

Minutes of the ReNLA Business meeting – 11.30, Friday, August 26th - Beijing.

Present:

Members: Christine O'Leary, Naomi Fujishima, Alice Chik, Tin Dang, Alison Stewart, Jo Mynard, Lucy Cooker, Naoko Aoki, Mike Nix, Phil Benson, Linda Murphy, Xuesong Guo, Tomoko Yashima, Diego Mideros, Setsuko Hirao, Desiree Castilla Zaragosa.

Observers (interested in becoming members): Shez De Florio- Hansen and Stephen Bredach

Matters arising from the last meeting

The publication from the last ReNLA symposium at the AILA World Congress in Essen, in Germany, has now been published by Multilingual Matters. The reference is as follows:

Murray, G, Gao, X and Lamb, T (eds) (2011). *Identity, motivation and autonomy in language learning*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

The publication includes both Symposium papers and other papers from ReNLA members which explore the links between identity, motivation and autonomy.

AILA ReNs: the future of ReNLA

As previously communicated to members, the ReNLA conveners were concerned about the future of ReNLA, currently coming up to its 6th birthday, given the expectations expressed in AILA bylaws of a six year lifetime for AILA research networks. The conveners, Richard Smith and Garold Murray, had sent a letter both to the AILA Executive Board and the full International Committee asking for deletion of the AILA Bylaw relating to the six-year longevity of ReNs. This letter had gained the support of and been co-signed by the conveners of four other Research Networks. Garold Murray pointed out that ReNLA and its predecessor- the Scientific Commission on Learner Autonomy - had been active since 1993.

Members were reassured with regard to the future of the Network within AILA, following a vote in favour of removing the six-year rule at the AILA EBIC meeting just before the opening of the Beijing Congress. There was no intention to disband successful ReNs such as ReNLA.

Elections

There is a call for nominations for ReNLA conveners with a deadline of Oct 2nd 2011. In relation to the current conveners, Richard Smith is eligible for re-election but Garold Murray, having completed two terms of office, must stand down. Terry Lamb, as past convener, will act as organiser and returning officer for the elections. Consult the ReNLA bulletin and other email communications for details.

Garold was formally thanked for his commitment to the ReN and its success during his period of office.

AOB

Auto-L

The suggestion was made that communication/ dialogue could be enhanced through the use of a more up-to-date medium for ReNLA discussions/ exchanges of ideas e.g. by using social networks such as Facebook (although, as a member pointed out, this is blocked in some countries such as China).

Action: New conveners to explore possibilities.

The role of the ReNs in AILA

A suggestion was made that the role of ReNs within AILA is unclear. This issue had already come up in the course of ReNLA's campaign to get the 'six-year rule' rescinded. It was hoped that revised guidelines would help to guide future developments but should not constrain the activities of the ReN.

The meeting was closed at 12.05.