

**ReAM is established as a UK Charity, No. 111986**

**MINUTES of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting** held at 10.00hr on Sunday 22 June 2014, Aula Magna, University of Cagliari, Sardinia.

**Present:**

**EC:** Alan Cienki (Chair), Lettie Dorst, Tina Krennmayr, Graham Low (Secretary), Andreas Musolff, Gill Philip.

**Members:** 26; **Non-members:** 8

**Total members:** 32; **total persons** 40

## **1. Welcome**

AC noted that the meeting was quorate, and welcomed members and non-members to the AGM.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

(from the Executive Committee) Ewa Biernacka, Alice Deignan, Gudrun Reijnierse

## **3. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM8)**

These were approved as a correct record and signed by AC.

## **4. Matters arising**

These may be dealt with by the relevant officers alongside, or as part of, their reports.

### *4.1 Downloading conference/seminar presentations (AGM8, Min 8)*

AC said that speakers at the RaAM10 conference would be invited to send their presentation slides to [info@raam.org.uk](mailto:info@raam.org.uk), for subsequent uploading to the RaAM website.

### *4.2 New RaAM flier (AGM8, Min 8 ) [Dealt with under Newsletter Editor's report]*

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

The Annual report for 2013-14 had been made available on open access on the RaAM website before the Cagliari conference.

### The Chair (Alan Cienki)

AC began by reporting that since there had been meetings of the EC in January in Amsterdam and in June in Cagliari. The Amsterdam meeting had been felt necessary because of the number of changes to the EC to be voted on at the present AGM.

He then thanked the LOCs and admin teams of both the Poznan seminar and the Cagliari Conference for all the huge amounts of hard work they had put in to make both events so successful.

AC went on to note that there had been three RaAM-endorsed events since the last AGM:

- “New directions in metaphor research”, U. of Southern Denmark in Slagelse, Oct. 2013;
- “Metaphor in health communication” Lancaster U., Feb. 2014;
- “Second workshop on metaphor in natural language processing”, Baltimore, USA, June 2014.

Lastly, AC reported that the intention had been to elicit a second round of bids for seedcorn metaphor research /development grants, but that the EC on 20 June had considered the small financial loss incurred in 2013-14 and the necessary financial commitments for 2013-14 and decided to delay a decision.

### *Public benefit activities since last AGM*

AC noted that RaAM seminars and conferences were designed to be open to non-members as well as members, and that in addition to these events, RaAM had

- given 7 student bursaries at the Poznan seminar (£1,000) [2013-4]
- 15 bursaries at the Cagliari conference (£3,000) [2014-5]
- organised a 2014 Early Career Research Prize [work done in 2013-14, but awarded in 2014-5]
- Helped organise 2013 & 14 Conference Presentation Prizes (Prize winners to be announced at Cagliari Closing Ceremony)
- Newsletters to be available to non-members of RaAM
- Seedcorn funding: round 2 considered for 2014, but a decision was deferred (see above);

[x] = accounting year

### The Treasurer (Alan Cienki for Alice Deignan)

*Accounts for the year 4 April 2013-5 April 2014.*

## INCOME

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Membership (and other)     | 2102.90        |
| Income from Poznan seminar | 0.00           |
| Income from savings        | 3.51           |
| <b>Total income</b>        | <b>2106.41</b> |

## EXPENDITURE

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Website hosting                  | (0.00)           |
| RaAM insurance                   | (342.15)         |
| EC running costs                 | (1504.41)        |
| Support for RaAM Seminar, Poznan | (1000)           |
| Bank charges                     | (60.91)          |
| Account checking                 | (50)             |
| <b>Total payments</b>            | <b>(2957.47)</b> |
| <b>Position @ 5 May 2013</b>     | <b>12,206.30</b> |
| <b>Position @ 4 May 2014</b>     | <b>11,355.24</b> |
| <b>Difference</b>                | <b>(851.06)</b>  |

AC noted that:

- There was a small loss, but RaAM funds were still over £10k;
- With the Conference being in June, membership income for 2014 was divided across 2 financial years;
- There had been income from the 2013 seminar in Poznan;
- EC expenses included £600 for the Winter meeting;
- The webhosting charge would be included in the 2014-15 accounts.

