

KOTESOL National Council Meeting Minutes
May 10th, 2015
Room 207 Sookmyung Women's University Injaegwan, Seoul

Present: (Council) Peadar Callaghan (president), Lisa Bellamy, Daniel Cable, Carl Dusthimer, Lindsay Herron, Kathleen Kelley (representing Busan), Robert Kim (representing Yongin), Stephanie Nixon, Phil Owen, Mike Peacock, John E. Phillips, Ian Done D. Ramos, George Settlemer (representing Gangwon), David Shaffer, Ingrid Zwaal (Observers) Rob Dickey, Stafford Lumsden

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am with a quorum present.

The president opened by briefly explaining how the meeting would proceed, and by informing the members present that this was to be the first meeting in which all participants would be given one minute each to provide succinct status updates—the so-called “lightning round.”

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no objections.

3. Approval of previous minutes

3.1 Motion that the minutes for the meeting of March 7th, 2015 be approved with allowance for corrections of spelling and grammar. Lindsay Herron, David Shaffer 2nd.

Vote:	Yes	14
	No	0
	Abstain	0

One voter not yet in attendance.

Motion passes.

4. Lightning round

Positions were each given one minute to briefly summarize chapter updates, committee updates, and any other news that they felt relevant. Most of the information shared during the brief lightning round presentations can be found in the chapter and committee reports that were collected, compiled, and distributed to council members prior to the national council meeting.

5. Organizational Partner (OP) Agreement for 2015

OP Liaison Robert Dickey presented strategies for attracting new OPs and proposed changes to the 2015 OP Agreement. Strategies for attracting new OPs included a new OP page on KOTESOL's website and changes to the international conference displays and pricing. Additionally, he suggested that due to changes in the economic situation, we should shift our focus from booksellers to MATESOL-type and TESOL Cert/Dip schools, with a stated goal of attracting ten new schools as OPs this year. He then provided a review of the specific changes to the OP agreement, during which it was decided that simply omitting a KOTESOL Official Exchange Rate and referring matters of currency exchange to the treasurer would be preferable to a change in the exchange rate. The other proposed changes remained as previously submitted. The president, seeing that the council was ahead of schedule, opened the floor to five minutes of informal discussion.

One as of yet unresolved issue that was brought up was whether it would be possible for OPs to purchase a second economy display booth. It was agreed that this was a matter for later discussion. Several members asked for clarification regarding the so-called 'credit system,' and the OP Liaison explained that although membership dues could be credited towards things such as displays, the dues themselves were required of members regardless of whether they availed themselves of these benefits.

The president, seeing no further questions, suggested that a motion on the issue be submitted for consideration.

5.1 Motion to accept the Korea TESOL 2015-16 Organization Partner (OP) Terms of Agreement as submitted by Robert Dickey, with the elimination of item number 4 on page 1, and allowing for the correction of any minor errors. David Shaffer, Ingrid Zwaal 2nd.

Vote:	Yes	15
	No	0
	Abstain	0

Motion passes.

6. Dissolving the Incheon chapter

Lindsay Herron provided a status update for the Incheon chapter, which during its two years of existence has not held an election and has never had more than seven members. Issues that would be raised by the dissolution of the Incheon chapter were discussed, among them: what should be done with the existing members and the money that is owed to them. It was first

suggested that the members and their funds should simply be absorbed into the Seoul chapter, however upon further consideration it was decided that the members themselves should have a say in where they are placed. If the members failed to specify a preference before the date of June 1st, 2015, they would automatically be placed in the Seoul chapter.

6.1 Motion that KOTESOL dissolve the Incheon chapter and that current members of the Incheon chapter be given the option to select a new chapter by June 1st, and that failing to select a new chapter would automatically result in their being placed into the Seoul chapter and their dues transferred to that chapter as well. Stafford Lumsden, David Shaffer and Lindsay Herron 2nd.

Vote:	Yes	14
	No	0
	Abstain	1 (president)

Motion passes.

7. Potential partnership with FLC

David Shaffer gave a brief presentation on the background of the Free Linguistic Conference (FLC), which initially started as a linguistic conference but has since grown into an organization for the accreditation of language schools throughout the world. FLC has expressed an interest in having KOTESOL identify schools and private academies that might be interested in receiving FLC accreditation. In exchange, FLC would provide KOTESOL with a finder's fee based on a percentage of the accreditation fee from approved schools.

Robert Dickey expressed his concern that there are numerous other for-profit accreditation organizations, and that TESOL International, to take one example, chose not to pursue their own accreditation process after hiring experts to investigate this possibility due to numerous concerns. Another issue relevant to Korea is the possibility that schools might consider the failure to grant accreditation to be a form of defamation or harm to their brand. Lisa Bellamy asked if a sufficient number of academies in Korea were indeed even interested in this sort of accreditation. Peadar Callaghan suggested the possibility of simply forwarding our existing mailing list to FLC, given that the mailing list itself was publicly generated from the Ministry of Education's website. Several members expressed concern as to whether KOTESOL should be mentioned at all when FLC contacts potential clients, and Lisa Bellamy reminded the council that it should consider the issue of exclusive partnership and how affiliating KOTESOL with FLC may preclude other such

arrangements in the future. David Shaffer offered to forward the contact information for his contact in FLC to Lisa Bellamy so that she could look into the matter further.

