

**Minutes of the SPCL Business Meeting held in Cologne,
Germany on August 12, 2009**

Present were: Arthur Spears (President) – Chairman
Rocky Meade (Executive Secretary/Treasurer) - Secretary
42 Other Members and 14 Visitors

Apologies for absence: Umberto Ansaldo, Stephane Goyette, Miriam Meyerhoff, Carol Myers-Scotton, John Rickford, Nicole Scott, John Singler, Margaret Wade-Lewis and Donald Winford.

1. Call to order

The President called the meeting to order at 5:48 pm. He welcomed the members and outlined the agenda for the meeting. There were no amendments to the agenda.

2. Approval of the Previous Minutes

The Executive Secretary displayed the minutes of the Business Meeting held in Cayenne, French Guiana, on July 30, 2008 by multimedia projector. The minutes were confirmed after being so moved by Jeff Siegel and seconded by Tonjes Veenstra.

3. Commendation for Cologne Conference Organizing Committee

The President thanked the sponsors and the organizing committee of the Cologne conference, headed by Dany Adone, on behalf of the SPCL membership.

4. Peck Fund Report

The Executive Secretary/Treasurer reported that very few donations were received so far in 2009. He indicated that there is still the need for regular donations. The meeting was advised that this year two graduate students, Krystal Smalls, University of Pennsylvania, and Sophie Nicholls, University of New England, Australia, were selected for awards of \$350 each. Ms Nichols subsequently withdraw her paper and was not presented with the award.

5. SPCL and Peck Fund Financial Report

The Executive Secretary/Treasurer presented the financial report for the year 2008-2009 as at August 12, 2009. The SPCL account amounted to US\$5,473.89 including \$2,241.87 for the Peck fund (see Balance Sheet attached as Appendix A). The financial report was unanimously approved by the members present.

6. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

a. Creole Language Library (CLL) Volume

The president read the following report on behalf of Miriam Meyerhoff and Umberto Ansaldo, the editors of the CLL:

The series continues to provide a forum for new work on the structure and use of Creole languages. CLL has several volumes focusing on the structure of specific Creole languages coming out soon. These include works on Sierra Leone Krio, Saotomense, Media Lengua and Early Sranan. In addition, Collections of papers on Creoles and education, complexity/simplicity in Creoles, and variation in Caribbean Creoles are in progress. CLL continues to welcome submissions for edited volumes that have a clear thematic focus. The CLL web page has contact information for Miriam and Umberto and on the information a proposal should contain.

b. *Carrier Pidgin*

Tometro Hopkins explained that there were three volumes in manuscript form ready to be published but there were some challenges including lack of funding and insufficient individual support. The main support comes from libraries. She was considering a number of options including adding creative Creole writings such as poetry, book reviews, etcetera; seeking support from another University and publishing online, but needed some technical assistance. The planned volume in honour of Jacque Arends is long overdue but so far there are insufficient articles with most being from family.

There were several comments including concern that online publications are likely to cause a reduction in persons subscribing to printed publications, but there was also support for it with a note that ACPLBE now has free online publications that were well received. There was a suggestion to include the list of contents of printed issues in other publications such as JPCL and that they could be sold at conferences. There was a caution, however, that if publications are infrequent then individuals will be reluctant to pay the subscription. The President concluded by providing a commitment that SPCL will assist the continued publication of the Carrier Pidgin in whatever way we can.

c. *Baltimore Conference, January 2010, with LSA*

The President confirmed that we would have the winter conference in 2010 and clarified that we do want to continue to have conferences with LSA but to also have summer conferences when practicable to ensure that conferences are available to as wide a range of members as possible. Business meetings will also vary from winter to summer meetings in keeping with that principle.

d. *SCL Barbados Conference, Summer 2010*

The President indicated that SCL would meet alone in Barbados but SPCL members were welcomed to attend if they had or intended to seek SCL membership. The Secretary clarified that SCL had established a policy of having every other meeting alone and therefore the next possible joint meeting will be in 2012.

e. *Aruba Conference– Summer 2010*

Mirto Laclé made a presentation indicating that the local organizing committee had a solid structure and had secured meeting rooms at UNI; an intention by Aruba Tourism to provide coffee and an agreement by Romans Trading to provide wine and entertainment. Cultural tours would be arranged and the Radisson was considered for accommodation. He noted, however, that funding support was still being negotiated. Three periods were proposed for the conference: September 12-26, August 24-28 and September 14-18. He emphasized that the team had experience in preparing conferences although there were challenges with communication during the initial stages of planning for this conference.

The President indicated that the Executive Council had concerns about the lack of communications and preparations since the meeting was first proposed in 2007. Specifically he stated that the Aruba organizers had met no deadline, even after the timelines had repeatedly been pushed back to accommodate them, and that basic arrangements such as the hotel were still pending. He elaborated that they did not answer the great majority of his phone calls and e-mail. He reinforced the fact that the EC had no confidence in the organizers ability to finalize acceptable arrangements, and recommended that the Aruba conference be cancelled for lack of a responsible, on-site organizing committee.

There were varied comments from the membership, some of whom expressed support for the renewed efforts of the organizing committee. Others expressed concern about the still un-finalized arrangements and adhering to SPCL's informal commitment to avoid having meetings that conflict with SCL's. The membership then voted to proceed with the planning for the Aruba meeting.

f. *Accra, Ghana Conference – Summer 2011*

Magnus Huber provided an update on the proposed summer conference in Accra in 2011. In addition to Magnus, the local organizing team includes John Singler and Kofi Yakpo. The planned venue is the University of Ghana with accommodation at nearby hotels and the student hostel. The dates will be late July or early August for three to four days. An excursion will be planned. Conference attendees will need to have valid yellow fever vaccinations and anti malaria tablets. Most visitors will need a visa but these are usually issued promptly.

