

## **Minutes of Learner Development SIG Annual General Meeting**

**JALT2015, Shizuoka, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015, 12.45-1.30 pm**

Participants: Mathew Porter, Mayumi Abe, Fumiko Murase, Masako Wakisaka, Barrie Matte, Brandon Kramer, Tim Ashwell, Alison Stewart, Anita Aden, Lee Arnold, Blair Barr, Andy Barfield, Jenny Morgan, Chris Fitzgerald, Agnes Patko, Fumiko Kurosawa, Joel Laurier, Prumel Barbudo, Stacey Vye, Patrick Kiernan, Kristen Sullivan, Yoko Sakurai, Hugh Nicoll, Sami Yoshimuta, Nicole Gallagher, James Underwood

Minutes taken by Alison Stewart

1. Meeting opened by Mathew Porter. Self-introduction of incoming co-coordinators, Mathew Porter and Mayumi Abe

### **2. Discussion and setting of goals for 2016**

#### **(a) Outreach**

##### **(i) Future of Outreach team**

Colin Rundle and Caroline Ross are both stepping down from their positions as coordinators of the Outreach team. As neither of them could attend the AGM, Alison Stewart reported that the NGO Student Ambassadors programme that they initiated had slowed to a trickle of participants in the last couple of years. Although Caroline and Colin both agreed to help any future students (or teachers) who like to be involved in the NGO Student Ambassadors programme, they felt it did not justify a dedicated team in LD.

Mathew added that that the other Outreach project, the Kesen Junior High School Essay Translation website is now almost complete.

##### **(b) Proposed THT merger**

Mathew proposed that the Outreach team could serve as a home for Teacher Helping Teachers SIG, which is looking to merge with a larger SIG, such as LD. Initial email discussion on this possibility has raised the objection that LD may not be the best fit for THT, and that TED may be more appropriate. Hugh Nicoll clarified that the reason for the THT approach is for the sake of rationalization within JALT, which currently has too many unsustainably small SIGs and chapters. Alison suggested on the basis of

attending THT's AGM that there seem to be two contradictory tendencies within THT, one that views JALT teachers as experts, the other that views them as learners and guests in the participants' countries. Jenny Morgan suggested that more collaboration between LD and THT might be helpful for deciding whether or not to merge, and Mathew and Andy suggested that THT collaboration could be a good focus for the new Kansai get-together meetings.

Tim Ashwell proposed that LD respond to THT by advising them to approach TED first. If a merger with TED does not work out, we could continue discussion about this later.

**RESOLVED**

#### **b. Publicity**

Mathew raised the issue of a more active role for the publicity team, explaining that his view of publicity is colored by his experience as publicity chair for Hiroshima Chapter previously. He feels that publicity can be coordinated more effectively between different activities of the SIG, such as Learning Learning, Programmes, and Grants.

Kris Sullivan brought up the issue of publicizing grants. Generally, there are only a few people applying for each category, and there have been no applications at all for the subscription or membership grants. She suggested that members be more proactive in publicizing the grants to/through personal contacts. Sami Yoshimuta suggested targeting graduate schools for advertising grants.

Andy Barfield said that the publicity team was willing to create publicity on request from the teams. Alison said that autonomy in the teams needed to be balanced with coordination in the interest of the SIG as a whole.

Hugh mentioned that he was willing to help with publicity by posting notices on the website, although one of the advantages of the new Wordpress site is that individual teams have direct access and can post themselves.

Tim proposed that the meeting move to approve the officer positions. **Mathew and Mayumi were approved unanimously as new SIG coordinators.**

Mathew asked for volunteers for shadows for their position and invited anyone interested to contact him and Mayumi about this.

Hugh and Nicole Gallagher were announced and approved as new Talking Points Bloggers

**(c) Grants**

With the future of the Outreach team still in doubt, Kris suggested scrapping or renaming the Outreach grant. Andy suggested renaming it as “project” grant and this was accepted by the meeting. There would be a requirement that applicants have no institutional funding and that they write about their project for Learning Learning.

**RESOLVED**

**(d) Publications**

**(i) Two coordinators**

Tim brought up the issue of whether we need to continue with two publications coordinators. He explained that the situation of two years ago when the two coordinators positions were created no longer applied since the two book projects have now been completed. James Underwood says that he is willing to continue as coordinator of Learning Learning for another year.

Tim offered to step down as coordinator, but is staying as a member of the new journal steering group. **RESOLVED**

**(ii) Learning Learning**

To avoid overlap with the new journal, should Learning Learning change its format, for example, featured articles? Tim suggested that this could be an ongoing discussion over the coming year, since the new journal will not start until 2017.

**(iii) Conference proceedings**

Mathew asked whether the Publications team should be involved in compiling and editing articles for publication in the Post-Conference Publication (previously known as Conference Proceedings). Lee Arnold explained the background to this question: after last year’s conference, Ian Hurrell coordinated a multi-author write-up for the Proceedings, whose editors allowed the SIG to self-edit short papers. The SIG editors were Lee, Martha, and Ian. Lee (?) said he would send out requests to participants in the Forum to find out what they wanted to do with regard to publication.

**(e) Treasury**

Sami explained that there was a large amount of 93,000 yen deducted from the SIG account by JALT national to keep the whole organization afloat. It is not known whether this kind of exceptional deduction will happen again next year. Also uncertain is the income from membership, since the income structure for JALT has changed with the new change in membership fees.

A further issue for treasury is whether the amount we are providing for grants is appropriate. Next year's PanSIG will be held in Okinawa, and our current grant of 40,000 yen will not cover the air fare. Kris suggested the PanSIG grant be increased as a one-off.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.35. Mathew encouraged participants to continue going through the agenda online, and to work on a document detailing the typical duties and roles of each team.