

SOCIETY FOR PIDGIN AND CREOLE LINGUISTICS
Minutes of the Business Meeting
held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands
on June 19, 2007

Officers Present were: Armin Schwegler (Out-going President)
Arthur Spears (Vice President/President Elect)
Adrienne Bruyn (Past President/Nominating Committee Chair)
Bettina Migge (Officer-at-large)
Clancy Clements (Nominating Committee)

Apologies for absence: Marlyse Baptista
Veronique Lacoste
Rocky Meade
John R. Rickford
Michele Stewart

1. Call to order

The President, Armin Schwegler, called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. on June 19, 2007. He welcomed members to the meeting, mentioned apologies for absence which were submitted, and announced the items on the agenda.

2. Acceptance of Financial Statement and confirmation of the previous Minutes

Armin Schwegler read and commented on the SPCL & Peck Fund 2006—7 Balance Sheet and the accompanying Financial Reports. He pointed out that the rental cost for beamers at the winter meetings held in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America is roughly US\$700, and suggested that the society does not consider this option. Since the minutes of the previous meeting were distributed shortly before the meeting, they were considered as read and subsequently accepted by a motion from the floor.

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

Future SPCL Meetings:

(i) LSA 2008 – Armin Schwegler informed the meeting that the Executive had decided to skip the 2008 winter meeting with the LSA, and possibly subsequent ones since there are several offers from members to host summer meeting.

(ii) Cayenne 2008 – Bettina Migge noted that the meeting planning is going well and cautioned members not to be alarmed about the vaccination requirements required for entry into French Guyana or the health conditions there. The French government is simply highly vigilant about keeping yellow fever from coming into the area. She also informed the meeting that measures are being put in place to make the visa-application process as smooth as possible.

(iii) Cologne 2009 – Dany Adone stated that the planning is going well and that she had secured some funding. She is currently seeking resources to cover accommodation for students. She noted her concern about the date since classes would still be in session and rooms will be

scarce. She suggested having the conference in August. Salikoko Mufwene asked about the possibility of timing the meeting so that members could attend it and the conference on African languages sequentially. The consensus of the meeting was that efforts should be made to arrange such timing if possible and that the exact dates of the meeting will be left up to the Executive to determine. Clancy Clements stated that the ACBLPE would like to join the SPCL at the Cologne meeting. He will discuss the details with the Executive Committee.

(iv) Plenary talk and Special Sessions – Arthur Spears asked whether the Society should plan a plenary talk for the next SPCL meeting. Adrienne Bruyn noted that the decision is normally left to the local organisers subject to the approval of the Executive. Clements pointed out that a number of special sessions were suggested at the Albuquerque meeting (2006), and that those could be considered for future special sessions.

4. Presidential Hand-over

Outgoing President Armin Schwegler introduced and handed over the gavel to incoming President Arthur Spears. Clancy Clements on behalf of the membership, thanked Armin Schwegler for his excellent service to the Society as President. After taking over as Chair of the meeting, the new President presented to Armin a plaque for the outstanding service that Armin has given to SPCL as president, executive secretary, and member of the Executive Council, after which there was a hearty round of applause.

5. Publication of Conference Papers

Conference volume: The question of whether papers from the conference should be selected for a volume in the Creole Language Library (CLL) series was discussed. It was the consensus of the group that SPCL's officers should decide on these questions in consultation with the new series editors, Umberto Ansaldo and Miriam Meyerhoff.

6. Constitutional Amendments

RESOLUTION NO. 1: Motion by Rocky Meade.

RE: THE PAYMENT OF DUES BY STUDENT AND UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS

WHEREAS, Section III, paragraph 1 of the constitution states:

There shall be two types of membership: regular members and student members.

and WHEREAS, Section III, paragraph 3 of the constitution states:

Any undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in the regular academic year as a candidate for a degree in a recognized college or university may become a student member without payment of dues. Student membership in the Society requires that the individual submit a verification of student status.

and WHEREAS, Section III, paragraph 5 of the constitution states:

All regular SPCL members must subscribe to the Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages; the subscription fee includes the annual dues established by the Executive Council. Students who do not wish to subscribe to JPCL may become members at no charge by sending an electronic request for membership to the Executive Secretary, who will then add their name to the SPCL mailing list.

