



# South Eastern Conference On Linguistics

## SECOL 85

The Inn at Virginia Tech and Skelton Conference Center  
Blacksburg, Virginia  
Virginia Tech (host)

### Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, April 20, 2018

12:00 – 2:00, Preston's Restaurant in the lobby of the Inn at VT

Presiding: Ralf Thiede, President

## AGENDA

### I. Welcome and Introductions: Ralf Thiede, President

In attendance were Ralf Thiede (President), Catherine Evans Davies (Secretary), Paul Reed (Treasurer), Felice Coles (Journal Editor), Jennifer Cramer (Immediate Past President), Katie Carmichael (Local Organizer for 2018), Rachael Albritten (Executive Committee Member-at-Large), Justin White (Local Organizer for 2019). Absent were: Philip Carter (Vice President), Ramón Escamilla (Executive Committee Member-at-Large), Nominating Committee: Kirk Hazen, Paulina Bounds, Irina Shport

### II. Approval of Minutes from 2017: Ralf Thiede, President

The minutes from the 2017 meeting and the agenda for the 2018 meeting had been circulated by the Secretary. The minutes were approved.

### III. Committee Reports: Ralf Thiede, President

**Treasurer (Paul Reed):** Reed reported on the transition from the previous treasurer, and Ben sent an email with a report. Our finances are presently in stable health:

US Bank \$1,278.30

PayPal \$9,564.85

Regions \$110.00

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Total \$10,953.15

An account has been set up at RegionsBank with branches in SECOL states, and the checkbook is in transition. Ben Torbert will send the checks for the Reza Ordoubadian Awards for last year, and Paul Reed will send the check for the award for this year from the new account. Given the problems with Wells Fargo, it was decided not to use them even though they have branches in all SECOL states. We currently have a debit card.

There was discussion of who should be on the account in addition to the Treasurer: President and Journal Editor. Reed included Thiede and Coles in paperwork. They will

simply need to go to a branch with ID to get on the account. [Reed mentioned something else that I didn't get that sounded like "GI number" that he will take care of soon after end of semester.] Reed also mentioned that his sister is an attorney in Florida, where we are incorporated.

PayPal will be linked up to the new account. [Is there more on this that we should add?]

Local organizer Katie Carmichael informed us of the unusually high cost of this SECOL meeting [\$30,000---three times the usual cost] that was an effect of the Virginia Tech requirements for use of the Inn including food; the Executive Committee praised the skill of Carmichael in raising funds to cover the costs.

**Nominating Committee (Ralf Thiede):** Kirk Hazen rotates off in 2018, Paulina Bounds will serve until 2019 [correction: Paulina's term ended in 2018], and Irina Shport until 2020. Mike Picone will be part of the slate to join the Nominating Committee with a term that ends in 2021. Katie Carmichael and Justin White will be on the slate to join the Executive Committee. A slate of candidates for the Vice President position will be posted in September as per requirements of the Constitution. There are currently two candidates (Tamara Lindner and Jo Tyler) that the Nominating Committee can talk to.

**Southern Journal of Linguistics (Felice Coles, Editor):** Thiede, as the first journal editor who also oversaw the transition from the *SECOL Review* to the *Southern Journal of Linguistics*, praised Coles for the fine job that she has done in maintaining the quality of the journal. Coles asked that SECOL identify a new journal editor by 2020 when her term expires, so that she can train the new person. Institutional support is needed, so the search will include information concerning typical institutional support that the journal editor has had in the past. The new editor will (1) take office in 2020, (2) commit in 2019 and shadow the current editor for a year to ensure the smoothest possible transition, (3) work with subscribers, libraries, and EBSCO, (4) manage the journal's budget and mailing list. Typical past arrangements with universities that have housed the journal, concerning the necessary resources for a journal of this size, have included (1) institutional support for a mailing budget, (2) departmental support for a student worker and a course release, (3) shelving space to house archives, back issues. Interested parties should begin negotiations with department chairs, given their role in allocating resources for course releases and student workers. Thiede will make an announcement at the Business Meeting.

Coles explained the progression of release of each issue: she sends out print copies first to those who still receive them (life members) and to libraries; then she sends the issue to EBSCO (through which we can get it electronically in our libraries); and finally she sends out PDF copies **to all non-lifetime members whose dues are current** in batches of 10. If you don't receive your PDF, check your JUNK folder (to which emails with multiple addresses and attachments may automatically go) and adjust the settings. Reed pointed out that we need to coordinate the Paypal and paper dues payments so that the Journal Editor has the most up-to-date list of members.

**Secretary (Catherine Evans Davies):** Davies reported that former Webmaster Wilbur Bennett has been very helpful in providing information on how to use WordPress for the website. The Secretary and Treasurer are now sharing the Webmaster responsibilities pursuant to a decision by the Executive Committee to coordinate their responsibilities concerning membership lists and communications. Their current location on the same campus should help with this. It is also the case that Reed has extensive experience with websites. Davies has been able to use the website to send out announcements, including reminders to students for submissions for the Reza Ordoubadian Award. Jennifer Cramer provided a master Excel sheet of past and present SECOL members, and Davies will work with that in coordination with Treasurer Reed to maintain a list of current members and a list of interested persons who would like to receive SECOL notifications (in effect, lists of active and inactive members). Minutes were sent out last April, posted to the website, and sent again to the Executive Committee just before the 2018 conference. Davies noted that the Constitution is linked on the website, and Thiede suggested that it be listed more prominently in the menu (as part of History: History/Constitution).

