



**BOARD
REPORT
for SLLS GM
TISLR13
28 Sept. 2019**

OVERVIEW OF SLLS BOARD ACTIVITIES (2016-2019)

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 board members from the previous period were all re-elected during the General Meeting held in Melbourne, Australia, January 2016.
- b. The board has held e-meetings two to four times a year, and one day-long in-person meeting when a majority of members were in Berlin for other reasons; with email correspondence in between meetings, and electronic document sharing and archiving.

2. TISLR meeting organization

- a. Board has had constant contact with the TISLR13 organizers through Christian Rathmann, local organizing chair and member of the Board.
- b. TISLR 13 language policy: (i) encourage direct communication by presenters using a sign language; (ii) conference provides interpreting in local sign language (DGS) and International Sign, as well as real-time open captioning; (iii) interpreting in American Sign Language provided via funding applied for by U.S. members (similarly for other sign languages).
- c. A Summer School on Language Documentation and Corpus Technology was arranged to follow the TISLR conference. Several 'satellite' events were scheduled around the conference (<https://www.idgs.uni-hamburg.de/en/tislr2019/satellites.html>)
- d. Membership fee (three years) is required for full TISLR registration.

3. Membership

- a. Current membership at approximately.
- b. Two changes were made in the timeline for payment of membership fees. Starting with the Melbourne meeting, membership fees were set to be paid on an annual basis. Starting with the Hamburg meeting, the process was reverted to the previous process of membership fees paid for each cycle of approximately 3 years between meetings.
- c. Membership benefits (e.g., publisher discounts) continue in place.



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4. Website and social media

- a. The website continues to host a newsletter with current news related to conferences, jobs, info related to SLs, etc.
- b. The moderated discussion list was increasingly used, primarily for announcements. The list is currently moderated by the SLLS Webmaster and Calle Börstell; Marcel Giezen is acknowledged and thanked for providing list moderation for many years.
- c. Social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter) used for dissemination of information.

5. Support of sign language linguistics

- a. Adoption and distribution of Ethics statement (see <https://slls.eu/slls-ethics-statement/>)
- b. Adoption and distribution of statement on Best Practices in conference organization (see <https://slls.eu/events/best-practice-for-professional-meetings/>)
- c. Following the Memoranda of Understanding with the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) signed during the TISLR12 General Meeting, the Board increased communication with these two groups.
- d. Board chair Diane Lillo-Martin attended the meetings of the WFD and WASLI (at no expense to SLLS) in July 2019 as a representative of SLLS, and made a presentation to the WFD General Assembly on behalf of the Society. Representatives of WFD and WASLI were invited to attend the TISLR 13 meeting in Hamburg, with registration paid by SLLS.
- e. The Board members collaboratively submitted and gave a stage presentation at the WFD World Congress in July 2019, highlighting the work of the Society and the ways that the Society promotes ethical and beneficial working relationships with signing communities.

6. Future activities

- a. Evaluation of TISLR13 (survey) and implementation of the resulting recommendations.
- b. Continuing expansion of the website and social media activities.
- c. Increasing communication and exchange with members, especially international participation.
- d. New award competitions and refinement of the process for awards.
- e. Refinement of the processes for nominations and bids.
- f. New ad hoc committee to develop a Code of Conduct.
- g. New ad hoc Climate committee.