

**Minutes of the SPCL Business Meeting held in Cayenne,  
French Guiana on July 30, 2008**

**Present were:** Arthur Spears (President) – Chairman  
Rocky Meade (Executive Secretary/Treasurer) - Secretary  
28 Members and 4 Visitors

**Apologies for Absence:** Dany Adone, Umberto Ansaldo, John Holm, George Huttar  
Marvin Kramer, George Lang, Miriam Meyerhoff and Donald Winford

**1. Call to order**

The President, Arthur Spears, called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm on July 30, 2008. He welcomed the members and outlined the agenda for the meeting.

**2. Approval of the Previous Minutes**

The Executive Secretary handed out additional copies of the minutes of the Business Meeting held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on June 19, 2007. The document was also displayed by multimedia projector. The minutes were confirmed after being so moved by Jeff Siegel and seconded by John Singler.

**3. Peck Fund Report**

The Executive Secretary reported that very few donations were received so far in 2008, probably due to SPCL having no winter meeting in January. Most of the funds are normally raised on that occasion. He indicated that he would be happy to take donations at the end of the meeting, emphasizing that there is still the need for regular donations and all were encouraged so to do. The meeting was advised that this year two graduate students, Tamirand DeLisser, UWI Mona, and Kofi Yakpo, Nijmegen, were awarded \$350 each from the fund.

**4. SPCL and Peck Fund Financial Report**

The Executive Secretary/Treasurer presented the financial report for the year 2007-2008 as at July 30, 2008. Currently, the SPCL account amounts to \$5,735.97 including \$2,705.87 for the Peck fund (see Balance Sheet attached as Appendix A). He asked the membership to amend the balance sheet that was distributed before the meeting due to a change the amount spent on photocopies for the meeting. \$15.00 was spent on copies before arriving in Cayenne, but having done additional copying in Cayenne, the total expended increased to \$42.45. The financial report was unanimously approved by the members present.

He further reported that there were 71 full members with current subscriptions as at the end of July 2008. There were 16 new members, including nine student members.

**5. Matters Raised by the President**

*a. Creole Language Library Volume*

The president acknowledged receipt of an update from the editors, Miriam Meyerhoff and Umberto Ansaldo, of Creole Language Library (John Benjamins Publishing), with whom SPCL has an informal though important relationship. It was not read and discussed due to the many items on our agenda but will be made available to the Executive Council at a later date.

*b. Carrier Pidgin*

The President suggested that although the Carrier Pidgin is not an SPCL organ we might be proactive in seeing to its continued publication. In that regard, he has made contact with the editor, Tometro Hopkins. In the discussion that followed, Jeff Siegel indicated that it is very useful in providing information about publications on pidgins and suggested that it could be converted to a web-based publication and linked to the SPCL website. Magnus Huber indicated that Tometro had decided to keep it in print since it may be difficult to get it to persons without email access, but that was not an issue anymore. The members accepted the President's offer to follow up on it personally.

**6. Commendation for Cayenne Conference Organizing Committee**

The President thanked organizing committee of Cayenne and sponsors on behalf of the SPCL membership.

**7. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

**Future SPCL Meetings**

- a. *San Francisco, Jan 2009 (with LSA)* – The President indicated that he confirmed our participation with LSA Secretariat on February 14, 2008.
- b. *Cologne 2009* –Dany Adone, the organizer, will provide a full update in San Francisco. The website is to be available in September 2008.
- c. *Aruba 2010* – The President reminded the meeting that Mirto Laclé had proposed Aruba for 2010 at the meeting in Amsterdam and indicated that there was a need to discuss and vote on the venue, dates, etc. bearing in mind the fact that German students finish mid-July. There was a healthy discussion about how best to balance the desire to meet with LSA in the USA annually, to meet in other countries and with the SCL every other SCL meeting. Some of the members expressed concern that we may be having too many meetings, with the possibility of both winter and summer meetings in the same year. The President suggested that we should have at least one meeting per and call for an informal straw poll on whether to meet with LSA or in Aruba in January 2010. The vote was for LSA. The President then indicated that we need to consider another date for Aruba and suggested that he would get additional information regarding the various queries and then poll the members by email. This was accepted by the members present.
- d. *Accra 2011* - John Singler clarified that there was a meeting with persons from New York with a view to having the meeting in Ghana but with possible funding support from NYU. He noted a number of positives to having the meeting in Ghana including: the importance of the Kwa languages in creolization, the fact that the majority of native speakers of creoles and pidgins live in Africa and that Ghana is a fun place to visit. He noted that they were looking into ways of getting funding for travel, especially for students in South Africa. He concluded that he will get fund raising advice from Bettina Migge and send a report of his progress to the Executive Council. This was accepted by the members present.

