SCLC Business Meeting
October 10, 2010

MINUTES

1) SCLA News and Updates

We were very pleased to meet this year at Brown University and are grateful to Masako Fidler, our host and organizer at Brown University, for all of her hard work in support of our meeting. We are also thankful to those who have provided financial and logistical support, especially the Department of Slavic Languages, the Office of International Affairs, the Colver Lectureship Fund from the Office of the Dean of the Faculty, the Center for Language Studies, and the Department of Cognitive, Linguistics and Psychological Sciences all at Brown University, as well as the support of John Benjamins Publishing Company.

It is a hallmark of SCLC conferences that we share a few days of camaraderie in a more intimate venue with smaller panels and greater opportunities for engagement with our colleagues and their research than we often find at larger conferences, yet we also continue our tradition of excellent plenary lectures. This year we had two parallel sessions as well as some single session papers and we heard from Eugene Charniak of Brown University, Adele E. Goldberg of Princeton University, and Ronald W. Langacker of the University of California, San Diego as plenary lecturers.

2) Review of Presidential Term 2007-2010

This conference marked the end of my term in office as President of SCLA. During the past four years, we have held annual meetings in Chicago, Tartu, Prague, and Providence. Chicago, Prague, and Providence were independent conferences for SCLA and we collaborated with the Estonian Cognitive Linguistics Association (ECLA) at the University of Tartu (Tartu, Estonia) in 2008.

Furthermore, in recognition of the fact that today’s linguists are increasingly called upon to master research techniques for which they do not usually receive training in their graduate programs, we began supporting an ongoing series of vital workshops and masterclasses in corpus and experimental methods and statistical analysis that will be increasingly important to our field in coming years. Dagmar Divjak and I organized the masterclasses Corpus Methods in Linguistics and Language Pedagogy (CMLLP-2008) in March 2008 at the University of Chicago and Experimental Methods in Linguistics (EML-2010) in April 2010 at the University of Sheffield. Additional masterclasses are planned for the future.

3) Bibliography Committee

The SCLA is very grateful for Ljiljana Saric’s service to the organization over the past ten years as the keeper of the SCLA bibliography for work in Cognitive Linguistics concerning the Slavic languages.

Due to the increased availability of bibliographic data through various general and specific search engines and the presence of papers, presentations, and books on individual websites, we
agreed by unanimous consent to discontinue the Bibliography Committee and to remove Article III.7.b from the draft of the proposed SCLA constitution.

4) **Locations for future SCLC conferences**

Since the preceding conferences were held two years in a row in Europe, we decided to again consider a US location for the annual conference in 2011. Alina Israeli (American University) has tentatively volunteered to host in 2011 and will consult with colleagues and administrators at her home university about the possibility of hosting. Egbert Fortuin (University of Leiden, The Netherlands) tentatively volunteered to host in 2012 and will further investigate the possibility with his colleagues in Leiden. Svitlana Zhabotynska mentioned Kiev, Ukraine as a possible site for a future SCLC. Ljiljana Saric (University of Oslo) may also be a possible host for a future SCLC conference and Steven Clancy mentioned that a return to the University of Chicago might be possible in a few years.

5) **Review and Adoption of new SCLA Constitution**

A draft of a new SCLA Constitution was circulated on the membership mailing list on October 6, 2010 in advance of the SCLC-2010 Business Meeting. Comments on the Constitution were received and discussed at the Business Meeting.

The new Constitution is simplified and codifies the standard operating procedures that have served the Association well over the past 10 years. The new Constitution continues the offices of President and Vice-President/President-Elect and formalizes the office of Past-President in an advisory role to the Association.

In addition to the three goals that were part of the original SCLA Constitution, language was added for a fourth goal, reflecting the Association’s desire to “encourage and support training in research methodologies, including experimental methods, data collection, corpus methods, and statistical analysis”.

We discussed the possibility of establishing languages relevant to the Association, but decided this was unnecessary. We agreed to maintain a voting quorum of at least 25 SCLA members at Association Business Meetings. We agreed to discontinue the Bibliography Committee as a standing committee of the Association. With these changes, the draft of the SCLA Constitution was approved by unanimous consent of all present at the Business Meeting.

6) **Elections**

Dagmar Divjak (University of Sheffield) was nominated for the office of Vice-President/President-Elect and was elected by unanimous consent.

Then followed the peaceful transfer of power with all best wishes to Tore Nesset (University of Tromsø), who was congratulated on his succession to the Presidency of SCLA.

— Steven Clancy (recorded the notes of the Business Meeting)