**LiSC Committee Meeting—LSA Minneapolis—January 3, 2014**

**Attendance**

Jeff Reaser

Michael Shephard

John Boyle

Fred Field

Michal Temkin Martinez

Suzi Loosen

Mark Lieberman

Kristin Denham

Anne Lobeck

Eden Kaiser

David Pippin

**Discussion Topics**

The meeting was the usual ‘round the horn free-flowing discussion, but there were three topics that engaged us the most…

1. Academic Decathalon
2. Suzi Loosen’s linguistics course for high school juniors and seniors
3. Standards and testing

**Academic Decathalon** Michal would like to put together a group of people to get linguistics to be a part of this national competition. She is from California where, she would have us believe, participation in this event is more popular than varsity sports. It hasn’t quite taken hold in Idaho, but the grandfather of one of her students is involved in planning at a national level. Students that participate are gifted, so they would likely be attracted to linguistics inquiry. Eden suggested partnering with NACLO, and others noted that they have materials already available to help interested teachers. The question is…should we devote energy into working with two compatible strands—science and language/literature—or develop a whole new strand. There are also themes in the competition. For example, WWI is the theme for 2014. Michal asked for volunteers for a task force. Anne, Kristin, John, and more nodded heads. Check out <usad.org> for more information.

**Milwaukee School of Languages** In 2011 Suzi Loosen started a linguistics class for juniors and seniors at this Milwaukee Public School. This year there are five or six foreign exchange students, which makes for a linguistically diverse group. The school is 60% free and reduced lunch, and the district is the 4th poorest in country. She’s had guests come in to class, including an Ojibwe speaker and linguistics grad students. She got the okay for an online elective and is considering putting something together in the future. Long term it would be interesting to offer a summer course for teachers. Mark suggested taking the class on a university visit. Might increase numbers of kids completing college. We talked about the challenges of teaching English 12—the non-college-bound tracked kids—and wondered if she’s infusing linguistics into this class and her lit courses. With all the work that Suzi is doing, Anne thought it would be good to have a link on the LiSC page where we could keep a repository of course materials. There’s a place for college course materials on the LSA site, but no K-12 stuff. Most likely we’ll use the LiSC page for links to such pages. TeachLing is being revamped this year, and that would be a great place. Check out Suzi’s blog <highschoollinguistics.blogspot.com>.

**Standards and Education Products**—Sharon spoke about the Department of Ed’s rfp about Common Core standards—improving instruction with technology. Working collaboration with teachers, they want to enhance the quality of kids’ experiences with the language arts. Students would be given iPads. After fulminating about CC Standards, they decided to focus on the Speaking and Listening standards. They are hoping to offer something more useful than the range of scripted education products that have popped up recently. Pearson has Project Blue Sky, which offers materials and does testing. Suzi uses My Access. West Ed is another one of these things. The problem is that teachers are not being given access to professional development. They’re given products instead. John noted that principals make those decisions, and they go straight to the publishers. More linguistics inquiry will solve all.

**Stuff that didn’t make it into last month’s report to the Executive Committee**

* Jeff mentioned that there is an educational component of eLanguage. The call for papers is on the web site, and it asks for areas where ling has been or might be influential on public policy.
* John Boyle noted that the Language Conservancy has opportunities for graduate student field work.
* Congratulation to Fred and his colleagues at Northridge. Linguistics is a department now. We talked about their English as a World Language certification.

**New Business**

We are making plans to send teachers to both the NCTE (Washington, DC) and NCSS (Boston) meetings this year. In addition, we are targeting the 2016 LSA meeting in DC for a possible satellite workshop on Linguistics in Education. We’ll talk to CAL about helping to coordinate the teacher workshop. Rebecca Wheeler and Anne Charity Hudley are nearby, so perhaps we could ask them to help with this, too.

This April is the Science and Engineering Festival in DC. Daniel Ginsberg has offered to help organize this, and Jessi Grieser, his colleague at Georgetown, is also interested.

**Deadlines**

NCTE—January 15—<http://www.ncte.org/annual/call>

NCSS—February 18—<http://www.socialstudies.org/ncss2014proposals/openconf.php>

**Exhortation**

Most of the good linguistics education work at this year’s conference was done at Nye’s Polonaise Room, a polka lounge just across the river in NE Minneapolis. It is our recommendation that the LSA continue to choose locations for the annual meeting that have lively polka cultures.

Respectfully submitted,

---Dave