A member enquired and was assured that there is no significant problem with personal security. John Holm asked if ACBLPE could meet with SPCL. The president indicated that it is okay in principle and, after the membership approved the conference, the details of the collaboration could be discussed with the organizing committee. The membership voted overwhelmingly for the conference to be held as proposed.

g. *Remembrance of Deceased Colleagues*

Jeff Siegel read a remembrance for Roger Anderson, prepared in collaboration with John Singler.

h. *Committee on Creoles in Education*

Jeff Siegel reported on behalf of the committee, the other members of which are Dany Adone, Fred Field and Rocky Meade. He reported on two initiatives of the committee. The first was to establish a resource centre (clearing house) for information (news, articles, papers, books, etc.) on Creole educational issues. After some discussion on the form that this should take it was agreed that a website would be set up led by Jeff.

The second initiative was to seek association with other organizations, with similar committees, for the purpose of sharing information. Examples include the Committee on Language in the School Curriculum of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) and the American Dialect Society.

The membership was invited to contribute publications and useful links to the proposed web-based resource centre and to advise the committee of other organizations and committees that could provide useful collaboration.

i. *SPCL Anniversary*

The President reminded the members that the 25th anniversary of SPCL would be in 2013 and invited members to submit ideas on how to appropriately mark that milestone.

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

The Secretary reported that this was done and the link to discounts was now available on the SPCL website.

7. Election of Officers

Three elections took place based on nominations from the Nominating Committee and the floor. Shelome Gooden was elected to replace Fred Field as Officer-at-large, Anne Marie Brousseau was elected to replace Miriam Meyerhoff as Nominating Committee member and Marlyse Baptista was elected to replace Dany Adone as Vice President/President-Elect.

The Executive Council is now composed of:

Dany Adone (President, until 2011)
Marlyse Baptista (Vice President/President Elect, until 2011)
Arthur Spears (Immediate Past President, until 2011)
Rocky Meade (Executive Secretary/Treasurer, until 2010)
Jeff Siegel (Officer-at-large, until 2010)
Magnus Huber (Officer-at-large, until 2011)
Shelome Gooden (Officer-at-large, until 2012)
Don Winford (Ex Officio, as JPCL Editor)

The Nominating Committee is now composed of:

Arthur Spears (Chair, until 2011)
Anne Marie Brousseau (until 2011)
Sibylle Kriegel (until 2010)

The Committee on Creoles in Education is composed of:

Fred Field (Chair)
Jeff Siegel (Vice Chair)
Dany Adone
Rocky Meade

8. Transfer of Presidency to Dany Adone

Arthur Spears was thanked for his service and presented with a gift.

9. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

10. Next Meeting

The 2010 business meeting will be held in Aruba at the summer conference.

11. Closing Remarks – President

President Dany Adone thanked the members for their support for the conference and committed to make every effort to serve effectively as president.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Rocky R Meade
Executive Secretary

Appendix A



SPCL & Peck Fund 2008-9 BALANCE SHEET

Account # 90365-809477

Bank of Nova Scotia Jamaica Limited, 125 Old Hope Road, Kingston 6, Jamaica. 1(876)970-4371

Executive Secretary/Treasurer: Rocky Meade (Co-signator: Silvia Kouwenberg)

Date:	Activity:	SPCL ACCOUNT			PECK FUND			GRAND
		Income	Expenditure	Balance	Income	Expenditure	Balance	TOTAL
29-Jul-08	Opening Balances			\$3,030.10			\$2,705.87	\$5,735.97
31-Dec-08	Net Interest (Jun - Dec 2008)	\$33.08		\$3,063.18			\$2,705.87	\$5,769.05
06-Jan-09	Peck Fund award to Nikesha Dawkins			\$3,063.18		\$350.00	\$2,355.87	\$5,419.05
06-Jan-09	Peck Fund award to Eching Ng			\$3,063.18		\$350.00	\$2,005.87	\$5,069.05
06-Jan-09	Donations to Peck Fund			\$3,063.18	\$120.00		\$2,125.87	\$5,189.05
19-May-09	Annual Dues from Benjamins	\$464.00		\$3,527.18			\$2,125.87	\$5,653.05
19-May-09	Bank charges for wire transfer of dues		\$36.00	\$3,491.18			\$2,125.87	\$5,617.05
19-May-09	Donation to Peck Fund from dues		\$116.00	\$3,375.18	\$116.00		\$2,241.87	\$5,617.05
30-Jun-09	Net Interest (Jan-Jun 09)	\$23.48		\$3,398.66			\$2,241.87	\$5,640.53
31-Jul-09	Engraving of Presidents' Plaque		\$83.45	\$3,315.21			\$2,241.87	\$5,557.08
03-Aug-09	Donations to Peck Fund			\$3,315.21	\$350.00		\$2,591.87	\$5,907.08
03-Aug-09	Peck Fund award to Krystal Smalls			\$3,315.21		\$350.00	\$2,241.87	\$5,557.08
12-Aug-09	Gift for outgoing President		\$83.19	\$3,232.02			\$2,241.87	\$5,473.89
	Closing Balances			\$3,232.02			\$2,241.87	\$5,473.89