

SSILA Annual Business Meeting  
January 7, 2024  
New York City, New York

### **A. Greetings and Acknowledgments from President (Jack Martin)**

The following SSILA members were thanked for their service as they step away from their roles:

- Executive Committee Member-at Large – Susan Gehr
- Nominations Committee – Racquel-María Sapién
- In Memoriam editor and organizer – George Aaron Broadwell

We note that the In Memoriam editor and organizer duties will be included in the duties of the SSILA Secretary going forward.

The following SSILA members were welcomed to their new roles:

- Incoming Member-at-Large – Jaime Pérez González
- Incoming Nominations Committee – Hilaria Cruz

### **B. 2023 Awards & Prizes**

1. Best Student Paper Award 2023, given at SSILA 2023 (Jack Martin)  
J Drew Hancock-Mac Tamhais, “Revising the particle class in Northern Iroquoian”
2. Mary Haas Book Award (Jack Martin for Gabriela Caballero, Chair)  
Melvatha Chee, A Study on the Acquisition of Navajo Verbs in Children Aged 13 Months Through 10 Years, 2017 Dissertation, University of New Mexico.
3. Travel Awards (Susan Gehr, chair)  
Awardees: Nicolás Arcos López, Randeana Peter, Alexander Rice, Margarita Martínez Pérez  
Total amount of awards given was \$5085 dollars.
4. There were no Ken Hale Prize, Victor Golla Prize, or SSILA Archiving Prize submissions in 2023.
5. Best Student Paper Award 2024 was not yet decided by the Committee.

### **C. Committee Reports**

1. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Mary Linn)

#### **Financial Summary 2023**

Summary: Beginning \$19,855.32; Ending \$29,624.86

Incoming:

Memberships: \$6,606.46

Donations: \$6,970 (+\$5,000 = \$15,970)

2023 Online Meetings: \$1970

Travel Award Challenge: \$5,000

Major outgoing changes:

Memberspace +\$40/mo

Increase of \$250 stipend for Program Coordinator & Secretary (\$1250)

LSA meetings costs (\$5,214.50)

a. Memberships

Student 47

Discounted 33

Regular 102

Lifetime 31 (Past presidents and Golla Prize holders)

Total 213

**Membership benefits**

- Give talks at SSILA meetings (double blind reviewed abstracts)
- Discount with publishers
- SSILA E-news
- Ability to post on the website and e-news (via the secretary)
- Access to historical bulletins, newsletter, meeting notes
- Community of scholars and advocates

**2021 Elections (for terms starting in 2024)**

Ballots for Member-at-Large and Nominating Committee terms starting in 2024 were sent to the membership on November 15, and the poll ended on December 15, 2023.

251 ballots sent; 90 people voted, or 39% of our membership.

Results:

Member-at-Large: Jaime Pérez González (3-year term)

Nominating Committee: Hilaria Cruz (3-year term)

2. Program Committee (Martin Kohlberger, Program Coordinator)

PC Chair and outgoing PC member - Françoise Rose

New PC member since February 2023 - Adrienne Tsikewa

For the first time since January 2020, the PC prepared for an in-person meeting in January 2024, to be held in New York City, NY, as part of the larger LSA Annual Meeting.

Figures for this and previous years:

|                     | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> | <b>2022</b> | <b>2021</b> |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Submitted</u>    |             |             |             |             |
| Organized sessions: | 6           | 1           | 1           | 5           |
| Papers:             | 71          | 54          | 72          | 73          |
| <u>Rejections</u>   |             |             |             |             |
| Organized sessions: | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Papers:             | 12          | 6           | 8           | 7           |
| <u>Acceptances</u>  |             |             |             |             |
| Organized sessions: | 6           | 1           | 1           | 5           |
| Papers:             | 59          | 48          | 64          | 24          |
| Papers withdrawn:   | 5           | 3           | 10          | 3           |
| Posters:            | -           | -           | -           | 42          |
| Posters withdrawn:  | -           | -           | -           | 12          |

Call for new PC member - contact Jack Martin or the secretary

### 3. IJAL (Mary Linn, for Doris Payne & David Beck)

#### 2023

45 new papers (a 25% increase over 2022 submissions)  
 3 rejected after one or more rounds of review  
 20 desk rejections  
 22 in review or revision

A summary of the status of completed papers over the last three years (January 2021 to December 2023) is as follows:

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| accepted         | 16       |
| rejected         | 20       |
| desk reject      | 45       |
| <u>withdrawn</u> | <u>6</u> |
| TOTAL            | 87       |

The acceptance rate for the 2021–2023 time period is 38% (discounting desk rejects and counting withdrawals as rejected).

Average time from first submission to final acceptance for 2021–2023 was 363 days (compared to 374 days for last year's report).

To reduce the time from final acceptance of a manuscript to publication, editors are continuing the policy of encouraging authors to keep their papers to under 50 double-spaced manuscript pages in length, in order to accommodate more papers published per year.

For the full IJAL report, please log into your account on the website, and then access membership Archives – Annual Meetings 2024.

## **D. New Business**

### 1. Proposed Changes to the Bylaws (Jack Martin)

These changes were discussed in order, with discussion from the floor as needed.

- Wording change to the Object of the Society (Article 1)

Proposal: the word 'scientific' is removed from the Object.

Discussion: there was no objection to this change. Possible changes to the wording of 'Languages of the Americas' to be more inclusive, with a motion to change to 'Languages of the Western Hemisphere' made. There was no second.

- Secretary and Treasurer positions split (Articles 2-6)

Proposal: the position of Secretary/Treasurer is divided into two positions; Secretary (with a term of three years) and Treasurer (with a term of six years).

Discussion: the rationale for the change was discussed with questions answered. There was no objection to this change.

- Update procedure to introduce amendments to the bylaws (Article 7)

Proposal: in addition to the current procedure, by which proposed changes to the Bylaws must be proposed and signed by 10 members in good standing, the Executive Committee may introduce proposed changes to the Bylaws. The remainder of the procedure is unchanged.

Discussion: It was confirmed that this change would not eliminate or circumvent Bylaws changes proposed directly by members, the existing procedure is still allowed. It was also confirmed that the terms of the Officers are staggered to ensure that there is continuity in leadership over time.

Motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws passed with no 'nay' votes.

## 2. Future Meeting Formats Discussion (Jack Martin)

Discussion about the locations and formats of future meetings focused on:

- ensuring that future meetings are equitable in allowing participation by all SSILA members without imposing undue burdens;
- discussing the current and future relationship between the annual meeting of SSILA and the LSA;
- considering options in terms of meeting modality (face-to-face, online only, mixed-format) going forward.

A productive discussion ensued with members expressed concerns over costs, travel burdens, and difficulties in coordinating with the LSA this year, as well as observations about successes and challenges associated with different choices.

The SSILA Program Committee will reach out to membership to gather feedback from the community and share that feedback with the Executive Committee. SSILA members are encouraged to respond to the Program Committee's outreach efforts.

## 3. Other/Open

There were three announcements:

- The 2024 Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL), University of Santa Barbara, was announced with SSILA members encouraged to submit abstracts through January 15 (<https://www.wailconference.org/wail-26>)
- The 2024 Symposium on American Indian Languages (SAIL), University of Arizona, was announced with SSILA members encouraged to submit abstracts through January 15 (<https://sites.google.com/view/sail2024/home>).
- CoLANG 2024, to be hosted by the Salt River Indian Community and Arizona State University, June 2024, was announced with SSILA members encouraged to attend. Registration will open soon (<https://www.colang2024.org/home>).

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

January 11, 2024  
Amy Fountain  
Secretary