

**LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF INDIA**  
**The Executive Committee**

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

The meeting was 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 Mhaskar (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 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022):**

- [\[1\] 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 the LSI Website;](#)
  - [\[4\] To discuss the inclusion of Indian Linguistics in the EBSCO database.](#)
- [& Any other matter as permitted by the Chair](#)

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

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

The meeting was 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.

Background to the need for revisiting the LSI constitution has been discussed in earlier EC meetings. As the office is located in Pune and the documents are not yet in the public domain, there is no clarity over important issues. LSI Office was asked to make available copies of all the documents they have, but all that was shared after several reminders was- a certificate that is illegible. Even otherwise society has completed 100 years and it needs to be revisited in view of the developments on various fronts.

**Item no. [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 was 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 have 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 and approval.

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 of membership and receive a free copy of the Journal *IL*. Such members also have voting rights. Institutions can subscribe to the Journal, but they are not members and, therefore, not entitled to 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 voting rights. The same was approved.
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 facet 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. The following specific 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 present arrangement will continue unchanged.

4. A Unanimous resolution was passed to appoint one Auditor.

5. There was a discussion on the issue of Trustees. The issue was raised as to whether the LSI needs to have Trustees or not. Dr. Rahul Mhaiskar, Treasurer, pointed out that the Society was formulated as a Trust. However, the documentary evidence available with the LSI records at Pune seems inconclusive. Dr. Rahul Mhaiskar 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. However, no relevant documents could be made available. It was decided that the president and the Vice President need to visit the LSI office to check the available records so that a meaningful discussion can take place on this important 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 minimum token support to conduct the ICOLSI conferences. The Organizing Secretary, ICOLSI-44, Dr. Biswanandan Dash expressed that he was not aware of any such letter. A few members warned of the future fallouts 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 favor and 5 against) that the LSI fund shall support ICOLSI-44 with some token amount. It was suggested that an amount of Rs 50,000 may be granted to ICOLSI-44. However, the president was authorized to decide on the exact amount of support to be extended.

#### **Item [3] on the agenda**

The issue of developing a dynamic website for LSI and its maintenance has been discussed over the past 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 Mhaiskar, 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 that provides access to publications from various archives to scholars worldwide at a cost. After scrutinizing the document, the house will advise 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 the New Education Policy by speaking/ writing to the relevant stakeholders in the government policymakers, further exchanging documents and letters with the Central and the State Governments. Prof Shobha Satyanath, Vice President, has requested the president to look into the matter for further action.

The meeting ended with thanks to all the members.

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

Attachments:

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