



WASLI is committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide

**Minutes of the WASLI 2011 General Membership Meeting
Great Ilangi Room, Southern Sun Elangeni Hotel,
Durban South Africa
14 July 2011 - 9.30am – 1pm**

1. WELCOME

The President welcomed delegates and NATIONAL members to the WASLI 2011 GM. In her welcome she talked of how WASLI has come into being and has grown and developed much like the Baobab tree.

1.1. Quorum

The total membership is 22. The total number of eligible votes present is 20 representing more than 25% of the membership needed for Quoracy.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Paraguay and the USA.

3. MESSAGE OF GREETINGS

A video message of greetings was received from the RID of the USA and played.

4. APPROVAL OF TELLERS

Daniel Maya (Mexico), Barbara Hunt (USA) and Samuel Begumisa (Uganda) were approved as Tellers.

5. APPROVAL OF GM MINUTES 2007

Proposed: Denmark (FTT)
Seconded: Spain (FILSE)

The Minutes of the WASLI GM 2007 were approved.

6. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB) ITEMS

The President asked members to notify the WASLI Secretary of any items for AOB by 11.30am.

8. WASLI ACTIVITIES REPORT 2007 – 2011

The President asked if there were any questions members had in relation to the WASLI Activities Report 2007-2011.

Question from FILSE (Spain)

There was no Financial Report included in the Activities Report and would there be a financial report today?

Response from President (WASLI)

The President advised that a report regarding the WASLI Finances will be given shortly.

There were no further questions.

The President asked for members to approve the Activities Report 2007-2011.

Proposed: Italy (ANIOS)

Seconded: Canada (AVLIC)

The WASLI Activities Report 2007-2011 was approved.

9. WASLI FINANCIAL REPORT 2007-2011

The President outlined the situation regarding the Treasurer and how due to illness had not always been able to perform all the functions of the role.

9.1 US Tax Exemption

The President summarised the work of the Treasurer in relation to the WASLI application for US Tax Exemption status. After examination of the criteria it became clear that US Tax Exemption status would place restrictions on where in the world WASLI would be able to work.

WASLI is committed to the development of the profession of sign language interpreting worldwide. The WASLI Executive Board agreed it would not be able to accept any restrictions to work in a particular country. The WASLI Executive Board took the decision to no longer pursue the application for US Tax Exemption.

9.2 Financial Report

The President advised the General Membership that the Treasurer had submitted the 2007-2011 Financial Report just 3 days ago. The Executive Board felt it needed time to read and understand the report before presenting it to the general membership.

9.3 Financial Update

The President advised the General Membership that whilst the Treasurer was unable to undertake his duties Mr Jack Callon volunteered to undertake the role of providing financial updates to the WASLI Executive Board; providing details of financial transactions and paying invoices.

The President invited Jack Callon to provide a financial update to the membership.

Jack Callon provided an update of the WASLI Bank Accounts as at 2 July 2011 together with details of what deposits and what payments are still to be made.

The President thanked Jack Callon for the Financial Update and for his support to WASLI.

9.4 Auditing of the Financial Report

The President explained that the new Executive Board will review the Financial Report and once an Audit is complete to send a copy of these to the membership.

9.5 Questions/Comments on the Financial Report

9.5.1. Brendan Costello - FILSE (Spain)

Brendan offered congratulations to the WASLI Executive Board for the work that had been done given the difficult situation. FILSE is concerned and feels that the minimum standard of transparency has not been provided as set out in the Governing Document. If this had been provided then at least 2-3 years of financial reports would be available.

Response: The WASLI President responded stating that the WASLI Executive Board is very conscious of their obligations and has worked hard to set up its structures but will work to ensure that the minimum standard of transparency is guaranteed.

9.5.2. Brendan Costello – FILSE (Spain)

Brendan acknowledged the fantastic work undertaken by Jack Callon both in relation to the WASLI accounts and in relation to the WASLI 2011 Conference.

FILSE notes that the Governing Document does allow for the appointing of individuals to undertake certain tasks. But FILSE would like to see that any appointment of individuals needs to be clearly defined and formalised and that this is made as transparent as possible. This is in order to make clear that the functions and responsibilities of any volunteers are clear.

Response – The WASLI President acknowledges the points made by FILSE and stated that the WASLI Executive Board will seriously takes these points on board. The President also added that WASLI does communicate widely but accepted that it needed to communicate more the type of information FILSE is proposing.

There were no more questions or comments.

The President then asked the membership to approve that the level of information provided was acceptable.

QUESTION: Brendan Costello (FILSE) proposed that the report provided would be acceptable on condition that a record of the accounts is sent out to the membership.

The President put this to the membership.

DECISION: The membership agreed.

10. WASLI TASK GROUP FEEDBACK

The President explained that 2 task groups had been working to develop guidelines in the areas of (1) Education & Training and (2) Accreditation & Certification.