*Authorising the new Executive Committee to arrange to have the accounts for 2014-15 checked and to agree a fee as appropriate.*

This was duly agreed by the meeting.

### *Membership*

AC reported that on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2014, RaAM had 114 members:

Student/ Retired 3 years: 44

Student/ Retired 1 year: 11

Senior 3 years: 45

Senior 1 year: 14

But that the number of paid-up members on 2 June 2014 was 129.

### **The Web Editor (Alan Cienki for Gudrun Reijnerse)**

AC reported that the new website had gone live during the previous year:  
<http://www.raam.org.uk> Members were thanked for their feedback on its design and operation.

AC stressed RaAM's commitment to increasing transparency: RaAM documentation/annual reports (except for EC minutes) were now accessible on the website to non-members.

He noted that GR had developed an electronic voting facility for the website, and even though it had not been massively used this year (15 votes cast), the facility would prove extremely useful in the future.

Lastly, AC reported that the 'Metaphor-L' listserv had remained active and popular and he thanked Austin Bennett for maintaining the facility.

### **The Conference Secretary (Lettie Dorst)**

LC first summarised the 2013 Poznan seminar details:

- 72 participants (from 22 countries)
- 34 papers, 7 posters, 4 plenaries, 1 workshop, 1 guest lecture
- 7 student bursaries
- The plan was to publish a volume entitled "Metaphor, metonymy & emotions"

Then she reported on the 2014 Cagliari conference:

- Use of EasyChair website, as with the 2012 conference at Lancaster Univ.;
- 113 papers, 19 posters, 3 plenaries, 2 panel sessions;
- 10 student bursaries (from 22 applications);
- 5 non-student bursaries (from 16 applications) ;
- A bursary database had been created;
- The conference evaluation would be conducted by the RaAM EC, rather than the Local Organising Committee, to increase transparency and to help plan for future conferences.

LD announced that the deadline for bids for the 2017 seminar would be 30 April 2015. The date would be put on the RaAM website.

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

AC noted that successful PhD student events had been organised at both the Poznan seminar and the Cagliari conference, the Facebook group, set up for PhD students, had remained active throughout 2013-4 (with 170 members at 15 April 2014), and that EB had responded to PhD student queries throughout the year.

### **Newsletter Editor (Tina Krennmayr)**

TK reported that two Newsletters had been produced since the previous AGM in Poznan:

- No. 13 in October 2013. Keeping the original colour scheme, the 13<sup>th</sup> newsletter used a new template to create a more magazine-style look;
- No. 14 published in 11 June 2014;

She also showed the meeting the new RaAM flier she had designed (and the EC had approved) that was downloadable from the website.

## **5. Updating 4 references to UK Charities Acts in the Constitution**

Unfortunately this item, involving changing references from the Charities Act 1993 to the Charities Act 2011, was overlooked, as there was very little time for the meeting to conduct its business, and members were emailed after the AGM, asking them to vote. The result was 6votes in favour and 0 against.

### **Section 18, Powers of the Executive Committee**

1(c) [on leasing or disposing of property]. Current text "... must comply as appropriate with sections 36 and 37 of the Charities Act 1993"; change "... must comply as appropriate with sections 117-123 of the Charities Act 2011"

1(d) [on borrowing money]. Current text "... must comply as appropriate with sections 38 and 39 of the Charities Act 1993 if they intend to mortgage land"; change "... must comply as appropriate with sections 124-126 of the Charities Act 2011 if they intend to mortgage land"

### **Section 19, Disqualification and Removal of Executive Committee**

(1) [on ceasing to hold office (if)] Current text "is disqualified from acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment of modification of that provision)"; change "is disqualified from acting as a Trustee by virtue of section 178 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment of modification of that provision)"

### **Section 24, Annual Report and Return and Accounts**

(1) Current text "The Executive Committee must comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 with regard to"; change ""The Executive Committee must comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 2011 with regard to"

## 6. Appointment of the Executive Committee

### 6.1 Elections.

There were vacancies for the Chair (4 yr), Secretary (4 yr), **Postgraduate Liaison & Development Officer** (2 yr) and both **Ordinary Member** (2 yr) posts.

One RaAM member from outside the Executive Committee (Linda Greve) was asked at the AGM and kindly agreed to help count the votes.

