

LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF INDIA
The Executive Committee

A virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the Society was held on 3rd September, 2022 (Saturday) at 6:00 pm via Google meet (Link: <https://meet.google.com/qet-kace-iyo>)

Meeting called to order by Chair, Prof. Uma Maheswar Rao (President) at 6:00 pm.

Members present in the meeting :

[1] Prof. Uma Maheswar Rao (President), [2] Prof. Shobha Satyanath (Vice-President), [3] Dr. Rahul Mhaiskar (Treasurer), [4] Dr. Kakali Mukherjee (Joint Secretary-Kolkata), [5] Dr. Sujata Bhujang (Joint Secretary-Pune), [6] Prof. Umarani Pappuswamy (Editor of Publications), [7] Prof. Probal Dasgupta (Member), [8] Prof. Joga Singh (Member), [9] Prof. Krishna Bhattacharya (Member), [10] Dr. Biswanandan Dash (Member), [11] Dr. Mimi Kevichüsa Ezung (Member), [12] Dr. Temsu Jamir (Member), [13] Dr. Basavraj Kodagunti (Member), [14] Prof. Sayed Khateeb Mustafa (Member).

Members absent in the meeting :

[1] Prof. Anvita Abbi (Trustee), [2] Dr. Ganesh U. Thite (Member), [3] Kardile Shubhangi, Pune, [4] Murty, M.C. Kesava, Chittoor.

Agenda of the Meeting (as notified on 25th August , 2022, (evening):

- [\[1\] To discuss and take a decision towards the approval of the draft of the LSI Constitution;](#)
 - [\[2\] To discuss the Provisioning Fund for LSI Conference – ICOLSI 44-;](#)
 - [\[3\] To discuss the development of LSI Website;](#)
 - [\[4\] To discuss on the inclusion of Indian Linguistics in EBSCO database.](#)
- [& Others as permitted by Chair](#)

Prof. Uma Maheshwar Rao, G. in the Chair welcomed the members.

Resolutions/motions passed/rejected: The following businesses were transacted.

The meeting as convened by the President, Prof. Uma Maheshwar Rao to apprise the members of the various steps initiated by the LSI on various fronts with a view to bring positive reforms in LSI, as well as place other issues before the members. The Meeting was intended to discuss the same with the members and solicit their views.

[contd.2]

Item-1 on the agenda: The President informed the members about the Draft of the LSI Constitution prepared by Prof. Basavaraja Kodagunti (Member) who presented the same before the members EC (see, Attachment-1).

Earlier, a subcommittee involving Prof. Shobha Satyanath, VP, Prof. Joga Singh, MEC, Dr. Basavaraja Kodagunti, MEC, and Dr. Biswanandan Dash, MEC headed by Prof. Uma Maheshwar Rao, President, LSI had met several times and discussed at length the kind of changes required to the existing Constitution and accordingly entrusted the task to Dr. Basavaraja, K. to draft the constitution with the desired modifications. The same were circulated to the members of EC and many responded with helpful comments and suggestions, which were incorporated after due discussion among the sub-committee members. EC is grateful to all for their valuable inputs which has strengthened the earlier draft. It is envisaged there might be more observations from the members. Hence, the updated draft is presented before the EC for further discussion.

In the following the suggestions and points raised by the members are recorded

[1] There was a discussion regarding the nomenclature of Membership vs. Subscription. As per the existing convention, only individuals (both annual/yearly and life members) can avail membership and receive a free copy of the Journal IL. Such members also have the voting rights. Institutions can subscribe to the Journal, but they are not members and therefore not entitled with the voting rights. It was also made clear that overseas members being treated as subscribers are entitled to receive a copy of the Journal without enjoying the voting rights.

[2] Some members pointed out that the existing Institutional subscription rates seem too high and should be reduced to a more reasonable amount in order to encourage Institutional subscription. The President has been authorized to come up with a reasonable amount after surveying the rates charged by other academic journals published in India.

[3] **The revised draft has proposed reforms to** streamline the Journal and other Publications as the same constitute an important face of the LSI. The amendment proposes that the elected three member editorial team [the current practice] which is responsible for bringing out the Journal be reformulated as a Unified Publications Committee with duly nominated members. Further, such a team will work in unison with the other office bearers of the LSI and without hierarchy. Such a committee may be placed under the chairmanship of the Vice-President, who would review the functioning of the Publications Committee and would advise it from time to time.