and WHEREAS, the Society has received requests from unemployed individuals to be allowed to be members of the Society without taking out a subscription to the JPCL, and

WHEREAS, the majority of the subscription paid by regular members (approximately 90%) is for the JPCL subscription and the actual dues received by the Society is approximately 10% (presently \$8.00), and

WHEREAS, many similar societies charge student and unemployed members up to 65% of the regular membership subscription.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section III paragraph 1 of the constitution be amended, as of the Business Meeting in 2007, to state:

*There shall be **three** types of membership: regular members, **unemployed members** and **student members**.*

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section III paragraph 3 of the constitution be amended, as of the Business Meeting in 2007, to state:

Any undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in the regular academic year as a candidate for a degree in a recognized college or university may become a student member. Student membership in the Society requires that the individual submit verification of student status.

And BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section III paragraph 5 of the constitution be amended, as of the Business Meeting in 2007, to state:

*All regular SPCL members must subscribe to the Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages (JPCL); the subscription fee includes the annual dues established by the Executive Council. Students **may become members without subscribing to the JPCL and will therefore pay only the annual dues, which is normally approximately 10% of the full subscription and dues payable by a regular member. Students seeking such membership should send a request, which may be by electronic means, to the Executive Secretary, who will verify their student status and advise them of the procedures for submitting the reduced subscription.. Unemployed individuals who have been regular or student members for a period of 3 years at the time of application, may, for a maximum period of 3 years, become unemployed members without subscribing to JPCL and will therefore pay only the annual dues, which is normally approximately 10% of the full subscription and dues payable by a regular member. Applications for unemployed member status shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary, who, at his/her discretion, may verify the applicant's employment status.***

Discussion and Voting on Resolution No. 1: Silvia Kouwenberg pointed out that as a member of the editorial board of Journal of Pidgin and Creole Languages (JPCL) she does not have to pay for the journal, and since SPCL membership is tied to journal subscription, she is officially not a member. In response to the constitutional amendment, Adrienne Bruyn stated that students were once required to pay dues, but since collecting it involved more disadvantages than advantages, it was discontinued. Schwegler suggested that instead of collecting dues from students and unemployed members, they should be asked to contribute to the Stephen Peck Fund. Miriam Meyerhoff pointed out that Meade's submission proposes a three-year cap on eligibility for unemployed status, and that the implications of this should be discussed. In light of the problems with collecting small sums of money, the Society agreed to reject the section of Meade's proposal which required students and unemployed members to pay dues, but amended Section III, paragraph 1 to read:

*'There shall be three types of membership: regular members, **student members** and **unemployed members**.'*

Post-meeting Note: The proposed amendment to Section III, paragraph 5, which deals with

the eligibility requirements for each type of membership, was rejected in its entirety. This means that the above amendment cannot be effected until the membership has a chance to vote on the requirements for the unemployed membership.

RESOLUTION NO. 2: Motion by Dany Adone.

RE: AMENDMENT OF THE PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

WHEREAS, Section II of the constitution states:

II. PURPOSE

SPCL is organized in the interest of the academic community and not for profit. Its object is the study of pidgin and creole languages world-wide, together with other languages or dialects of other languages influencing them or influenced by them.

and WHEREAS, Creole languages can also become endangered languages,

and WHEREAS, linguists as well as investigated populations are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of fieldwork ethics.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Section II of the constitution be amended, as of the Business Meeting in 2007, to state:

II. PURPOSE

*SPCL is organized in the interest of the academic community and not for profit. Its object is the study **and preservation** of pidgin and creole languages world-wide, together with other languages or dialects of other languages influencing them or influenced by them.*

The Society adheres to standard ethical guidelines for fieldwork, and contributes to the promotion of language-related educational practices in creole communities.

Discussion and Voting on Resolution No. 2: George Huttar asked whether Adone’s proposal implies that if a group of people wanted their language to die, the Society should work against their wish. The membership agreed that replacing the word “preservation” with “documentation” would address the problem identified by Huttar. In addition, the Society agreed to omit the third sentence in Adone’s proposal for now but revisit it at a future meeting. The amended clause now reads:

*‘SPCL is organized in the interest of the academic community and not for profit. Its object is the study **and documentation** of pidgin and creole languages worldwide, together with other languages or dialects of other languages influencing them or influenced by them. **The Society adheres to standard ethical guidelines for fieldwork.**’*

Links will be placed on the SPCL website to existing guidelines to “ethical standards” in research.

