

Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting held at the VU University Amsterdam, Netherlands, in the Auditorium at 17.10 -18.30 hr, on Friday 2 July 2010.

Present: *From the Executive Committee:* John Barnden, Lynne Cameron (Chair), Alan Cienki, Alice Deignan, Lettie Dorst, Jeannette Littlemore, Graham Low (Sec.), Fiona MacArthur, Elena Semino

From the membership (and others): 46 (see attendance list)

1. Welcome

Lynne Cameron (LC) welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Anne Golden and Gerard Steen

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the 4th AGM and signed.

4. Matters arising

4.1 Arrangements for 2010 RaAM prizes (Min 3.2/AGM4)

LC began by thanking John Benjamins for sponsoring the Conference Presentation prize and Mouton Gruyter for the book raffle. She noted that the prize winners would be announced at the closing ceremony on Saturday.

NOTE: In the event these were: Conference presentation prize: Carl Polley; Early Career Researcher prize: Karen Sullivan.

4.2 The status of RaAM as a charity (Min 4.2/AGM4)

Graham Low reported that the EC had started to gather information about other types of organisation and had discussions at the last two EC meetings, but were primarily concerned not with change for its own sake, but to see whether there were activities that RaAM wanted to do that it was currently unable to undertake, or conversely whether there were existing constraints that seriously hindered it doing its work.

G. Low (GL) noted that part of the discussion related to aspects of RaAM finance, especially with respect to VAT and conversion charges in transactions relating to the Eurozone. He pointed out that there had to be a bank account somewhere and wherever it was located,

financial charges were inevitable for some transactions. However, the Treasurer, J. Littlemore (JL), was investigating the possibility of RaAM opening a euro account, and using Paypal. JL would also quote membership rates in euros and accept payment in euros for people wanting to join RaAM at the conference.

GL would update members on further discussions at the 2011 AGM.

5. Reports and accounts 2009-10

The Chair (Lynne Cameron)

LC summarised the key points from her annual report (full annual report and Powerpoint AGM summary available on RaAM website).

2009-10 had, she said, been a good year for RaAM. In addition to the very successful multimodality workshop hosted at the University of Amsterdam, RaAM had endorsed a metaphor workshop at the 2009 Corpus Linguistics conference at the University of Liverpool, UK. Liaison with the RaAM8 conference team had proved particularly smooth, due in part to having both A. Cienki (AC) and L. Dorst (LD) as part of both the EC and the Local Organizing Committee. She thanked the RaAM8 team for their hard work, their efficiency and their innovative approach to the design of the 2010 conference.

As regards public benefit activity, due to RaAM's healthy financial situation it had been possible to support 50% of the cost of the student bursaries to attend the RaAM8 conference and to support the innovative pre-conference tutorials (in both cases supporting non-members of RaAM as well as members). This was in addition to funding the Early Career Research prize.

There had been 2 newsletters to communicate with RaAM members, plus the RaAM blog and Facebook site. The blog had not proved very successful, but the Facebook site had, and was being actively used by PhD students for discussion and to organise things like accommodation at RaAM8. In answer to a question from Gill Philip, LC reminded members that the Facebook site was open to all RaAM members and not restricted to PhD students.

LC noted that substantial discounts for members had been agreed for two journals: *Metaphor and Symbol* and the new *Metaphor and the Social World*.

Looking back over the 4 years that RaAM has existed as an association, she emphasised the creation of the constitution, the development of guidelines and procedures and the creation of efficient communications (and she stressed the importance of regular face-to-face meetings), quality assurance procedures and general workflow for events, meetings, and financial matters. Much of this derived from registration with the UK Charity Commission (CC) as a Charitable Trust. She ended by thanking the EC for all its hard work over the 4 years.

The Treasurer (Jeannette Littlemore)

JL presented a summary of the accounts for the financial year 2009-10 (5 Apr 2009 – 4 Apr 2010) and noted that the figures had been checked against receipts, invoices and back accounts, by an independent person; no fee was incurred. She reported that the accounts had been approved by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 30 June.

The essentials of RaAM's position for 2009-10 were:

Opening balance:	£8,172
Income:	£3,975
Expenditure:	(£3,998)
Closing balance:	£8,149

The AGM authorised the new Executive Committee to arrange to have the accounts for 2010-11 checked and to agree on a fee as appropriate.

JL reported that not only was the possibility of a euro account being investigated, but so was the notion of funding a number of future conference fee waivers.

In response to a question by Trijntje Pasma as to whether the £2207 to RaAM from the Amsterdam multimedia workshop – paid in the 2010-11 financial year – might have been used to lower RaAM8 conference fees, Charles Forceville (the organiser) pointed out that although the basic budget for the workshop had been agreed beforehand with the RaAM EC, the money concerned derived from higher than expected numbers attending, and could not therefore have been predicted. Fiona MacArthur reminded members that RaAM's aim was to spend the money it received on RaAM events and metaphor research, not to make a profit.

