

Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting held at the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, at 12.45 hr, on Friday 3 May 2013, in Room C1

Present *From the Executive Committee:* Ewa Biernacka, Alan Cienki (Chair), Alice Deignan, Lettie Dorst, Graham Low (Secretary)

From the membership: 33 members

Non-members: 2

1. Welcome

Alan Cienki (AC) welcomed the members and non-members to the AGM. The EC members then introduced themselves.

2. Apologies for absence

There were apologies from Mark Lee, Tony Berber Sardinha, Gill Philip and Andreas Musolff

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM7)

The minutes of AGM7 were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Evaluation report on the seedcorn (small research grant) fund (*AGM7, Minute5.1*).

This was dealt with under item 5

5. Annual Report, Officers Reports and accounts 2012-13

AC noted that the Annual Report had been pre-circulated and that individual officer's reports to the EC could be obtained by emailing the Secretary.

The Chair (AC)

AC began by outlining the history (from 2006) and aims of RaAM: the stated objective of the Association being to advance the study of metaphor for the public benefit, with a

commitment to the application of metaphor research to real world issues, with the additional goals of

- to encourage the development of rigorous research methods for the study of metaphor in real world contexts
- to foster interdisciplinary collaboration in this area of study

AC noted that the RaAM9 Conference ('Metaphor in mind and society') had been a great success academically, had been very well organised and had donated £2,000 to RaAM funds.

He also clarified the position with respect to the EC officers' locations. He noted that a check had been made during the year with the Charity Commission and their requirement was simply that 'the administration' needed to be UK-based. In RaAM's case this meant the bank accounts; it would, accordingly, be prudent for the Treasurer also to be UK based, but the other posts need not be.

On the question of **Public Benefit work:**

- in addition to the £3,000 provided to help needy staff and students attend the Lancaster conference (as noted in the 2011-12 Annual Report, but technically in the 2012-13 financial year), RaAM provided £1000 funding for bursaries/stipends for 7 PhD students to attend the May 2013 Seminar in Poznan.
- the Metaphor-L e-mail listserv was also maintained:
http://raam.org.uk/mailman/listinfo/metaphor-l_raam.org.uk allowing announcements to be made and discussions about metaphor research to be carried out.

RaAM's aim to increase its international participation was furthered by having the 2013 Specialised Seminar in Poznan, Poland and the 2014 RaAM10 Conference in Cagliari, Sardinia.

AC also introduced the new style Annual Report which was pre-circulated before the AGM, detailed RaAM's work and summarised the finances for the previous financial year (5 Apr – 4 Apr), but ended with key points for the year ahead. An attempt would be made next year to circulate it with the (final) agenda.

Lastly, AC reminded people that RaAM had negotiated discounts for members for *Metaphor and Symbol* and *Metaphor and the Social World* and encouraged them to make more use of them.

Looking forward, AC noted that he had been in discussion with metaphor scholars in Malaysia and Taiwan, and that these might be interested in organising Asian regional events.

He also noted that in addition to offering staff and student bursaries for the 2014 RaAM10 conference, RaAM hoped to offer a second round of seedcorn funding for metaphor research and development projects: an announcement would be made later in 2013. This was due to the success of the first round of seedcorn grants, reports of which could be found in the newsletters (especially the most recent one, No 12).

The Treasurer (AC for Mark Lee)

AC noted that the membership fees for 2013-14 were

- 1 year's senior membership: £35
- 3 years' senior membership: £85
- 1 year's membership for students or retired: £20
- 3 years' membership for students or retired: £40

In response to a question from the floor, he added that the EC at its meeting on 1/5/13 had agreed not to increase the fees for 2013-14.

AC presented the Treasurer's outline summary of RaAM's finances from 5 Apr 2012 – 4 Apr 2013. Further details can be found in the Annual Report.

At 28 March, 2013

- Income (fees): £3734
- Income from RaAM9 £2000
- Savings Income (interest) £2.5
- Outgoings: £(5377)
- Overall : £359.5

The two RaAM accounts accordingly stood at:

- Treasurer's Account: £7181
- Savings Account: £5025

RaAM's financial state was thus healthy. Although planned activities for 2013-14 (bursaries, seedcorn funding etc) might well take RaAM slightly below the £10,000 reserves position aimed at (see Annual Report 2012-13, sec 5.2), RaAM would remain financially healthy.

