

12 July 2019

Minutes of a meeting held on the Groenkloof Campus of the University of Pretoria on 1 July 2019 to establish the Network of Expertise in Language Assessment (NExLA)

Present

Kabelo Sebolai (interim chairperson)
Albert Weideman (interim coordinator)
Colleen du Plessis
Thandeka Mdlalo
Nangamso Mtsatse
Sefa Owusu
Avasha Rambiritch
Sanet Steyn
Tobie van Dyk
Johann van der Walt

1. Opening and welcome

The interim chairperson opens the meeting and welcomes all present.

2. Adoption of constitution

The draft constitution (nex00114) that was circulated six weeks before the meeting is discussed, and several minor amendments are proposed and adopted. It is then

Resolved

That the constitution (nex00131) be finally approved and adopted.

2. Election of executive

In terms of the constitution, the following members are proposed and duly elected to serve on the executive until 2021:

<i>Chairperson</i>	Dr Kabelo Sebolai (SU)
<i>Deputy chairperson</i>	Prof. Albert Weideman (UFS)
<i>Treasurer & Membership secretary</i>	Ms Sanet Steyn (UCT)
<i>Members</i>	Dr Colleen du Plessis (UFS)
	Ms Nangamso Mtsatse (Funda Wande)
	Dr Avasha Rambiritch (UP)
	Prof. Johann van der Walt (NWU)

3. Roles of members of the executive

The constitution requires that the executive exercise its discretion in allocating specific roles and functions to its members. For the present, it was

Resolved

- (a) That Sanet Steyn act in the role of Treasurer and Membership secretary;
- (b) that she be authorized to open a bank account or bank accounts on behalf of NExLA;
- (c) that a copy of these minutes, verified by either the chairperson or the deputy chairperson, be made available to her in order to liaise with a bank of our choosing for opening an account for NExLA; and
- (d) that the deputy chairperson would continue to take responsibility for the coordination of NExLA activities, and act as Minuting secretary until such time as the executive has decided on a further allocation of roles.

4. ILTA Collaboration and Outreach award

NExLA's application to the International Language Testing Association (ILTA) for their Collaboration and Outreach Award has been successful. That means that approximately R27000 should be available to defray costs associated with NExLA's establishment, and that two awards amounting to approximately R4000 each can be made available to South African language testers in order to make it possible for them to pay their conference fees when attending the Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC), the annual ILTA conference. LTRC 2020 will be held in Africa for the first time next year, and will take place in Hammamet, Tunisia, between 9 and 13 June. A symposium was held at the SAALT 2019 conference in Pretoria preceding this meeting to establish NExLA. Its theme was *Language assessment in multilingual contexts*, and it is envisaged that several of the presentations made here would be offered at LTRC 2020 as well, and that the two awards for conference fees referred to above would be drawn from the ILTA Award to support them.

The executive will consider how the balance of this award will be employed, but it should ease the pressure on the initial costs of subscription as a member.

The Treasurer is authorized to receive these funds and any further income, and deposit those into the bank account of NExLA that she has been tasked to open. She would be given a formal letter authorizing her to do so.

5. Subscriptions

After discussion it was

Resolved

That the annual subscription for the first year be set at R100 per member.

The deputy chairperson would make the membership list available to the Membership secretary, so that members can be informed of this decision.

6. Affiliations

6.1 Application to become a Special Interest Group within SAALT

In light of the successful symposium on *Language assessment in multilingual contexts* that preceded the establishment of NExLA, the chairperson and deputy chairperson are authorized to apply at the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the South African Association of Language Teaching (SAALT) for NExLA to become a Special Interest Group (SIG) within SAALT. If successful, that would mean that NExLA would function, as it has until now, as providing meeting opportunities for assessment experts within SAALT.

6.2 ICELDA

It was noted with thanks that the Inter-institutional Centre for Language Development and Assessment (ICELDA) has made available a generous amount in support of some participants in the symposium preceding this meeting in order to enable them to participate in LTRC 2020. The beneficiaries would be identified by the deputy chairperson in consultation with the chairperson of ICELDA, Tobie van Dyk.

Confirmed

K. Sebolai
Chairperson

AJ Weideman
Deputy chairperson

Date

Date