

Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting held at the University of Lancaster, UK, at 17.30-18.30 hr, on Friday 6 July 2012, in the George Fox Lecture Theatre 1.

Present. *From the Executive Committee:* Alan Cienki (Chair), Alice Deignan, Lettie Dorst, Mark Lee, Jeannette Littlemore, Graham Low (Secretary), Irene Mittelberg.

From the membership: 40 members

Non-members: Three people

1. Welcome

Alan Cienki (AC) welcomed the members and non-members to the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

There were apologies from Ewa Biernacka and Tony Berber Sardinha.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM6)

The minutes of AGM 6 were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Report on the seedcorn (small research/development grant) fund (AGM6, Item 5).

Dealt with in section 5.1.

4.2 Report on upgrading and development of database and web facilities (AGM6, item 5).

Dealt with in Section 5.3.

4.3 Report on Facebook group and e-mail listserv, Metaphor-L (Annual report 2010-11).

Dealt with in Sections 5.2 and 5.5.

5. Reports and accounts 2011-12

5.1 The Chair (Alan Cienki)

AC began by giving a brief overview of the history of RaAM and its work, explaining that it was set up as a UK-based charity (No. 1119686), which meant having certain obligations, such as encouraging and funding activities that could be seen as for the public benefit, rather than aimed specifically at members.

This generally meant offering conference bursaries to needy academics and/or PhD students (who did not need to be members of RaAM). In the case of 2011-12, it also meant offering 4 seedcorn research and/or development grants totalling £1,000. In the event, one holder had to withdraw and the funds were distributed equally between:

1. *Paola Alarcón and Claudio Diaz (Universidad de Concepción, Chile): 'Chilean student-teachers' metaphors about the role of teachers as professionals'.*
2. *Stephen Pihlaja (Open University, UK): For collaboration with colleagues in New York for a project on 'The role of metaphor in antagonistic interactions between Muslims and non-Muslims on YouTube.'*
3. *Susan Ryland (independent researcher) and Helen Thomas (Lancaster University, UK): To meet for collaboration on their art-music research project, 'Soundings: Thought over time', in preparation for the exhibition and presentations at the Lancaster RaAM9 conference.*

AC discussed the fact that the 2011 funding of the 3 seedcorn projects appeared to have been successful, though this would be clearer after the subcommittee had written their evaluation report. AC reported that the Executive Committee at its meeting on 4 July 2012 had agreed that, where money was available, the idea of small seedcorn grants should be continued, but on a two-year cycle, synchronising with the biennial conferences rather than the specialized seminars. Short reports by the holders of the awards went into the RaAM Newsletter 10 of June 2013.

To do: AC

AC noted that RaAM had offered matched funding of £2,000 for needy academics to attend the Lancaster conference (RaAM9), and £1,000 for PhD students. In neither case did applicants need to be members of RaAM. This dual funding would be repeated for the 2014 RaAM10 conference. £1,000 of matched funding for PhD students would also be offered for the 2013 specialized seminar.

RaAM had also set up in 2011 the Metaphor-L e-mail listserv: http://raam.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/metaphor-l_raam.org.uk which academics worldwide could use to communicate about research, conferences, or funding possibilities. Members were encouraged to use it.

AC noted that in addition to endorsing the seminar 'Metaphor in social interaction: Culture, genre and discourse communities', which took place within the 44th Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea (SLE) at the University of La Rioja, Spain, 8-11 September

2011, RaAM had endorsed and provided 500 Euros towards travel bursaries for the Metaphor Lab Winter School (23-27 January 2012) at the VU University in January, which had proved very successful. A short report can be found in the RaAM Newsletter 10 of June 2012.

5.2 The Treasurer (Mark Lee)

Accounts for 5 April 2011-4 April 2012

Mark Lee (ML) presented the accounts. Further details are given in the Annual Report for 2011-12, but at a general level:

Gross income	2449
Expenditure	3639
Balance I-E	-1190
Cash from 2010-11	13048
Final position 4/5/2012	<u>11858</u>

The income was lower for 2011-12 than in 2010-11, (due in part to RaAM not receiving any money from the 2011 Almagro seminar), keeping RaAM under the £10k income/expenditure threshold for very small charities. ML noted that the cheque for the work on the new database was cashed in May 2012, so that expenditure would show on the 2012-13 accounts.

As at 4 July 2012, the balance in the Treasurer's account was £5683.

There was then a general discussion, inaugurated by G. Steen, about RaAM's policy towards keeping reserves, and whether there was a systematic way of estimating future risk and liability. Graham Low (GL) and Andreas Musolff noted that the UK Charity Commission required charities to remain financially viable. In addition to financially supporting academics, students and research projects, RaAM needed to cover its own running costs, which included insurance, web hosting fees and certain agreed expenses incurred by EC members doing their work. RaAM was not legally liable for financial loss incurred by RaAM conferences and seminars, but clearly emergencies of all sorts might occur and in extreme cases RaAM might feel morally obliged to help (this might just include waiving any offer of profits from the conference, or agreeing to accept only a small amount). The EC took the view that it was hard to estimate a precise ideal sum for reserves, but that approximately £10,000 seemed sensible (A. Musolff described the figure as 'prudent').

Lettie Dorst (LD) noted that the introduction in 2011 of a reduced three-year membership fee in place of the previous two-year fee, designed to help PhD students, might well lead to a drop in membership fee income for the following two years.

