

Association of Third-level teachers of German in Ireland

Annual General Meeting

Dublin Institute of Technology

Saturday 13 November 2010

In Attendance: Tina Pusse (UCG), Hans Walter Schmidt-Hannisa (UCG), Gisela Holfter (UL), Kristin Brogan (ITT), Rachel MagShamhráin (UCC), Cordula Böcking-Politis(St. Andrews), Helen O'Sullivan(TCD), Catherine Spencer (DIT), Martin O'Neill(DIT), Gillian S. Martin (TCD), Susan O'Shaughnessy (DIT), Sheree Borge(CIT), Sabine Krobb(UCD) Simone Schroth(UCD) Deirdre Byrnes(UCG) Siobhán Donovan (UCD) Gillian Pye(UCD) Ute Hoefler-Soden (DIT), Úna Carthy (LyIT), Rosanna Molloy(WIT), Jean Conacher(UL)

Apologies: Christiane Schonfeld, Jürgen Barkhoff(TCD), Moray McGowan(TCD), Fionnuala Kennedy(WIT), Patricia Mulkeen(GMIT), Riana Walsh (Tallaght IoT), Doris Devilly (UCG), Geraldine Mitchell (Tallaght IoT), Manfred Schewe(UCC)

Minutes AGM 2010

Una distributed copies of minutes 2009.

Two amendments to the 2009 Minutes were proposed and agreed: Tina Pusse requested that her attendance should be recorded and it was also proposed that the Treasurer's Report should be inserted after the Minutes.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairperson's Report

Jean Conacher briefly outlined the main role of the Committee which is to represent all interests relating to the teaching of German at third level and to act as a channel of communication for all members. Typically, communication takes place by e-mail, with one Committee meeting early in the calendar year, in order to tease out major issues such as the annual conference and the Yearbook; on one occasion, a conference call was organised, with all five committee members communicating from their home institutions. Jean also outlined the Committee's plan to have the website fully bilingual in due course. It was agreed to allocate €300 to the task of translating the website.

Treasurer's Report

Rosanna distributed copies of all relevant documents and presented a Statement of Financial Activities, highlighting the fact that membership has

fallen slightly in recent times. This has led to a reduction in funds and raised concerns in relation to the funding and sale of the Yearbook. There was a query in relation to the sponsorship from Canada which has not yet been lodged to the Association's account. It was confirmed that this sum has been agreed and will be lodged in due course. Rosanna also explained that some subscriptions have already arrived for the coming 2010-2011 session. She recommended that a cut-off point in October should be agreed for calculating future budgets. It was agreed to adopt the overall Treasurer's Statement, as presented.

Rosanna recommended that the German Embassy should be approached again for funding of next year's Yearbook *Nach der Postmoderne*. She also recommended that the Committee should agree as to which embassy should be approached for funding of each future edition of the Yearbook. She queried whether it was necessary to print 200 copies of each edition, as sales had not been so high. Hans Walter Schmidt-Hannisa explained that there would not be a great saving involved by printing less than 200 copies; however, it was agreed that further inquiries be made, in the interest of both the environment and the budget. It was agreed that the Editorial Committee should decide how many copies should be printed in future. All ATLTGI members are urged to order previous editions of the Yearbook and Schriftenreihe for their libraries.

Secretary's Report

Una Carthy raised the issue of mailshots and asked members for feedback in relation to the frequency and timing of e-mails. She explained that the committee's original plan had been to have a monthly mailshot containing a summary of all events for the following month. However, this has been difficult to implement in practice, as some events needed to be circulated immediately, due to short notice given. Una gave a commitment to reduce the number of e-mails and include as many events as possible in each mailshot. A list of 'bouncing' e-mail addresses was circulated, in order to identify what, if any, members are failing to receive information from the committee.

Editor's Report

It was noted that there had not yet been a great response to the recently circulated Call for Contributions for the next edition of the Yearbook *Nach der Postmoderne*, perhaps because submission date cited in CfP was not until spring 2011.

The editors will send out another reminder (also in English) in due course. The deadline is 15 February 2011 and the editors would encourage all contributions. Rachel MagShamhráin thanked fellow editors and this year's guest co-editors for their work on the Yearbook, the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta for their partial funding of the volume, and mentioned that Hans-Walter will now be stepping down from the editorial team after 5 years of invaluable service. Members were reminded that the Yearbook consists of a thematic section as well as a general section, book reviews and conference reports, and invited contributions to all of these. The title of the 2012

Yearbook has also been decided. It is "Adaptations: Text into Film." RM has also had the Yearbook accepted for inclusion in the MLA Directory of Periodicals. This should improve circulation. Other avenues to be explored for selling the Yearbook are Amazon and Ebay. Members were also reminded of the Schriftenreihe as an avenue for publishing their research (conference proceedings etc.). Florian Krobb continues to be the contact person for this venture. RM also encouraged Early Career Researchers, in particular, to submit articles to the Yearbook to showcase their research. She went on to highlight the issue of external funding which will probably be a problem over the next couple of years, and that while the German Embassy had indicated a general willingness to fund a volume, it remained uncertain whether they would have the budget to do so in 2011. RM suggested that a reserve of funds should be built up in order to provide for publication costs in more straitened times, especially as the Yearbook is an important publication outlet, showcasing Irish research in the broad field of German Studies.

Election of new committee members

Jean Conacher noted that the agreed procedures allowed members to serve for two years at a time. It was proposed that Kristin Brogan (co-chairperson) and Una Carthy (secretary), both of whom have already served for two years, should be re-elected for another year, after which time they intend to step down from their respective positions. Sheree Borge was proposed and seconded to take over Rosanna Molloy's position as Treasurer. Gillian Pye was proposed and seconded to take over Jean Conacher's position as co-chairperson. On behalf of the committee, Jean Conacher welcomed the new members of the committee and Siobhán Ó Donovan proposed a vote of thanks to both Jean and Rosanna who had served the Committee so well over the past three years.

Student Numbers

Kristin Brogan presented a summary of the nationwide uptake of German among students at both university and IoT level. On the one hand, it appears that there are quite positive trends emerging, with many institutions recording an increase in numbers opting for German in first year. Nonetheless, there is also cause for concern, as 3 IoTs have discontinued German completely and some institutions have no progression path for students who have done two years of German and wish to continue their studies in 3rd and 4th year. Members found the summary most informative and it was proposed to post it onto the ATLTGI website.

Kristin also proposed that a link to the website of the IoT Languages Strategy Network should be included in the ATLTGI website.

ATLTGI Conference 2011

Mary Immaculate College in Limerick is the venue for the 2011 ATLTGI conference which will take place on 8 October. There will be a Swiss focus with the title 'Where to now Helvetia?'; members are invited to contact Carmel

Finnan for further details. Any proposals for subsequent conferences should be made directly to members of the ATLTGI committee.
It was noted that recent publications can be sold at next year's conference, should members have any books they wish to advertise.

Announcements

Details of any other events which may be of interest to the ATLTGI community should be forwarded to Una Carthy for circulation.