LC thanked JL for her hard work over the previous 4 years.

The Web Editor (Tony Berber Sardinha)

TBS reported that in 2009-10 he had updated the RaAM website, several scripts and the database. He had also held database planning discussions with JB and JL to develop and expand the capability of the current system.

As regards usage statistics for the website, the overall 2009-10 figures were approximately the same as those for 2008-9. Relatively, the proportion of visits was down 11% for the USA and up 11% for the UK, 12.5% for Brazil and 17% for the indeterminate "EU".

LC thanked TBS for his hard work over the previous 4 years.

The Conference Secretary (Fiona MacArthur)

FM noted that the liaison with the RaAM8 conference organisers had been particularly good and thanked the team.

She noted that next year's specialist seminar (and hence the AGM) would take place in May 2011 in Spain, it was hoped in Toledo, and would be organised by Rosario Caballero and Javier Diaz Vera from the University of Castilla la Mancha. It would take the form of a mini-conference. Further details would be passed on as soon as they became available (probably in October).

It was also hoped that a RaAM-endorsed event would take place in Brazil in 2011, and again details would be passed on if and when they became available.

FM announced that the next RaAM conference, RaAM9, would take place at the University of Lancaster, UK from 4-7 July, 2012. The theme would be 'Metaphor in Mind and Society' and the organisers Elena Semino and Veronika Koller.

Lastly, FM noted that an electronic conference feedback form had been developed this year and asked all present to complete it.

LC thanked FM for her hard work over the previous 4 years.

The Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer (Lettie Dorst)

LD reported that PhD events at conferences and workshops had gone well and the Facebook site now had at least 63 members, with numbers increasing as the conference had approached. Response to the request for useful references/readings had been slow (n=5 people), but it had been possible to upload a number to the RaAM website student section. Feedback from conferences/workshops remained a problem, with the response rate to the 2009 workshop questionnaire being low – but it was hoped that the development of the online survey (above) would significantly increase responses.

LD had been closely involved in the administration of the 5 bursaries for PhD students to attend RaAM8, which RaAM had supported financially with £850. She had also used the feedback from the RaAM7 conference to develop, with AC and the RaAM8 Local Organizing Committee (LOC), the concept of PhD-oriented pre-conference tutorials: these had been bid for and, of the 6 proposals, 4 had been accepted.

LD had successfully negotiated a rate of 31 euros a night (inc breakfast) at a hostel for students attending the conference, whether RaAM members or not.

A PhD event had been organised the day before the AGM, on Thursday 1 July (which had gone well, ending with pizza in the Vondelpark, sponsored by RaAM8), and LD/the LOC arranged that students could attend the conference party on Friday, even if they did not attend the conference dinner.

LC thanked LD for her hard work over the last 2 years.

Newsletter report (Elena Semino)

ES reported that the work on creating the two 2009-10 newsletters had gone smoothly, but calls for information to put in them tended to generate few responses. However, the use of two formats (email and web) for the newsletters was working well, though on occasions the email versions lost some of the formatting.

ES noted that a squib had been arranged for the next newsletter, but others, about 1,000 words long were needed.

LC thanked ES for her hard work editing the RaAM Newsletter not just over 2009-10, but before, when the role was not formally recognised.

6. Appointment of the Executive Committee

GL reminded members that applications to stand for election had closed at 18.30 hr on 1 July. He noted, however, that neither John Barden nor Rosario Caballero were eligible to stand for re-election, as both had served for the maximum term allowed by the Constitution. This left single candidates for 8 posts and 2 candidates for the post of Postgraduate Development and Liaison Officer.

The following were returned unopposed:

Chair (4 yr)	Alan Cienki
Secretary (4 yr; UK-based)	Graham Low
Treasurer (3 yr; UK-based)	Mark Lee
Conference Secretary (3 yr)	Alice Deignan
Web editor (3 yr)	Tony Berber Sardinha
Newsletter editor (2 yr)	Lettie Dorst
2 Ordinary members (1 UK-based; 1 international)	Jeannette Littlemore (UK), Irene Mittelberg (Int)

The results of the voting for Postgraduate Development and Liaison Officer were as follows:

Total votes cast	54
Invalid	4
Total valid votes	50
Austin Bennett	9
Ewa Biernacka	41

Checked by
Graham Low
Elena Semino
Alice Deignan

The new PDLO was accordingly declared to be Ewa Biernacka.

7. Conference and workshop updates

7.1 The result of the bids to hold RaAM9 the conference 2012

7.2 The location of the specialist seminar/workshop 2011 and the AGM 2011.

Both items were dealt with under the Conference Secretary's report (above)

8. Any other business

LC thanked the remainder of the EC (John Barnden, Alan Cienki, Rosario Caballero and Alice Deignan) for all their hard work making the EC function so successfully.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 18.20 hr

Graham Low

Secretary, RaAM

16 July 2010