Future planned expenditure

- New membership database (possible that some small extra funding would be needed)
- RaAM Early Career Research prize
- Conference bursaries and fee waivers
- Maintenance of the RaAM website
- Annual Insurance
- Organisation of EC meetings

The Web Editor (AC for Tony Berber Sardinha)

AC noted that visits to the RaAM website declined slightly in 2012 from 2011 (8543 visits from 9466). In the first 3 months of 2013 there were 1706 visits (vs 1762 in Jan-Mar 2012). In terms of the number of webpages visited, the top three countries were USA, UK and China. This shows a considerable increase in visits from China from 2011.

On the question of developing the new RaAM website and members database, AC reported that work continued. The latter still had some issues regarding emailing and modifying/deleting entries.

The Conference Secretary (Alice Deignan)

AD complemented the Local Organisers on the success of the 2013 Specialised Seminar ('Metaphor & Emotions') in Poznan, which had run very efficiently, with few drop-outs and excellent talks from all four plenary speakers: Lynne Cameron, Cornelia Mueller, Karolina Rataj and Gabrielle Rundblad.

She reminded people that the next event was the 2014 RaAM10 conference in Cagliari, Sardinia. As the Local Organising Committee had asked whether early June (2-6) or late June (23-27) would be preferable, AD asked for opinions from the floor. About 15 people could manage 2-6 June, while c. 20 could manage the later date. There was thus a degree of preference for late June, though it was recognised that there would be a clash with other relevant conferences and summer schools. It was pointed out from the floor that Italian universities tended to have exams all June and that German universities are still in the teaching portion of the semester then, so AD agreed that the EC would check back with the LOC about whether it would be preferable to schedule the conference for early July.

Lastly, AD noted that looking ahead, the call would go out around September 2013 for bids to host the 2015 Specialised Seminar and the 2016 RaAM11 Conference. Members were strongly encouraged to bid.

The Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer (Ewa Biernacka)

EB reported that over the year she had Disseminated information via RaAM mailing list and Facebook regarding: relevant postgraduate research funding opportunities; PhD studentships and jobs; relevant conference news, information and guidance.

She had also monitored and managed RaAM Facebook Group. The original group had lost all its members in 2011, when Facebook changed its interface; the restored group had 86 members (as of 14th April 2013), with numbers still increasing.

EB had organised PhD social/networking events at the RaAM9 conference and the 2013 Seminar – which had proved very successful.

Looking forward, a similar event would be organised for RaAM10 in 2014, but in the meantime, EW encouraged PhD students to send in more news to share on RaAM website – regarding projects that RaAM student members are involved in.

Newsletter report (Lettie Dorst)

LD reported that Newsletter 11 had appeared in November 2012, and number 12 at the end of April 2013. In general, the planning, compilation and distribution of the newsletter had gone smoothly, though it was still distributed via the website.

She noted that she had been receiving fewer contributions than before. People are still not very eager to share recent publications. Readers were accordingly encouraged to send in more.

Looking forward, she needed to find contributors (inc. reports by student members) at the Seminar for newsletter 13 (post-seminar). She also encouraged PhD supervisors to contribute information and URLs to the regular section on PhD projects, and members generally to contribute to the Recent Publications & 'Recommended by' section.

It was noted by Cornelia Mueller that some PhD theses (e.g., in Germany) legally had to be published, so it was not viable to give a URL to allow readers to download a copy. In such cases, the Newsletter could just carry a short description of the thesis.

Lastly, LD reported that the direct-mail circulation option still needed to be explored with the Web Editor.

6. Appointment of the Executive Committee

6.1 Elections.

There were vacancies for the **Conference Secretary, Treasurer** and **Web Editor** posts for 3 years and the **Newsletter Editor** post for 2 years. There being one candidate for each post, and a request from the floor, that was agreed to, that there should be a show of hands for and against, all four candidates were elected nem con:

Conference Secretary:	Lettie Dorst (Leiden University)
Newsletter Editor:	Tina Krennmayr (VU University, Amsterdam)
Treasurer:	Alice Deignan (University of Leeds)
Web Editor:	Gudrun Reijnierse (VU University, Amsterdam)

7. Conference and workshop updates

7.1 Update on 2015 seminar and 2016 conference bids

AC reiterated that the call for bids would come out in September 2013, and that people were strongly encouraged to bid. Anyone interested, but unsure how to proceed, or simply wanting some help and support, was encouraged to email the Conference Secretary.

8. Any other business

There was a suggestion from the floor that it would be useful if the tradition of being able to download conference/seminar presentations after the event could be continued. AC agreed to consider the point.

Veronika Koller noted that her “Metaphor in Language and Thought” LinkedIn group could do with more members and encouraged anyone interested to join.

John Barnden asked if RaAM still had a flier that could be used by members at non-RaAM conferences, as a way of increasing membership. GDL agreed to look. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1.45

Graham Low

Secretary

19 April 2012