Davies asked Carmichael to give us the names of organizers and student workers who helped with the conference so that they could be included appropriately in the official resolution of thanks to be read at the Business Meeting.

**Awards Committee (Catherine Davies): Reza Ordoubadian Award:** Davies sent out emails encouraging students who presented at 2017 to submit their papers by the deadline of January 8, 2018. There were five submissions, and Marie Bissell's paper, "A perceptual dialectology approach to evaluating language attitudes towards South-perceived speech in the United States" was selected as the winner. Davies created an award certificate and it will be presented to Marie Bissell at the General Business Meeting (if it is possible to do color printing at the Inn). If they are present at the General Business Meeting, the recipients of the awards last year will also receive certificates. Through a miscommunication, our award winners for the 2016 conference have not received their checks, so theirs will be sent out when the check is sent out for this year's winner.

#### **IV. Venues for Future Meetings: (Ralf Thiede)**

##### **A. Venues**

2019—Florida Atlantic (Justin White): potentially around April 14<sup>th</sup>. Important considerations are the seasons for snowbirds and tourists. Because the FAU campus and Boca Raton have serious drawbacks, Justin is exploring a hotel in Delray Beach ("the funnest town in America"), which is about 5 miles from Boca Raton. Considerations are Easter [April 21, 2019] and Passover [April 20<sup>th</sup>] holidays, finals weeks, taxes, competing conferences (AAAL/TESOL, 4Cs, Appalachian Studies). Access is via Palm Beach International Airport or Fort Lauderdale Airport, with shuttle service or Uber. Justin is planning to get the announcement out as early as possible and to reach out to people who haven't participated before at the University of Houston--Downtown, the University of Tampa, and Florida State. The idea is to get the call out as early as possible to allow graduate students [and others!] to request funding. There was discussion of

different possibilities for abstract deadlines, with considerations being (1) a possibility for early acceptance so that graduate students (and sometimes faculty) can apply for funding before it is all gone, (2) a possibility for a “rolling acceptance” process, and (3) maintenance of the early January final deadline so that students can prepare papers from the fall semester for submission. White will explore these options and will include a rationale in the call for papers so that graduate students understand the importance of early submission and acceptance for funding opportunities. For wide publicity it was suggested that the conference be listed on the LSA site and sent out via LinguistList.

White will coordinate with Thiede as President, with cc to the Executive Committee. Carmichael will send a set of instructions originally created by Robin Sabino on how to run a SECOL conference.

2020—University of Mississippi (Felice Coles): possibly March 26-28, next choice would be early March (dictated by Ole Miss). Easter Sunday is April 12, Passover April 8, and Mardi Gras is Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>. Conferences? AAAL/TESOL, 4Cs, GURT. The problem with doing it during Spring Break is that there are no student workers, but the advantage is that the buildings are available.

2021: It was suggested that we approach Greg Johnson at LSU

The next LAVIS will be in 2025.

**V. Upcoming Votes (Ralf Thiede):** A slate for Vice President will be posted in September and the procedure followed in the Constitution.

## **VI. Other Business**

A. A resolution will be formulated to be read at the general business meeting:

### **Resolution Thanking the Organizers and Sponsors of SECOL 85 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia**

Whereas SECOL LXXXV, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, April 19-21, 2018, provided a well-ordered and well-equipped forum for high-quality papers,

Whereas the convention profited from good staffing and support throughout and offered a fine venue for academic exchange and collegial ambience, and

Whereas the organizer accomplished extraordinary fundraising success in meeting the special local institutional requirements,

Be it resolved that the Executive Committee of the SouthEastern Conference on Linguistics extend thanks and sincere appreciation to the organizers, sponsors, and staffers of our 2018 annual conference:

- Katie Carmichael, Abby Walker, Aarnes Gudmestad, and Joe Eska

- Virginia Tech’s Department of English; Humanities at Virginia Tech; the Moss Arts Center; the Institute for Society, Culture and Environment (ISCE); the Institute for Policy and Governance; the Office for Inclusion and Diversity; and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.
- B. There as a general discussion of how to keep the membership engaged between conferences and involve younger members more actively. One possibility is reviving the Newsletter to include things like the minutes and perhaps TOC for the journal, announcements of resources like the Appalachian Language Website that were discussed at the conference, spotlight on students who get jobs, coordinated by the Secretary. Coles offered to become Newsletter Editor after she completes her term as Journal Editor. It was noted that people may not read newsletters that arrive via email. Rather than trying to restart the newsletter at this time, it was decided to start by working with the Facebook page as a way of communicating that would connect with more people and with younger members. It could also serve to build community among members in various ways, including posting photos from conferences. There was some discussion and apparent agreement that the Vice President could have social media as a charge. There was also discussion of whether we should include a grad student member on the Exec Committee, associated with a social media role (which would be a great line on a CV). The Constitution would allow this. Jennifer Cramer offered to ask people to connect to the Facebook page at the end of her plenary session. [Note: Christine Mallinson is the current administrator and she has now added Albritten, Reed, and Davies as administrators. Albritten has offered to be social media chair for Facebook as continuing involvement after the end of her term on the Executive Committee.] Another possibility that was discussed was “special interest groups” that could perhaps meet over lunch during the conference. It was also suggested that White consider pairing up students with mentors at the 2019 conference.

**VII. Adjournment: (Ralf Thiede):** The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Catherine E. Davies, Secretary