

# **MINUTES of the inaugural meeting of the Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor (RAAM), held in the Rupert Beckett lecture theatre, University of Leeds, 11 April 2006 at 16.40 hr**

**Present:** 62 participants at the RAAM6 conference; chair Lynne Cameron

1. Lynne Cameron welcomed the group and established that the aims of the inaugural meeting were as set out in the agenda and the documentation enclosed in the conference pack.
2. The aims of the proposed association
  - 2.1 There was a general discussion about why there was a need for such a professional organisation and what it might do. The main suggestions were:
    - (a) There was a need to systematise and formalise the selection procedure and criteria for approving future RAAM conferences.
    - (b) There was a professional need to bring together those interested in and researching metaphor, especially people not currently involved in RAAM conferences.
    - (c) There was a need felt by researchers in several countries to have a professional institution to support bids for research funding.
    - (d) There was also a perceived need for an association to itself offer research-related resources, such as contact lists and summaries of research projects or specially commissioned overview reports. The idea of a prize for best PhD dissertation was also mooted.
    - (e) Several speakers wanted an organisation that would encourage and endorse small locally-organised seminars and workshops.
  - 2.2 There was also discussion about the optimal scope of the association and the size of future RAAM conferences. Several speakers felt that 90-100 appeared to be an ideal size for future conferences and that the scope of the association should be focused in a such a way as to lead fairly naturally to a conference of this size. There was thus discussion and agreement about whether the association should focus explicitly on real world issues and research.
3. Constitution
  - 3.1 LC pointed out that obtaining charitable status was important for a series of reasons, but particularly with respect to tax and legal protection. It was for these reasons that the draft constitution was based closely on one of the templates offered by the Charity Commissioners. LC drew participants' attention to the main features of the draft constitution (pre-circulated) and votes were taken with respect to each of the clauses modified for RAAM. Participants were told that they would need to sign their names at the end of the meeting on the sheet provided in order to demonstrate that they agreed with the changes.
  - 3.2 Agreed changes to the draft constitution

Clause 2. The association's formal name would be the Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor (with the abbreviation RaAM), not The International Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor.

Clause 3. Aims 1 and 2 would become:

1. to advance the study of metaphor, with a commitment to the application of metaphor research to real world issues;
2. to encourage the development of rigorous research methods for the study of metaphor in real world contexts

Clause 16 (2). The officers of the association would include a Conference Secretary and 3 (not 2) 'other members'.

Clause 19 (5). Disqualification would result from non-attendance for two years not six months.

#### 4. The establishment of RAAM

The meeting voted unanimously to establish RAAM and adopt the constitution.

#### 5. Appointment of officers

Zazie Todd, as an independent adjudicator, announced that the following had been nominated and seconded appropriately and were duly elected unopposed:

Chair	Lynne Cameron	University of Leeds
Secretary	Graham Low	University of York
Treasurer	Jeannette Littlemore	University of Birmingham
Conference Secretary	Fiona MacArthur	University of Extremadura
Web Editor	Tony Berber Sardinha	Catholic University of Sao Paulo
Postgraduate Development & Liaison Officer	Anna Kaal*	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
	Irene Lopez Rodriguez*	“ “

\* Held in a 'job share' capacity

Ordinary members	John Barnden	University of Birmingham
	Alan Cienki	Emory University
	Rosario Caballero	University of Castille – La Mancha

There was discussion about whether a Vice-Chair was needed. It was agreed to review this after the first year.

#### 6. Terms of office

It was agreed by vote that the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and Web Editor would serve for 4 years and not be eligible for re-election to that post for a further 8 years. Ordinary members would serve for 2 years and be eligible for one more term of office of 2 years.

#### 7. Subscription rates

As a temporary measure it was agreed that the subscription for 2006-7 would be set at £30, with a reduction for Founder members of £10 (making a subscription of £20). Student members would pay half that rate.

#### 8. Further meetings

The first meeting of the Executive Committee would be 12 April at 13.00 hr

#### 9. Any Other Business

9.1 Gerard Steen thanked LC for her preliminary work in creating the draft documentation and setting up the inaugural meeting.

9.2 The question of moneys accruing from RAAM conference and whether a profit sharing system between the Association and organising institution would be adopted was left to the Executive Committee.

9.3 The general view of members was that RAAM conferences should remain at two year intervals. The question of how the apparent requirement for annual general meetings could be met would be further investigated by LC.

The meeting ended at 18.10 hr

GDL/06/AGM1