at TISLR 12. The Board encourages the use of IS when local organizing committee finances permit.
- f. Local organizing committee arranged for both a pre-conference meeting and a post-conference workshop "From Theory to Practice: Applied Issues in Sign Language Research."

3. Membership

- a. Membership decreased from approximately 400 to approximately 250.
- b. Membership fees are now paid on an annual basis. Need to promote continuing fee payment/membership renewals.
- c. Membership benefits (e.g., publisher discounts) continue in place.



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4. Website and social media

- a. The website was completely redesigned.
- b. The website continues to host a newsletter with current news related to conferences, jobs, info related to SLs, etc.
- c. The moderated discussion list was increasingly used, primarily for announcements. The list is moderated by Kearsy Cormier and Marcel Giezen.
- d. The conference poster archive continues to be available on the website.
- e. Social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter) established and used for dissemination of information.

5. Support of sign language linguistics

- a. Approved a joint statement with the World Deaf Association with respect to collaboration, conference interpreter and direct communication policy and the promotion of opportunities for deaf researchers. To be signed at the 2016 General Meeting.
- b. Approved a joint statement with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters to promote the profession of interpreting and relationships between sign language associations and researchers. To be signed at the 2016 General Meeting.

6. Future activities

- a. Evaluation of TISLR12 (survey) and implementation of the resulting recommendations.
- b. Continuing expansion of the website and social media
- c. Membership expansion
- d. Increasing international participation
- e. Adoption of Ethics statement