[4] The following issues were raised during the discussion: (a) whether the members of the Editorial committee shall be nominated by the EC with specific designations and functions, if at all; (b) what would be the relationship between the Publications and the Editorial Committee; (c) whether there might be a conflict in the absence of a hierarchy; (d) there was a suggestion from the existing editor to continue the current practice of having an elected Editorial committee. However, the EC members who attended the meeting seemed divided on the issue. As there is no consensus, the issue requires further thought and discussion; As this is an important issue, the President will have some more thinking and discussion on this and will get back to the house with the further update and suggestion.

[contd.3]

[5] Continuing with the agenda to bring positive reforms in various organs of the present LSI, the President would update the house from time to time and place the considered suggestions by its various sub-committees for larger discussion and consensus.

[6] Regarding the Audit part of the Draft Constitution, unanimous resolution was taken to appoint one Auditor.

[7] Regarding the issue of Trustee: On the need to have a Trustee and the number of members, Dr. Rahul Mhaiskar, Treasurer pointed out that the Society was formulated as a Trust. He was requested to share the relevant facts and documents related to the Trust with the President and the EC enabling a meaningful discussion and a legally suitable decision on the matter.

Item-2 on the agenda, The President shared a letter received from Prof. Debi Prasanna Pattanayak (see, Attachment -2) to create a provision in the LSI budget for providing a minimum token support to conduct the ICOLSI conferences. The Organising Secretary, ICOLSI-44, Dr. Biswanandan Dash expressed that he was not aware of any such letter. A few members warned of the future fall outs of setting such a precedent. Some members supported the need to provide a token amount as a gesture of support to the LSI Conference. At the end of the discussion, it was decided by voting (6 in favour and 5 against) that LSI fund shall support ICOLSI-44 with some token amount. The amount is likely to be finalized in consultation with the Finance Secretary of LSI.

Item-3 on the agenda, The issue of developing a dynamic website for LSI and its maintenance has been discussed over the past one year. Prof. Uma Maheswar Rao placed a detailed proposal in this regard in front of the house. After due consultations with the former Secretary, LSI Prof. Shailendra Mohan, and the LSI Secretariat at Pune (Dr. Rahul Mhaiskr, Treasurer, LSI, Dr. Sujata Bhujang, Secretary@Pune) and the Torna Informatics (the developer of the existing LSI website), a proposal emerged to assign the LSI-website development task to the *eBhasha Setu*. Accordingly, *eBhasha Setu* was requested to submit a detailed proposal and quotation (see, Attachment-3). The house was apprised of the one-time costs involved Rs 1 lakh 8 Thousand plus GST (as applicable) and the recurring annual maintenance costs (Rs. 12,000/-). The house accepted the proposal and authorized the President to proceed with the negotiations.

Item-4 on the agenda, Prof. Uma Maheswar Rao placed in front of the house a document from EBSCO, a Host database platform 'Natural Partner' (see, Attachment-4) and the License agreement document (see, Attachment-4) between EBSCO (licensee) publishers and LSI (licensor). EBSCO is a host which provides access to the publications from various archives to the scholars worldwide with a cost. The house will advise after scrutinizing the document whether to enter into an agreement with EBSCO or not.

Any other item with the permission of the Chair:

Prof. Joga Singh reminded the house of the commitment of the LSI on language issues, including those in the context of New Education Policy by speaking/ writing to the relevant stakeholders in the government policy makers, further exchanging documents and letters with the Central and

[contd.4]

the State Governments. Prof Shobha Satyanath, Vice President has been requested by the President-LSI to look into the matter for further action on the issue.

Tasks to be taken after the meeting:

1. Revisiting the draft of LSI Constitution in the light of the discussion in the house and the suggestions received: Membership fee, Institutional subscription fee; publications of the LSI and the Journal, IL.
2. Taking appropriate steps in various matters relating to the LSI Website.
3. Receiving feedback from the members on EBSCO.
4. The appointment of an Auditor.
5. Request to the Trustee of LSI-Pune seeking the relevant documents on the LSI Trust.
6. To create a provision in the LSI budget for minor financial support to the ICOLOSI conferences starting from the ICOLSI-44, if possible.
7. Taking up the matter further with the *eBhasha Setu*, IIIT, Hyderabad to develop dynamic Website for LSI.
8. To initiate steps on the involvement of LSI in policy matters relating to language.
9. To hold the next EC Meeting of LSI at a suitable time to discuss and finalize the above issues.

The meeting ended with thanks to all the members.

Sd/-
(Dr. Kakali Mukherjee)
Secretary, LSI, Kolkata

Attachments:

1. Draft of the LSI Constitution.
2. Letter from Prof. D.P. Pattanayak requesting raising of budget for ICOLSI.
3. Proposal for the development of a new website for LSI.
4. EBSCO document.