Initial Email

**Sunday, January 18, 2015**

Subject line : *LSA involvement in NWAV?*

HI Team NWAV 41,

The LSA called to ask

me about LSA getting more involved in organizing NWAV. The big

question is whether "the NWAV people" would like that, but the whole

point is that there is, of course, no standing NWAV committee, etc.,

to discuss this with. So I wanted to see if you had any particular

thoughts about the pros/cons or specific things that it'd be good to

have LSA involved in? I'm going to ask organizers of the last few

NWAVs and then try to get back to the LSA. It shouldn't really be a

Canadian decision!

Thanks and Happy New Year,

Naomi

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Barbara Johnstone: bj4@andrew.cmu.edu

Manuel Antonio Diaz-Campos: mdiazcam@indiana.edu

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Initial Response Summary :

- continuous or one-time involvement? ask founders. what strings will be attached?

- great if they want to give money and no more. ask for more details.

- admin help would be great. what strings (oversight, annexation)? involve labov

- give us money but no strings!

- don’t need help, thanks. how could the LSA even contribute money (hands full)? debate for next NWAV business meeting?

Initial Responses (Full) :

**1. Mon, 19 Jan 2015**

Is this involvement in the organization of the conference for next year or a continuous involvement? My sense would be to ask the founders of the event since they still active in business meetings every year. A big question is related with implications such as if this

Brings resources or what it means. Collaboration is always good but it would be great to know details.

**2. Mon, 19 Jan 2015**

My guess is that NWAV organizers enjoy being independent and responsible for their own decisions. On the other hand, NWAV is a very expensive conference. So, if the LSA is interested in getting financially involved but no more, I'd say great! They have contributed to at least 2 NWAV conferences.

I suggest asking the LSA person what they have in mind.

**3. Mon, 19 Jan 2015**

It would have been great to have some administrative help with NWAV 42. We practically killed the admin. person who worked with us on top of her regular full-time job. But I'd need to know more about what the LSA has in mind before saying any more than that. Would they want NWAV to become part of the LSA meeting, the way the ADS is? What kind of financial oversight would they want to have? Would they be able to contribute to financing NWAVs?

I also think Bill L. should be part of any discussion with the LSA.

Thanks for keeping us in the loop!

**4. Mon, 19 Jan 2015**

My guess is that most of the old timers will want to keep it

non-organizational without the LSA, and I'm inclined to agree. There

are some ways that they could help, most obviously in funding. But the

structure seems to be going well, with no lack of volunteers to host

the conference, and a pretty consistently good conference experience.

I'd generally say, we'd love a constant funding stream for organizers

so that fees can be kept low, but beyond that I think we're good.

Hope that makes sense.

**5. Mon, 19 Jan 2015**

Hello. I agree with the direction of X and Y’s comments. Maybe NWAV is successful because of its loose structure where the burden falls for a short time on the host organizers rather than on the same group of people every year. There is no budget that carries over. I'm not sure where your LSA contact is coming from since the LSA has the annual meeting and the Institutes to fund and it does not seem like they could be a regular financial contributor to NWAV. Maybe the issue could be taken up at the next NWAV business meeting, perhaps with an LSA contact.

Second Email

Subject line : *LSA involvement in NWAV 44+?*

Dear ..,

My name is Darcie Blainey, and I am a postdoctoral researcher working with Naomi Nagy at the University of Toronto. I am coordinating organizer opinions about possibly having consistent LSA involvement in future NWAVs.

Thank you for your responses in January. I have written to Drs. Labov, Preston, Sankoff, Shuy, and Wolfram, and their thinking is in line with yours: financial support would be great, as long as NWAV maintains independence. The LSA has not tabled a specific offer. Rather, they have asked those involved in NWAV to make a proposal. Just so that we are clear before we put anything forward, are there any elements that you would like to see included in or excluded from such a proposal?

Sincerely,

Darcie Blainey

Second Responses (Summary) :

* sponsoring reception, special session, minority student participation, best student paper award
* doesn’t like best student paper award (voting system favours big schools – should be by otherwise agrees with above
* Stuart: agrees with above: special session, international/minority student support

Second Responses (Full) :

**1. Tuesday, April 28, 2015 10:27 PM**

Thanks for writing. They could sponsor particular parts of the event such as a reception

or a special session on research topics LSA wants to see in the conference (e.g., contact,

the study of endangered languages, etc I am not sure what they would want to see happening).

Another idea is that they sponsor the participation of minority students, the best student paper

award to encourage graduate student attendance. I hope this is useful. Thanks.

**2. Wednesday, April 29, 2015 9:47 AM**

Like Manuel, I like the idea of the LSA's sponsoring a session (or two), the way the ADS traditionally does. The way it works with the ADS is that the year's organizers group relevant papers into the ADS-sponsored session (papers about American dialects, in this case); there is no special call for papers. The LSA could perhaps designate a few topics they would like to encourage variationists to work on, and the organizers could group papers on those topics into the LSA-sponsored session(s). This model keeps things as simple as possible for the conference organizers.

Sponsoring student participation is also a good idea.

I am not enthusiastic about the best-paper contest, which tends to turn into a popularity contest that favors the big programs that can generate the most votes. We decided not to do this when we hosted NWAV 42. I would be in favor of a best-paper contest only if the award was made on the basis of impartial peer review of written papers after the conference.

**3. Wednesday, April 29, 2015 10:07 AM**

I am in agreement with the suggestions expressed by Barbara and Manuel. Having the LSA sponsor a session on a suggested theme and/or assistance for minority student participation would seem appropriate to me and a sufficient lelvel of participation. It's probably not a good idea for the LSA to become too involved with NWAV.