Minutes of the ACAL 57 Business Meeting
Held in-person at the University at Buffalo on May 23, 2026, with approximately 120 people attending.

President's remarks
Dr. James Essegbey welcomed everyone and thanked the conference organizers for putting together a wonderful conference with delicious food. James also thanked the Treasurer and Secretary and ceded the floor to them.

Treasurer's report
Dr. Christopher Green noted that the transfer for funds from US Bank to PNC is now complete, which allows more flexibility for treasurers with more online options and branches in more places.

He also showed a preliminary financial report, noting that this is the first year that the association handled registration for a conference on behalf of the organizers, which added extra complications to the accounting, but in summary, the money paid in for conference registration will be used to cover conference costs, some of the conference cost breakdown was shared.

With memberships, including 5 lifetime memberships, we have over $500 in surplus for the year.

Secretary's report
Dr. Deborah Morton shared some logistics, first discussing future conference locations (ACAL 58 will be held at Georgetown, ACAL 59 will happen in Toronto. She then asked for volunteers for ACAL 60, to be held in 2029. Travis Major volunteered UCLA and USC to host that year. Others were asked to think about whether they could eventually host ACAL 61.

EC member election
Dr. Morton thanked Dr. Jenneke van der Wal for her three years of service on the ACAL Executive Committee. Jenneke had emailed her greetings and appreciation as she was not able to be there in person.

We originally had three nominations for ACAL Executive Committee, but two had dropped out, so the remaining candidate, Dr. Brent Henderson, spoke briefly to introduce himself to the association members. Dr. Henderson was then unanimously elected by the members present, and will serve a 3-year term on EC.

Report from the Director of ACAL Proceedings
Dr. Mike Diercks shared a little bit about how ACAL proceedings worked, and introduced Dr. Jason Overfelt as his deputy, eventually to take over the Director position. He also acknowledged and thanked Dr. Michael Marlo as editor of the book series where our proceedings are published. He then gave an update on currently outstanding ACAL proceedings.

The proceedings of ACAL 54 will be posted online any day now (they are fully complete, just awaiting posting).

There is no current update on ACAL 55 proceedings, but we are in the process of trying to get an update.

For ACAL 56 proceedings, Jason Overfelt shared that there have been 55 submissions, and they have all been sent out to reviewers. He also encouraged everyone to get their reviews returned, and to remember that submitting to the proceedings meant agreeing to review at least one paper. Chris Green then talked as the point person for the upcoming ACAL 57 proceedings. The deadline for submission will likely be September 30 or so. Chris also invited graduate students (or others) interested in helping edit to contact him, thanking graduate students Katie Russell and Matthew Ajibade who have recently helped with proceedings not coming from their universities.

AI policy was also discussed. Recent proceedings have had a zero-tolerance policy for hallucinated references, and that is likely to continue subject to local organizers' decisions (this policy will continue for ACAL 57). A full policy for ACAL as a whole has not been created, but may eventually be discussed. The general AI policy for Language Science Press was brought up and shared.

ACAL 58 Organizers' remarks

On behalf of the organizers of ACAL 58, Dr. Michael Obiri Yeboah told attendees that the deadline for abstract submissions for ACAL 58 would likely be early in the fall, especially for folks who might need visas. He encouraged everyone to submit abstracts.

Lifetime Achievement Award

James Essegbey presented the ACAL Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Laura Downing, immediate past President of ACAL. He read her biography and her acceptance remarks, as she was unable to be present in person. The plaque was shown to the members and will be sent to Dr. Downing.

Closing remarks

After ascertaining that there was no further business, questions or comments, the meeting was adjourned.