7.1 Motion to refer the issue of partnership with FLC to the publicity committee to gather more information for a more detailed discussion. Lindsay Herron, David Shaffer 2nd.

Vote:	Yes	12
	No	0
	Abstain	2 (president included)

One voter absent from the room.

Motion passes.

8. Plan for national conference 2016

8.1 Motion to table the discussion of plans for the 2016 national conference until the next meeting. Lindsay Herron, Daniel Cable 2nd.

Vote:	Yes	15
	No	0
	Abstain	0

Motion passes.

9. Increasing the group charges for the international conference

9.1 Motion to change the group registration rate for the international conference from 60,000 to 65,000 KRW per person per group. Dave Shaffer, Lindsay Herron 2nd.

Vote:	Yes	14
	No	0
	Abstain	1 (president)

Motion passes.

10. Nomination and election committee plans, timetable, procedures, etc.

Due to Nathan Rice's unfortunate absence, the discussion regarding the nomination and election committee's plans, timetables, and procedures was tabled until the next national council meeting.

Additionally, it was informally decided that the president should meet with members of the nomination and election committee to discuss the status of the nomination and election committee.

11. Report on going paperless for publications

There was some confusion regarding the subject for the report, with David Shaffer stating that, as

he understood it, the report was to be specifically regarding The English Connection (TEC) rather than all publications. He suggested that new members be given an option on the web form that would allow them to opt out of receiving printed version of TEC. John Phillips reminded the council of the difficulty of implementing such an option, given that this would require the creation of a new data field in the data base—such a change would have to be done by the website's developer and would therefore incur an expense. David Shaffer suggested that rather than creating a new data field, the existing option to opt out of all printed publications could simply be changed to read 'TEC' instead of all publications, given that few if any printed publications apart from TEC are ever actually sent out. It was also pointed out that the dissolution of the Incheon chapter would necessitate alterations to the database, and that having the two changes done simultaneously might be an efficient use of resources. It was decided that the issue required additional discussion at a later date and that no motion needed to be passed at this time.

12. KTT procedures

Peadar Callaghan gave a brief overview of KOTESOL Teacher Training (KTT) procedures and clarified that smaller chapters with less money should be given priority in allocating KTT presenters. While discussing KTT, several council members, notable among them David Shaffer, expressed their displeasure with the honorariums provided to KTT presenters and that they felt the money might be put to better use elsewhere in the organization. Ingrid Zwaal reminded the council that the honorariums serve to reimburse presenters for expenses related to presentations, such as printing fees. **It was decided that the next national council meeting agenda should include a motion to abolish KTT honorariums.**

13. Introduction of group membership packages

Lindsay Herron proposed a group membership package scheme that would allow schools or other organization to purchase a number of memberships for their organization that were not tied to any one individual. She informed the council that the British Council had expressed an interest in such a scheme, which would basically consist of selling a number of memberships (five-person minimum) at a flat rate of 130,000 KRW per membership, which would include benefits such as free admission to the national conference. John Phillips raised several logistical issues, among them that the database is set up in such a way that requires each membership to be linked to an individual. Another issue that was raised was how conference attendees would sign in at

conferences and whether they would be required to present their cards to prevent misuse of the group memberships.

13.1 Motion to implement a limited pilot program of 2015 for group membership packages as presented by Lindsay Herron.

During formal discussion, John Phillip expressed additional concerns regarding the logistics and feasibility of managing such a group membership system, especially the aspect of the group membership package in which individual names are not linked to group membership accounts, and suggested the following amendment:

13.2 Motion to amend the motion regarding group memberships to treat group membership members as regular KOTESOL members but with a group discount applied.

John Phillips, Lisa Bellamy 2nd.

Vote:	Yes	2
	No	11
	Abstain	2 (president included)

Motion to amend fails.

Several members expressed concern over which chapter should receive the dues from the group membership packages, and it was decided that this issue should be left for the membership committee and the treasurer to discuss.

Vote:	Yes	14
	No	0
	Abstain	1 (president)

Motion passes.

14. New business section

14.1 Logo design

David Shaffer called for a new logo design to replace the current square-shaped logo with a longer, horizontal logo. He presented the council with several proposals. John Phillips proposed that the president form an exploratory committee for the purposes of reevaluating the existing logo and proposing a new logo based on the design of the current logo, designed in 2005, and to prepare a brief on the subject. Four members volunteered for the committee: Lisa Bellamy, David Shaffer, Kathleen Kelley, and John Phillips.

14.2 Updating and maintaining member contact information

John Phillips circulated the official KOTESOL contact list and email forwarding list for inspection and revision. He also urged chapter presidents to take responsibility for updating and maintaining their member contact information, as they are in a better position to do so than national council.

14.3 KOTESOL Slogan

A revision to the current, informal motto of KOTESOL (Teachers helping teachers / Learn, Teach, Share) was suggested. The first line of the slogan remained intact. Numerous alternatives for the second line of the slogan were proposed and then informally voted upon. The council finally selected “Learn, Share, Succeed” to replace “Learn, Teach, Share” as the second line to KOTESOL's unofficial motto.

15. Date of next national council meeting

The president announced that the next national council meeting would take place either Saturday, August 29th or Sunday, August 30th, based on availability of room and venue. The president then thanked the members of the council for attending and wished member Lindsay Herron a happy birthday.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.