10.1. Education & Training Task Group

Deb Russell and Rachel McKee presented the work of the Education & Training Task Group acknowledging the contribution of the other task group members from Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, USA, Poland, Malaysia, Canada, Belgium, Mexico, Nigeria and Zimbabwe.

The guidelines developed are now available. The guidelines include a Philosophical Statement that provides a context. The guidelines offer guidance on developing interpreter training together with an outline of the components that should be considered when developing a training programme.

10.2. Accreditation & Certification Task Group

The President said that unfortunately Daniel Burch was unable to be with us to present a report but that a report had been received a day ago. The task group has begun their work on developing guidance. The new Executive Board will continue take this work forward.

11. MEETINGS OF THE WASLI REGIONS

The General Membership meeting now stopped to make time for each region to meet and discuss issues including (1) elections (2) plans for 2011 to 2015 (3) networking and (4) any other important business.

The President asked that a representative from each of the meetings take a record of the discussion and forward this to the WASLI Secretary.

George Major provided instructions on where the meetings will take place.

The President asked the membership to return at 11.30am. The General Membership meeting was then suspended.

REGIONAL MEETINGS & BREAK

The General Meeting resumed at 11.45am

12. PROPOSAL

The President welcomed the membership back and an explanation of the procedures and amendments was given.

12.1. Before the discussion the proposal was taken the WASLI Secretary checked the number of eligible votes.

1. ASLI (England, Wales & Northern Ireland)
2. FILSE (Spain)
3. ACHIELS (Chile)
4. FTT (Denmark)
5. SVT (Finland)
6. JASLI (Japan)
7. NRASLI (Japan)
8. ASLIA (Australia)
9. SLIANZ (New Zealand)
10. AVLIC (Canada)
11. FEBRAPILS (Brazil)
12. ANIOS (Italy)
13. ASLI (India)
14. UNASLI (Uganda)
15. TASLI (Tanzania)

16. Panama
17. ASLIN (Nigeria)

PROXY VOTES

18. ACHIELS (Chile) has the proxy for ASISEP (Peru)
19. The President has the proxy for SASLI (Scotland)
20. Nigel Howard has the proxy for RID (USA)

POSTAL VOTE

There is one POSTAL VOTE from SVT Finland. This vote will not be counted as the SVT delegate is in attendance and will vote by card.

12.2. The total membership is 22. The total number of eligible votes present is 20 representing more than 25% of the membership needed for Quoracy.

12.3. The WASLI Secretary explained and summarised the rationale behind the proposal.

12.4. The President thanked the Secretary then opened up the floor for discussion.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

12.5. Brendan Costello (FILSE) thanked the Secretary for the work to revise the Governing Document. Brendan proposed amendments to the revised Governing Document 6.3. & 10.10. & 10.10.2. & 10.10.3.

12.5.1. Under 6. Termination of Membership that 6.3. read:

6.3. For serious misconduct, **which includes violating WASLI's rules or working against WASLI's objectives both of which are set out in the Governing Document, Internal Rules and Guidelines.**

12.5.2. Under 10. Executive Board

10.10. be renamed "Vacancies & **Exclusions** from the Executive Board"

10.10.2. be amended to read

If any Officer of the Executive Board violates WASLI's rules, works against WASLI's objectives or neglects the duties of office, all of which are set out in the Governing Document, Internal Rules and Guidelines, that Officer may be removed from the Executive Board. To formalise the removal, the Executive Board will notify the Officer in question and will subsequently inform the membership of this action.

The Executive Board will then send out a call for nominations to fill the resulting vacancy.

10.10.3.be amended to read:

If any Regional Representative of the Executive Board violates WASLI's rules, works against WASLI's objectives or neglects the duties of office, all of which are set out in the Governing Document, Internal Rules and Guidelines, that Representative may be removed from the Executive Board.

To formalise the removal, the Executive Board will notify the Regional Representative in question and will subsequently inform the membership of this action.

The Executive Board will then send out a call for nominations to fill the resulting vacancy.

12.5.3. DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT

Comment: ASLIN (Nigeria) highlighted the particular challenges of having only one representative for the Africa region and wondered if it would be possible to allow for more than one.

Response: The proposal to look at more than one regional representative is one that needs to be brought to the next Executive Board.

Comment: ASLI (England, Wales & Northern Ireland) felt that (a) a right of appeal needs to be considered and (b) according to the Governing Document (current) a 2/3 vote of the NATIONAL members is required before a Regional Representative can be removed so what would be the situation now?

Response: The amendment delegates the responsibility of removal of any individual to the WASLI Executive Board. If a country or NATIONAL member wishes to complain about their regional representative then they should contact the Executive Board. In response to (b) above, a structure is needed to allow the Executive Board to take immediate action. In response to (a) above it was suggested that the Internal Rules should include details on what constitutes misconduct and details of a right of appeal.

