

# LCS members' meeting — 2017-11-18

Held via Slack, with 34 members in attendance

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This meeting also features an [Art 14§10 ballot vote](#), ending 1h into the meeting.

## Call to order and proxies

34 people in total were present:

### **Board Members**

Alex Fink, BenJamin Johnson, Billy J.B, Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets, Jan van Steenberg, Jeffrey Brown, Joey Windsor, Sai, Tim Stoffel, Tony Harris.

### **Members**

Alex G. Igbneweka, Alexis Hugelmann, Angel Serrano, Arnt Richard Johansen, David Peterson, George Corley, Jeffrey Jones, John Quijada, Kaleissin, Lisa Weißbach, Lisa Maroski, Nicolás M. Campi, Patrick Niedzielski, Pete Bleackley, Rasmus Praelsthom, Rob Cabe, Rowan Stephenson, Sascha Baer, Scott Scharlach, Sea Chapman, Tim Smith, Tobias Fernandez, Veronica Hamilton, William Annis.

Initially, 30 people were declared present, as well as 6 proxies, totalling 36 potential votes, which was above the quorum, set to 34.

A vote for members of the Board of Directors was initiated.

## Call for agenda items and motions from members

- Should people who write for Fiat Lingua be compensated, and how? (brought by William Annis)
- What do people think of Slack so far? (brought by Jan van Steenberg)

## Officer reports

### **President — Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets**

« Naturally, 2017 was the year of the 7th Language Creation Conference, that took place in July and which I was very lucky to attend. My impression, after attending 3 out of the 7 LCCs that have taken place so far, is that the LCC has grown from its humble beginnings to a must-attend event that attracts not just conlangers, but also admirers of our craft! We had a total of 63 attendees at the LCC7, breaking the record that the previous conference had established. Of those, at least 6 people were non-conlangers, and these were not just supportive parents but also people who were simply interested in the conference and constructed languages in general! The LCC keeps growing and attracting more and more people from very diverse backgrounds, and this is a trend we have to support.

Once again, I participated in a few interviews. Interest in constructed languages is still rising in the media, and we are getting more and more visible.

Also, use of the LCS Jobs Board has been stable. We handled 5 job requests so far (of which one is currently open. Have a look if you haven't already), 1 more than last year.

The LCS keeps growing, and we need to evolve to be able to keep doing our job right, i.e. promoting the art of language creation, and supporting language creators. Basically, we need help, people willing to volunteer some time and effort for us. Not only as directors or officers, but simply as volunteers. Whether it is for maintaining our online infrastructure, handling our social media accounts, helping with our newsletter, or other activities which I can't think of at the moment, help would be more

than welcome. And think of it this way: the more people are willing to lend a hand, the less each and everyone will have to do! So please consider volunteering some of your time to help us out.

These are changing times for the conlanging community, and the LCS will evolve to keep up with these changes. Thanks for supporting us so far, and I hope you'll keep supporting us in the future. »

## Vice-President — Jan van Steenberg

Nothing to add to the President's report.

## Secretary — Tim Stoffel

« This was not a good year for me as Secretary, as I had a lot of outside issues, including a nasty legislative fight. But as Jan said, this group runs pretty well, with Cristophe in charge! »

## Treasurer — Jeffrey Brown

[Full report here.](#)

# Staff reports

## Membership — BenJamin Johnson

[Full report here.](#)

At the time of the meeting, 65 new members joined the LCS during 2017 and 59 left. This makes for a growth of +6 members, for a total of 165 members.

It was noted that a number of members had let their membership expire. A point was made that it could be because of a lack of awareness it was about to expire. An automated system of reminders is being worked on, as currently only memberships bought with PayPal are automatically renewable.

## Library — Jeffrey Brown (Sylvia Sotomayor absent)

[Full report here.](#)

It was noted that the library is only used by very few people, despite it being free and containing 260 titles.

# Results of the votes for Board members

[Full results here.](#)

Names	Approve	Reject	Abstain
BenJamin P. Johnson	50	0	0
Christophe Grandsire-Koevoets	46	3	1
Jan van Steenberg	49	0	1

Jeffrey Brown	47	2	1
Nicolás Matías Campi	45	1	4
Sai	46	2	2
Tim Stoffel	32	3	15

All those who ran for re-election were re-elected.

Nicolás M. Campi was elected into directorship, making it so the Board holds 12 people.

Entered as write-ins: Britton Watkins, David J. Peterson, Doug Ball, Grayson Richardson, John Quijada, Lucille Blumire, Paul Frommer, Sascha Baer, Sylvia Sotomayor, Tobias Fernandez, William Annis.

