

**MINUTES of the second Annual General Meeting of the Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor (RaAM), held in the Aula Magna of the Servicios Generales building of the University of La Mancha, Ciudad Real, at 18.00hr on 22 March 2007.**

**Present:** *From the Executive Committee:* John Barnden, Tony Berber Sardinha, Rosario Caballero, Lynne Cameron (Chair), Anna Kaal, Jeannette Littlemore, Graham Low (Sec), Fiona MacArthur, Elena Semino.

*From the membership:* 27 members (see attached attendance sheet)

**Apologies:** Cameron Adams, Alan Cienki, Brenda Hartley, Seth Lindstromberg, Julia Miller, Brigitte Nerlich, Cristina Soriano Salinas, Constance Qualls, Linda Waugh, De Hui Zhou

**1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

1.1 The minutes of the inaugural meeting were agreed (nem con) as a correct record of the meeting.

1.2 There were no matters arising.

**2. Charity status and alterations to the Constitution**

2.1 LC explained the situation whereby the Charity Commission had agreed to register RaAM as a charity on condition that a small change was made to the objects of the association, to include explicit reference to the concept of 'public benefit'.

Resolution: That clause 3 (The Objects) of the Constitution for the Association for Researching and Applying Metaphor be amended from the existing:

*RaAM is an international, non-political and independent educational organization.*

*Its Objects are:*

- *to advance the study of metaphor, with a commitment to the application of metaphor research to real world issues.*
- *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.*

to read:

*RaAM is an international, non-political and independent educational association*

*Its Object is:*

*To advance the study of metaphor for the public benefit, with a commitment to the application of metaphor research to real world issues*

She indicated that the change did not for the most part alter the work that RaAM would do, or the support and advice that it might provide, since its primary focus was on metaphor in real world situations. It did however imply that RaAM members should at times emphasise the usefulness and social benefit of their work and that this needed to be summarised in the annual report from the Chair.

The resolution was passed by 38 (36 + 2 postal votes) for to none against. There were no abstentions. A detailed breakdown can be found on the attendance list and voting sheet.

### **3. Reports and accounts**

#### **3.1 Chair's report**

LC summarised the development of RaAM since April 2006, noting that there had been three meetings of the Executive Committee and that meetings were planned at approximately six monthly intervals. She emphasised that much hard work had been undertaken, in trying to build a community of interested metaphor scholars and facilities, like the website and workshops, to support them. There would also be a newsletter. LC thanked the EC members, and in particular RC for her work in organising the Ciudad Real workshops.

#### **3.2 Treasurer's report**

JL reported that while this year's membership was free, a charge would be made for 2007-8. She was pleased to note that many members had already registered for the coming year. JL also took members through the income and expenditure for 2006-7 and reported that, as the balance was £3287. In response to a question (Tom Smith) about the amount needed as a reserve balance, JL reported that the EC had agreed on £5,000 as a target reserve to cover expenditure in case of emergency, and that a balance of £3287 after 10 months represented a healthy situation.

#### **3.3 Web Editor's report**

TBS noted that the RaAM website that began on 22 April 2006 had moved on 6 December 2006 with the purchase of the domain name [raam.org.uk](http://raam.org.uk). He summarised the web facilities/pages that were currently in existence, with pages for intending joiners, members and Executive Committee members and reported that as of 14 April 2007 the site had had 1459 hits; visitors were from round the world but the top four countries were the USA, UK, Netherlands and Germany. TBS also noted that the password-protected discussion (forum) and resource areas for members were currently being expanded and asked for ideas and suggestions to be emailed to him or given to him during the seminars. He reported that it would be possible for articles to be posted (Carlos Romero).

#### **3.4 Conference Secretary's report**

FM reported that the Executive Committee had developed and agreed a set of Guidelines for those wishing to prepare bids for RaAM conferences. This included information about what proposed budgets should cover. The Guidelines were currently available on the website. She reported that there had been just one bid for the 2008 conference (RaAM7); this was probably because, in the past, the next conference location and organiser had been decided (informally) at the previous conference, but it had taken several months to draw up and agree formal and more systematic guidelines. It was however felt important to give bidders as long as possible to prepare bids, so for the 2010 conference (RaAM8), bids could be submitted at any time from 1 April 2007 to 1 April 2008, and the decision would be made at the AGM in April 2008, at the RaAM7 conference. In response to a question (Antonio Barcelona) about Scientific Committees, FM reported that the EC had agreed a rough formula for the composition of Scientific Committees that balanced local interest with the need for continuity and

accountability to RaAM; Scientific committees would be decided by the Executive Committee, but should contain two members from the local organising committee and the organising committee would be encouraged to suggested scientific committee members as part of their bid.

### **3.5 Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer's report**

AK reported that she had been trying to find ways to bring interested PhD students together, to find out what resources and facilities they wanted, and to indicate how they could obtain advice from other RaAM members. She had also tried to draw to their attention the price reductions for conferences and the RaAM prize (of £150 and two years' free membership). She noted that she had organised a discussion group for PhD students at the Ciudad Real workshop and would use that to gather ideas.

### **3.6 Report on the RaAM prize**

In the light of the above comment, LC asked JB to summarise developments in the organisation of the RaAM prize, which the EC had approved. The prize would be for an article which met the aims of RaAM and which was published within four years of the awarding of the PhD (i.e. it was intended as an early career prize). It could be co-authored, but in this case all co-authors needed to meet the four-year criterion. It could be in any language, but if it was not in English, the authors would need to provide an English translation. JB also emphasised that authors should apply for the prize directly; third parties could not nominate them. Applications should include a brief statement of how the paper fitted the criteria. In response to a question about timing (María Rodríguez Márquez), JB noted that applicants could apply while completing their doctorate. He also explained (to a question from Małgorzata Fabiszak) that the time period of four years was felt to represent a reasonable balance between reporting a recent finding and the time needed to think about the findings, write the paper and have it reviewed and accepted.

## **4. Location of RaAM7 (the 2008 RaAM 7<sup>th</sup> biennial conference)**

LC reported that there had been one, high quality bid, that had been approved by the EC at its meeting on 21 March 2007. RaAM7 would be hosted by the University of Extremadura, at Cáceres (Spain) and that the theme would be the very relevant and appropriate one of 'Metaphor in Crosscultural Communication', inasmuch as 2008 was to be the 'Year of intercultural dialogue'.

LC emphasised that as one of the Cáceres team (FM) was a member of the EC, FM had taken no part whatsoever in the EC's discussion and decision. The conference would take place on 29-31 May 2008. It would contain papers, workshops, posters, theme-based panels and a PhD workshop.

## **5. Appointment of Executive Committee**

No posts had become vacant.

## **6. Members' proposed resolutions**

No resolutions had been proposed.

## **7. Any other business**

In response to a question about the post of Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer, LC noted that the post was originally intended to be held by one person, that a

job share between two specific people had been agreed in April 2006, but that when one had resigned, it reverted to the original conception.

The meeting closed at 18.40 hr