Comment: A delegate from the US felt that there needs to be a time line suggesting that it should be a month between the time a decision is taken by the WASLI Executive Board and the individual is advised.

Response: A proposal of one month was agreed and the wording was altered to include this.

10.10.2. be further amended to read

If any Officer of the Executive Board violates WASLI's rules, works against WASLI's objectives or neglects the duties of office, all of which are set out in the Governing Document, Internal Rules and Guidelines, that Officer may be removed from the Executive Board.

To formalise the removal, the Executive Board will notify the Officer in question and will subsequently inform the membership of this action **within one month.**

The Executive Board will then send out a call for nominations to fill the resulting vacancy.

10.10.3.be further amended to read:

If any Regional Representative of the Executive Board violates WASLI's rules, works against WASLI's objectives or neglects the duties of office, all of which are set out in the Governing Document, Internal Rules and Guidelines, that Representative may be removed from the Executive Board.

To formalise the removal, the Executive Board will notify the Regional Representative in question and will subsequently inform the membership of this action **within one month.**

The Executive Board will then send out a call for nominations to fill the resulting vacancy.

12.6. VOTE on the AMENDMENT

There were 20 votes in favour of the amendment.

12.7. VOTE on the PROPOSAL AS AMENDED

There were 20 votes in favour of the amendment.

The Revised Governing Document is approved and will be amended to include the above amendment.

13. NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

Proposed as the new WASLI Executive Officers 2011 to 2015

President:	Deb Russell	Canada
Vice President:	Jose Luis Brieva	Colombia
Secretary:	Awoii Patrick Michael	Uganda
Treasurer:	Susan Emerson	Australia

The General Membership ratified the appointment of the Officers as above.

Proposed as the Regional Representatives for 2011 to 2015

Africa	Samuel Begumisa	Uganda
Asia	Emiko Ichikawa	Japan
Australasia & Oceania	Sheena Walters	Australia
Balkans	Selman Hoti	Kosovo
Europe	Stuart Anderson	England
Latino America	Jose Ednilson Junior	Brazil
North America	Nigel Howard	Canada

Transcaucasia & Central Asia Igor Bondarenko Ukraine

The General Membership ratified the appointment of the Regional Representatives as above.

14. RECOGNITIONS

The following recognitions were made:

Jack Owiti	Kenya	Africa Regional Rep
Anna Komarova	Russia	Transcaucasia & Central Asia Regional Rep
Jose Luis Brieva	Colombia	Latino America Regional Rep
George Major	NZ	Australasia & Oceania Regional Rep
Marco Nardi	Italy/UK	Europe Regional Rep
Deb Russell	Canada	North America Rep
Daniel Burch	USA	WASLI Treasurer
Zane Hema	England	WASLI Secretary
Juan Druetta	Argentina	WASLI Vice President
Liz Scott Gibson	Scotland	WASLI President

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1. Arun Rao (ASLI India)

ASIA is a very large area and represents a very large population. The issue of communication and coordination between members, support & cooperation among members is yet to be addressed.

The fledgling interpreter communities deserve closer links and collaboration at a local regional level as already exists among the Asian countries, which are grouped in SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) and other such International Bodies and Cooperative Groupings.

I would like to propose South Asian Region of SAARC countries namely: India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Myanmar and the Maldives

15.1.1. Response

The President thanked ASLI (India) for this proposal and asked that this be submitted to the new Executive Board for action.

15.2. Brendan Costello (FILSE Spain)

FILSE (Spain) proposes that WASLI adopt the following resolution:
In line with the objectives set out in WASLI's Governing Document and in order to enhance the invaluable work done by the Sponsorship Fund, for the organisation of the 4-yearly General Membership and conference, WASLI resolves to strive to make this event as **accessible** as possible to as many

interpreters as possible, especially in terms of keeping **registration fees to a minimum** since the most common barrier to participation is financial.

15.2.1. Response

The President thanked FILSE (Spain) for this proposal and asked that this be submitted to the new Executive Board for action.

15.3. Johanne Smerlov (FTT Denmark)

FTT (Denmark) enquired about what work was going on in relation to developing guidelines on working conditions for sign language interpreters.

15.3.1. Response

The President thanked FTT (Denmark) for the question and explained that the WASLI Executive Board had just finalised guidance on the securing and using of sign language interpreting services and this has been sent for endorsement by the WFD and the finalised work will be circulated.

15.4. Jack Callon (WASLI Sponsorship Update)

Jack Callon (Conference Administrator) updated the membership on the number of delegates sponsored and the number of donations received and stated that there are still delegates awaiting travel documentation to attend the conference. A full report will follow after conference.

15.5. Deb Russell (WASLI Membership)

On behalf of WASLI, Deb awarded Honorary Life Membership to outgoing WASLI President Liz Scott Gibson and outgoing WASLI Secretary Zane Hema.

16. CLOSE

The new WASLI President gave some closing remarks and the WASLI 2011 General Membership meeting was brought to a close.