## 8. New Business

### a. *Remembrance of Deceased Colleagues*

The President, with reference to passing of Roger Anderson, noted that we were not consistently recognising deceased colleagues at our meetings and suggested that at a minimum we should have brief remarks.

John Singler noted that this has been practiced, though not consistently, referring to the more involved remembrance of Jacque Arends two years ago. There was general agreement that the Society should be consistent in this regard. With respect to Roger Anderson, John Rickford suggested that we should get someone to write something specific in remembrance, possibly linked to Papiamentu which he has written a lot about. Jeff Siegel and John Singler volunteered to collaborate on something.

A minute of silence was observed in his memory.

### b. *SPCL Anniversary*

The President raised the matter of it being the 20th anniversary of SPCL and asked whether plans should be made for recognising this in San Francisco, Cologne, or wait until the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The members present decided to wait until the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary to do something appropriate.

### c. *SPCL Archives*

The President raised the matter of whether SPCL should make efforts to find an institution willing to house the SPCL archives. In response to a request for clarification, he indicated that the archives would consist minutes, reports, etc. The proposal did not carry for now, but may be raised again in the future.

### d. *Proposal to place Oxford University Press Link on SPCL Website*

The President raised the matter of a request by Oxford University Press to have a link to their website on the SPCL website. He indicated that members would get a 20% discount on their publications. The members voted that the proposal be accepted.

### e. *Proposal to establish a permanent Committee on Creoles in Education.*

The President indicated that, pending the approval of the membership for a permanent committee, he had established an Ad Hoc Committee with co-chairs Fred Field and Jeff Siegel. Members are Dany Adone and Rocky Meade. Its charge (as proposed by Fred Field) would be as follows:

- Generally, the committee would be concerned with educational issues related to speakers of creole language varieties, whether they are minority language speakers in major urban settings or in nations where pidgins or creoles are the principal languages of everyday usage;
- It shall be a resource (a clearinghouse of sorts) for information (news, articles, papers, and books) on educational issues--e.g., the role of bilingual instruction, controversies regarding using a creole language as a medium of instruction, etc.);
- It shall seek association with other organizations with similar committees, e.g., the Committee on Language in the School Curriculum of the Linguistic Society of

America (LSA), American Dialect Society, and so on, for the purpose of sharing information.

Comments: Most of these goals can be accomplished by setting up links on various websites. As an example, the SCL has set up a Facebook group that features among other things the late Dennis Craig's TEACHING LANGUAGE AND LITERACY, which deals with teaching a standard language to speakers of nonstandard varieties (i.e., teaching in "vernacular situations").

- Part of the goal of establishing links is to prevent redundancy in our efforts and make available such pioneering work as that by Frank Martinus and others in Curaçao.
- Suggestion for expanding membership on the committee: Let the current committee members present a plan for such in San Francisco or Cologne.

John Singler moved that the permanent committee be established and that the Executive Council decides on the other members. This was seconded by Magnus Huber and passed by the members present.

## **9. Election of Officers**

Two elections took place based on nominations from the Nominating Committee. Magnus Huber was elected to replace Shelome Gooden as Officer-at-large and Sibylle Kriegel was elected to replace Malcolm Finney as the Nominating Committee Member.

The Executive Council is now 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)  
Fredric Field (Officer-at-large, until 2009)  
Jeff Siegel (Officer-at-large, until 2010)  
Magnus Huber (Officer-at-large, until 2011)  
Don Winford (Ex Officio, as JPCL Editor)

The Nominating Committee is now composed of:

Armin Schwegler Immediate Past President/Chair (until 2009)  
Miriam Meyerhoff (until 2009)  
Sibylle Kriegel (until 2010)

The Committee on Creoles in Education is composed of:

Fred Field (co-chair)  
Jeff Siegel (co-chair)  
Dany Adone  
Rocky Meade.

**10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

*Rocky R Meade*  
*Executive Secretary*