7. Stephen Peck Fund – Application and Award Procedures

Arthur Spears raised the issue about whether there should be a set deadline for students to apply for assistance from the Stephen Peck Fund. Adrienne Bruyn suggested that a good deadline would be three weeks after the student receives notification that his/her abstract has been accepted. Armin Schwegler pointed out that even though the system now employed is *ad hoc*, it is effective and so it should continue to be flexible, and at the discretion of the President and Secretary-Treasurer. Although no official vote was taken, members were in favour of Schwegler’s suggestion.

8. Election of Officers

Up to June 19, 2007 the Executive Committee was composed of:

Armin Schwegler –	President (until 2007)
Arthur Spears –	Vice-President/President Elect (until 2007)
Adrienne Bruyn –	Immediate Past resident (until 2007)
Rocky Meade –	Executive Secretary-Treasurer (until 2010)
Bettina Migge –	Officer-at-large (until 2007)
Shelome Gooden –	Officer-at-large (until 2008)
Fred Field –	Officer-at-large (until 2009)
Don Winford –	Ex officio (as JPCL Editor)

Nominating Committee (up to June 19, 2007):

Adrienne Bruyn –	Immediate Past President/Chair (until 2007)
Clancy Clements –	Member (until 2007)
Malcolm Finney –	Member (until 2008)

- *Officer-at-large, Executive Council (to replace Bettina Migge)*: Adrienne Bruyn, chair of the Nominating Committee presented the committee's nominees: Miriam Meyerhoff and Jeff Siegel. There were no nominations from the floor. Jeff Siegel was elected.
- *Vice-President/ President-Elect (to replace Arthur Spears)*: The Nominating Committee's nominees were Magnus Huber and Peter Patrick. Dany Adone was nominated from the floor. Dany Adone was elected.
- *Nominating Committee (to replace Clancy Clements)*: Nominations were solicited from the floor. Miriam Meyerhoff was nominated, and it was voted to close the nominations and elect Meyerhoff by acclamation. The motion passed, and she was elected by acclamation.

The current Executive Committee is composed of:

Arthur Spears –	President (until 2009)
Dany Adone –	Vice-President/President Elect (until 2009)
Armin Schwegler –	Immediate Past President (until 2009)
Rocky Meade -	Executive Secretary / Treasurer (until 2010)
Jeff Siegel –	Officer-at-Large (until 2010)
Fred Field -	Officer-at-Large (until 2009)
Shelome Gooden -	Officer-at-Large (until 2008)
Don Winford -	Ex Officio (as JPCL Editor)

The current Nominating Committee is composed of:

Armin Schwegler -	Immediate Past President/Chair (until 2009)
Miriam Meyerhoff -	Member (until 2009)
Malcolm Finney –	Member (until 2008)

9. Other Business

a. Mirto Laclé, of the Aruban Pedagogical Institute, issued an invitation on behalf of the institute and the National Library of Aruba, which would be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2010, to the SPCL to have its meeting in Aruba in that year. After a brief discussion, a resolution was passed that the SPCL is interested and will pursue talks with the parties wishing to plan the meeting in Aruba. Peter Patrick moved that the Executive suggest that SCL have its 2010 meeting in Aruba in helping to mark the National Library's anniversary celebrations, and that the Executive express the SPCL's interest in joining them at that meeting.

b. John Victor Singler informed the meeting that he had been approached by Magnus Huber and Kofi Yakpo, on behalf of New York University in Ghana, about hosting an SPCL meeting in Accra, Ghana in 2010. Additionally, Ghana is a good location since several of the substrate languages of Atlantic creoles are spoken there; it is the home of a pidgin; and the University of Ghana, Legon, has a vibrant linguistics department. Bettina Migge pointed out that 2010 is an SCL meeting year, and so a separate SPCL summer meeting would be impractical. If SPCL meets summer 2010 in Aruba, it should meet concurrently with SCL. It was agreed that 2011 would be a better year for the summer meeting in Ghana. A resolution was passed authorizing John Singler to proceed with the plans for seeking funding for the meeting, the details and logistics of which should be determined by the Executive Committee.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Rocky R Meade
Executive Secretary

Joseph Farquharson
Actg Recording Secretary