## Agenda items and motions

### Increase of the minima for Jobs

Discuss increasing compensation minima for the LCS Jobs Board, with additional rules to cater for jobs brought by individuals with very tight budgets. From David Peterson.

MOTION to approve David Peterson's recommendation to increase minimum compensation at Jobs Board, with the details to be left to the Board of Directors.

SECONDED and voted for by 27 people.

John Quijada abstained and David Peterson reported that "Doug Ball abstains; Philip Newton and Sylvia Sotomayor vote yes."

### Motion to nominate the write-ins of the Board election

From Sai.

John Quijada, David Peterson, William Annis declined the nomination, and David Peterson reported that "Sylvia formally declined" and that Doug Ball, Britton Walkins and Paul Frommer did as well.

Tobias Fernandez being lesser-known than his counterparts, he introduced himself:

"My name is Tobias Fernandez, a rather long-time conlanger even though I only joined conlanging communities in the last three years. I am from Bordeaux, France.

I have been involved in the moderation of the subreddit r/conlangs for a bit over a year, and my rather free schedule has let me become its most active moderator.

I also have some webdev-related skills, should the webtech need some assistance.

I speak fluent english and french and although I was raised with spanish, it's a bit rusty.

My main goal in the conlanging community has been to provide as much resources and help as I can and I hope to continue doing this adequately.

I mostly deal with a priori languages, but I have decent knowledge of Latin and Romance languages in general."

## Results

[Full results here.](#)

	Approve	Reject	Abstain
Britton Watkins	13	3	15
Paul Frommer	19	2	10
Tobias Fernandez	26	0	5

## New web tech

We are in need of a new web tech. Discuss duties. Ask for volunteers. From Tony Harris.

Tony Harris:

“I would like to pass the baton of web tech over to someone else who has the time and energy to put into the job. I initially took this role as a backup for Sylvia, and only selected parts, but of course when she resigned from it I got the whole thing. It's fun (at times at least), but my life just hasn't allowed me to put the kind of time into it that it needs.”

Tony Harris provided a full description of the Web tech role [here](#).

**No** replacement was found during the meeting.

## Fiat Lingua authors compensations

Should people who write for Fiat Lingua be compensated, and how? From William Annis.

William Annis:

“Sometimes bands (or other artists) are asked to perform or display their art for free, "for exposure". Here in Wisconsin, exposure is something you die from.

I think some modest compensation should be given to people who write articles for Fiat Lingua, rather than ask for work for free.

I asked around a bit about academic journal articles, and something in the \$25-\$75 range isn't unreasonable, and \$300/yr for articles seems sustainable in the LCS budget.

\$900/yr might be more than we want to do, but the treasurer can figure out that math.

I propose that the treasurer, working with the board, and the Fiat Lingua editor 1) investigate the fiscal and practical consequences of paying Fiat Lingua authors and 2) if it determined that such a payment is sustainable, create basic policy and procedure for doing so.

I am swamped with other things in life right now, so I've avoided running for the board again, or volunteering for tasks, etc., etc. But since I'm suggesting work for the board with this proposal, I'm willing to help for this task, if it is needed.”

No consensus seemed to be reached among the the Fiat Lingua team about this issue. It was suggested that the question be considered internally first, then presented to the Board.

## What do people think of Slack so far?

From Jan van Steenbergen.

Alex Fink: "I was initially hopeful that Slack would improve our meeting efficiency -- and threads and reactji did help, in the first phases -- but once we got to the New Agenda Items we found ourselves as mired and procedurally ill-disciplined as usual"

Joey Windsor: "I, personally, think that it has worked much better than IRC last year. There were a few hiccups, but nothing too bad"

David Peterson: "Better, but there are certain unavoidable pitfalls to having a meeting like this. Overall, I like it."

Jan Van Steenberg: "My feeling is that Slack works very well, but all those sub-discussions at the right side of the screen make it kind of confusing sometimes. Next time we should try to minimise those IMO."

Alexis Hugelmann: "Polls and reactji are nice, I do not know much of other chatting tools, so it's good to me."

The overall consensus was that Slack is a positive addition to the LCS meetings

## Grants

Where have grants been granted in the past? And how can we bring more attention to the LCS grant programme? From various people.

In 2017, as of the date of the meeting, 3 grants (for free registration) to volunteers at LCC7, \$50 a piece.

In 2016, \$3000 for the Conlanging film.

In 2015, \$1155.

In 2014, none.

In 2013, none.

In 2012, \$150.

The absence of a public page detailing the grants was noted.

Using grants to reimburse travel expenses or help people attend an out-of-country LCC were suggested.