Minutes of the ACAL 56 Business meeting

Held in person at the University of Minnesota on March 17, 2025, with over 60 people attending.

President's Remarks

James Essegbey, ACAL President, profusely thanked Claire Halpert and her team for their organization of a wonderful conference. He mentioned that this year's conference has been one of the best he has attended. Thanks was given in many languages.

James also introduced our new Director of ACAL Proceedings as an official Executive Committee member. The current holder of this position is Mike Diercks.

Noting he was trying to keep things short, James gave the floor to Deborah Morton, the Secretary of the Society.

Secretary's Report

Deborah noted that we have over 150 members (and that number was still going up, it is 161 at this point). The largest group of members is our students/scholars from Africa group (about 41%), with the general membership category next (ABOUT 35%), and then our lifetime members (about 24%, with 2% being lifetime memberships from Africa and 22% other lifetime memberships).

She also encouraged everyone to pay their membership dues and make sure they have a membership through MembershipWorks to make sure they stay on our email list. This year will be a transition year between the old membership list and the new one, but moving forward, we will send our communications largely through MembershipWorks, so people will need to have a membership account to stay informed. She encouraged anyone who did not have a membership and wanted to still stay in touch to come see her.

Treasurer's Report

Chris showed a powerpoint of the financial report, including the full report for FY 2023-24 and the YTD report for 2024-25.

He noted that we are almost breaking even in terms of dues covering our yearly expenses. We are a little over $200 below breaking even. We still have a lot of money in the bank, and are considering ways to best use these funds to support our members.

Chris also explained the recurring expenses.

The full report is appended below.

Proceedings volumes

Mike Diercks took the floor to give a report on the Proceedings of previous conferences, and to explain his role as Director of ACAL Proceedings.

He described his role as that of being institutional memory to help conference organizers, and to be a liaison between conference organizers and Language Science Press, specifically the Contemporary African Linguistics series that publishes our Proceedings.

Mike also explained some ways that help for LaTeX can be provided, including at conferences, and through potentially help with an Overleaf subscription.

Then, he moved on to the reports about in-progress/recent proceedings.

Both ACAL 51-52 and ACAL 53, the 'pandemic era' proceedings, were published in 2024 and are now available.

For ACAL 54 (University of Connecticut), the volume is close to a proof stage, and will hopefully be ready to publish in 2025 or if not, for sure in 2026.

For ACAL 55 (McGill University), it seems reviewers are currently being recruited, but we have no other information.

For ACAL 56, Claire said that an email about Proceedings submission would go out to all presenters sometime in June, and that the initial deadline for submission would likely be around August 15. It was also noted that submissions can be in PDF format, and don't have to be initially in LaTeX, but that we would provide support so all authors can put their final submissions into LaTeX. Information on this will be sent to all authors whose papers are accepted.

Future conference locations

We are grateful to have future hosts lined up for the next few years, unlike some past situations. In 2026 ACAL will be at the University of Buffalo in collaboration with Syracuse and Rochester, with Jeff Good and Chris Green heading this. The dates have not been confirmed, but are likely in May or June.

In 2027 ACAL will return to Georgetown University under Ruth Kramer. In 2028, looking quite far ahead, ACAL will probably come to Toronto (Juvenal Ndayiragije). Kyle Jerro said that for 2029, San Diego State University might be a possibility, though he would have to confirm at a later time.

EC vote

The group thanked retiring EC member Harold Torrence for his term as EC member, and recognized Michael Obiri-Yeboah and Jenneke van der Wal (in absentia) for their service.

Those who had been nominated to replace Harold (via an email that was sent out a couple of months earlier) were presented and given a chance to briefly introduce themselves. The two candidates for the position were Hannah Sande and Kyle Jerro.

An election was held by raising hands, and Hannah Sande was elected. Thank you to both of them for their interest, and we encourage Kyle to run again. Congratulations to Hannah!

Miscellaneous

Finally, there were some announcements about publishing opportunities (with the Nordic Journal of African Studies and with CAL at Language Science Press, where there may also be an editorial opportunity).

We thanked everyone again for all their hard work and ended the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Morton, ACAL Secretary

Financial Report follows

2024-2025 ACAL Financial Report
May 17, 2025

Carry forward (August 31, 2024)		**$13,781.52**

2023-2024

Income		
5 lifetime membership (x $400)		**$2,000.00**
67 x $15 annual membership	**$1,005.00**	
36 x $25 annual membership	**$900**	
1 lifetime membership Africa (x $200)		**$200**
Total	**$4,105.00**	
Expenses		
Conference payment(s)	**$2,500**	
Paypal charges	**$210.53**	
Web hosting (Siteground)		**$85.75**
Total	**$2,796.28**	
Total revenue 2023-2024		**$1,308.72**
Balance (August 31, 2024)		**$13,781.52**
Paypal ($3,846.45)		
US Bank ($9,935.07)		

Sept 1, 2024 - May 15, 2025 - Summary so far this year

Income		
1 lifetime membership (x $400)	**$400**	
62 x $15 annual membership	**$930**	
54 x $25 annual membership	**$1,350**	
Donation	**$25**	
Total	**$2,705.00**	
Expenses		
State of CA registration renewal	**$50**	
Statement of information update (new officers)	**$25**	
Conference costs (Minnesota)	**$2,000**	
Membership Works	**$420**	

Paypal charges	**$149.59**
Web hosting (Siteground)	**$297.75**
Total	**$2,942.34**
Total revenue (2024-present)	**-$237.34**
Balance (May 16, 2025)	**$13,504.18**

US Bank ($7,167.32)
PNC Bank ($3,100.00)
Paypal ($3,236.86)

Prepared by Christopher Green, Treasurer