ML reported that at 28 June 2012, RaAM membership stood at 139, of whom:

- 35 were students
- 65 were senior members

- 3 were retired

It was reported that the 2012 membership fees would be kept the same for 2013:

One year's senior membership: £35 (40 Euros)

One year's membership for students or retired: £20 (23 Euros)

Three years' senior membership: £40 (45 Euros)

Three years' membership for students or retired: £85 (95 Euros)

5.3 The Web Editor (Alan Cienki for Tony Berber Sardinha)

AC reported that the new members' database and the new RaAM website were still under construction, but that it was hoped to have both operational in 2012-13.

The EC regularly considered access to the RaAM website by country and for 2012, the main users came from Great Britain, China, Other European countries, USA, Brazil and Germany. This reflected a marked decrease in access from the USA, but a marked increase from China from 2010-11.

5.4 The Conference Secretary (Alice Deignan)

AD reported that bids had been received during the year for both the 2013 Specialized Seminar and the 2014 RaAM10 Conference. The EC at its meeting on 4 July 2012 awarded these as follows to:

2013 Seminar (Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland)
Theme: Metaphor, Metonymy & Emotions. Date: 2-3 May 2013.

2014 RaAM10 conference bid (Dept of Education, Psychology & Philosophy, University of Cagliari, Italy)
Theme: Metaphor in Communication, Science and Education. Date: 23-27 June 2014 (tbc).

5.5 The Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer (Alan Cienki for Ewa Biernacka)

AC noted that the PhD event at RaAM9 was being organised by the Local Organising Committee (LOC) and the student helpers, as EB could not attend the conference; he therefore thanked them all for their hard work.

EB's report noted that a postgraduate event had been organised successfully at the 2011 Almagro seminar and flagged that one pressing issue was that few students had responded to the request for suggested readings.

A request was made for more PhD students to send details of their projects and research for the RaAM website.

The original Facebook group lost all members when Facebook changed interface, as access to previously stored data could not be retrieved. However, the restored RaAM group had 53 members (as of 28th June 2012), with numbers still increasing.

5.6 Newsletter report (Lettie Dorst)

LD reported that two newsletters had been produced in 2011-12. LD had been generally satisfied with the quality and quantity of the contributions.

Although the current format of the Newsletter seemed successful, she was trying to institute an informal 'Books worth reading/Recommended by ...' section. Members were encouraged to contribute. She was also waiting for the introduction of the new database, in the hope that future newsletters could be emailed as attachments, as a way of encouraging more members to read it.

6. Appointment of the Executive Committee

Elections were held for the Newsletter Editor, the Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer and the two Ordinary Member posts. All three were for 2 years.

It had been agreed at the 2011 AGM that in future elections, to aid transparency, one RaAM member would be asked (at the AGM) to volunteer to help count votes during the AGM. Lynne Cameron was selected to help Jeannette Littlemore do the counting (our thanks to all who volunteered).

Andreas Musolff was the only candidate for Ordinary Member UK, as was Lettie Dorst for Newsletter Editor; both were thus elected nem con. The voting figures for the remaining two posts were:

Postgraduate Development & Liaison Officer: Ewa Biernacka, 22; Gudrun Reijnierse, 18.

Ordinary member International: Gill Philip, 23; Kathleen Ahrens, 16.

The Executive Committee accordingly changed from:

Post	Person	Country
Chair	Alan Cienki	Netherlands
Secretary	Graham Low	UK
Treasurer	Mark Lee	UK
Web Editor	Tony Berber Sardinha	Brazil
Conference Secretary	Alice Deignan	UK
Newsletter Editor	Lettie Dorst	Netherlands
Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer	Ewa Biernacka	UK
Ordinary member (UK)	Jeannette Littlemore	UK

Ordinary member (international)	Irene Mittelberg	Germany
------------------------------------	------------------	---------

to:

Post	Person	Country
Chair	Alan Cienki	Netherlands
Secretary	Graham Low	UK
Treasurer	Mark Lee	UK
Web Editor	Tony Berber Sardinha	Brazil
Conference Secretary	Alice Deignan	UK
Newsletter Editor	Lettie Dorst (re-elected)	Netherlands
Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer	Ewa Biernacka (re-elected)	Poland
Ordinary member	Andreas Musolff (new)	UK
Ordinary member	Gill Philip (new)	Italy

7. Conference and workshop updates

Dealt with under item 5 above.

8. Any other business

AC announced that the two 2012 prizes would be awarded the following day. It can be reported that the winners were as follows:

The 2012 Conference presentation prize (funded by Cambridge Scholars Press and again not restricted to RaAM members) was won by Peter Richardson for his presentation, "Clear paths: A study of the interaction between metaphors related to movement and certainty in Christian and Muslim testimonials".

The 2012 Early Career Research Paper Prize had 6 applications. The winner was chosen by a jury co-ordinated by Irene Mittelberg and was Dennis Tay Zhiming (National University of Singapore). His prize-winning paper was:

Tay, D. (2012). Applying the notion of metaphor types to enhance counseling protocols. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 90*(2), 142–149.

Lynne Cameron kindly thanked the EC for their work over the year.

The AGM ended with an enthusiastic audiovisual presentation by the team from Poznan hosting the 2013 specialized seminar.

The meeting ended at 18.30 hr.

Graham Low

Secretary

17 Jan 2013