

The Linguistic Society of America  
Linguistics in the School Curriculum Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2024.

Meeting called to order 16:04

**Present:** Chair Laura Ruth-Hirrel, Nicoleta Bateman, Robert Freidin, Maya Honda, John Langton, Jason Meilands, Amy Plackowski, Hongchen Wu, Gabriel Yeghiayan

**New Business:**

- Round of introductions.
- Chair Laura Ruth-Hirrel explained the history and mission of the committee.
- Election of Jr. Chair
  - Jason Meilands, nominated, stands unopposed. Elected unanimously.
- Every year LiSC submits a proposal to present at the NCTE conference. There are no funds to help participants defray costs. Jason Meilands and Michelle Devereaux (Director of English Education at Kennesaw State University) are interested in presenting. We should have a cohesive presentation. Presenters can present a range of work from people across the committee. The theme is Teaching with Heart, Hope, and Humanity. Producing change in students, in ourselves, our communities, and the world through teaching. We should think about a presentation. We have a guaranteed session. Our proposal should be accepted. but we should tell them that because they might not remember. Amy Plackowski will be there, happy to help, happy to present. Nicoletta Bateman has presented in the past. She is working on a project on academic English. How do students come to understand AE? How do they understand the concepts, and how do they operationalize that? Observed 1st year writing class. Looking at linguistics diversity in the course. Robert Freidin asks for clarification as to the exact definition of academic English. A discussion of the nature of academic English and the passive voice in writing follows. Maya Honda asks about the format for a NCTE proposal. Laura Ruth-Hirrel says it will probably be a 30-minute presentation split between two presenters. There are several themes/strands we could pursue. "Literacies and Languages for All" is a possibility. There is also an ELA Teacher Education strand. Laura Ruth-Hirrel reads from the website. The presentation should offer actionable lessons. We might share methods we've already done in the classroom. Explore ways teachers can incorporate linguistics into their lessons. Maya Honda asks if there is an LSA contact person at the NCTE. Laura Ruth-Hirrel will reach out after the meeting to those who are interested in presenting. She will also write to the NCTE to clarify questions on the structure of the time for presentations.
- Laura Ruth-Hirrel reminds the committee that LiSC has an online resources page. It is linked in the agenda. And it is linked in on the LSA webpage. Laura Ruth-Hirrel asks that LiSC members look through the resources to see if anything is outdated. Is

everything working? There is a discussion about raising awareness among linguists and teachers about the resources that exist. Can we create a hub where we individual teachers and linguists can upload materials to share? Maya Honda reminds the committee that there is a place on LSA website where people upload syllabi. We can announce our resource page on Linguist List.

- Laura Ruth-Hirrel asks for suggestions about outreach for LiSC. We've lost members. There's been an email issue. We'd like to increase student involvement. Get the word out about events, talks, etc. Grow membership. Share the free LSA membership info (high school students and teachers do not have to pay LSA membership fees).
- Laura Ruth-Hirrel says we need to set goals for 2024. They should be actionable and specific. Our charge is to expand linguistic instruction and curriculum in the high schools. Robert Freidin suggests a goal: "Bring english sentence structure instruction to schools." His book *Adventures in English Syntax*, part of the *Elements in Generative Linguistics Series*, might be a good resource. Maya Honda suggests a goal strengthening connections between language teachers and linguists. John Langton suggests reaching out to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. In the chat Amy Plackowski notes that ACTFL has rejected LiSC presentation proposals in the past. Nicoleta Bateman suggests compiling a list of teachers and linguists who are doing this work. Compiling resources on how to develop these collaborative relationships.

#### **Items Added to the Agenda**

- John Langton recommends John Baugh's latest article in *Language*. "Linguistic Emancipation."

#### **Meeting Adjourned 17:03.**

Submitted by J. Meilands