An online nomination and voting system (through the RaAM website) was developed by GR. Online votes cast before the AGM were double checked by GDL and AC. AGM voting was by paper voting form. The two sets of votes were added and the result announced within 1 hour of the end of the AGM.

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Online:     | 15 |
| AGM: valid  | 32 |
| invalid     | 3  |
| Total cast  | 50 |
| Total valid | 47 |

The results were as follows (winners in bold):

| Post             | Candidate              | Online votes | AGM votes | Total     |
|------------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| Chair            | <b>Andreas Musolff</b> | <b>15</b>    | <b>32</b> | <b>47</b> |
| Secretary        | <b>Susan Nacey</b>     | <b>10</b>    | <b>18</b> | <b>28</b> |
|                  | Stephen Pihlaja        | 5            | 14        | 19        |
| Postgrad Liaison | <b>David O'Reilly</b>  | <b>12</b>    | <b>32</b> | <b>44</b> |
| Ord'y members    | Ewa Biernacka          | 9            | 8         | 17        |
|                  | Andrew Garget          | 2            | 6         | 8         |
|                  | <b>Albert Katz</b>     | <b>10</b>    | <b>15</b> | <b>25</b> |
|                  | Anita Naciscione       | 2            | 9         | 11        |
|                  | <b>Gill Philip</b>     | <b>6</b>     | <b>12</b> | <b>18</b> |
|                  | Fiona MacArthur        | 0            | 13        | 13        |

## 7. Conference and workshop updates

### 7.1 Update on 2015 seminar and 2016 conference bids

AC and LD reported that there had been one bid each for the 2015 Specialised seminar and 2016 RaAM11 conference. Both had been discussed in detail and accepted by the EC at its 20 June meeting.

#### **2015 Specialised seminar:**

“Metaphors in/and/of translation”, to be organised by Lettie Dorst at the University of Leiden, Netherlands\*. Dates: 10-13 June 2015.

## **2016 RaAM11 Conference:**

“Metaphor in the arts, media and communication”

Freie Univ. (Berlin) & European Univ. Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder), Germany, to be organised by Hermann Kappelhoff & Cornelia Müller. Dates: 15-18 June 2016 (tentatively)

\* LC and AC, as members of the proposed LOC, were not present during the evaluation of the bid by the EC, or the decision on whether to accept it.

## **8. Any other business**

Fiona MacArthur gave a vote of thanks to the outgoing EC (and especially AC and GL) for their hard work over the years.

Susan Nacey suggested that RaAM review the publication of volumes from conferences: all conferences should generate volumes of papers, and that the volumes might be improved if authors who had not presented were invited to contribute papers to fill particular slots. Albert Katz queried whether the editors should be from the EC or LOC. Elena Semino reported that RaAM9 at Lancaster had not resulted in an edited volume, but Laura Hidalgo Downing and Blanca Kraljevic Mujic had guest edited a special issue of *Metaphor and the Social World* on multimodality, using papers from the conference. SN's points were recommended to the new EC for discussion.

**Action: new EC**

David Ritchie noted that RaAM events did not use panel respondents. This was again felt to be a possible development and the point was recommended to the new EC.

**Action: new EC**

Cornelia Mueller was concerned that some presenters had approval to use certain material in their own presentations, but that this did not extend to other people. Her concern was thus about uploading conference presentations for conference participants, or members of the public, to access. This was considered an important point and the new EC were asked to discuss it.

**Action: new EC**

Fiona MacArthur asked about bursaries for staff from countries like Kenya, for whom flights/transport to RaAM conferences was costly. She wondered whether bursaries could be increased, possibly on a differential basis, depending on the distance or country involved. Alternatively, was there a possibility of establishing a priority scheme for awarding bursaries? Again bursaries was felt to be a topic the new EC might wish to review.

**Action: new EC**

John Barnden wondered whether RaAM could encourage people to make donations, when joining up or renewing — to add an extra donation earmarked for bursaries to help students

and disadvantaged people (retirees, unemployed, people from poor countries, ...) to come to conferences. Some other societies have a positive policy on this sort of thing on membership forms. The new EC were asked to consider this point at its next meeting.

**Action: new EC**

The meeting ended at 11.00 hr exactly.

Graham Low

Secretary

9 July 2014