

SA AALL Memberships

As of 22 November, SA AALL had 18 financial members. This represents a small decline since 2014, which is perhaps the product of restructuring at both the University of Adelaide and UniSA.

SA AALL Meetings and Events

AALL SA is yet to meet in 2015, however a meeting is scheduled for early December.

The plan for 2016 is to focus more energy on regular, local events to maintain the local AALL community. We will discuss the establishment of a small working committee for meetings as a way of ensuring they occur regularly.

Flinders University

Since 2013, the development of the English Language Support Program (ELSP) has received a great deal of praise from 81 international students who took part in the pilot program in 2015. Professor Nancy Cromar (Pro Vice-Chancellor International), who jointly sponsored the program with Professor Andrew Parkin (Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic), commended the course for its commitment to deliver proactive strategies to support international and domestic NESB students in managing their English language requirements. Some of the language and learning support courses that were provided included: Listening and Discussion for University, Reading Academic Texts, Grammar and Academic Vocabulary, and Academic Writing modules.

A Certificate of completion was awarded to students at the end of the semester who successfully attended all six workshops within a given module. At the end of Semester 2 in 2015, a total of 156 Certificates of Attendance were awarded to 81 students who had completed all 6 classes in at least one module. A pre and post academic writing test conducted on the ELSP program found there was a statistically significant improvement (31%) with respect to the Academic Writing module ($p < 0.044$). Given the expected substantial growth in the number of International students in 2016, the ELSP program is expected to continue to grow, and become an integral part of the academic language and learning support offered at Flinders University. Additionally, student feedback on the program endorsed both the quality of the curriculum and the capacities of the Student Learning Centre teaching team in delivering the program.

University of Adelaide

Reports from within the University of Adelaide have been difficult to obtain. As the result of protracted change, some previous AALL members have left the University or moved into non-ALL roles, so they are no longer able to report on what is happening with regard to language and learning. Staff are also now dispersed across the University, so getting an overall picture is challenging. Recent communications with ALL staff there indicated that it remains unclear even to those within the University whether any institution-wide approach is being devised for academic language and learning. There is a new Pro Vice-Chancellor of Student Learning, however, who may be working on a more institution-wide approach.

What we do know is that the centralised Centre for Learning and Professional Development (CLPD) was displaced some time ago (2014) and relocated to the School of Education. The school was offering some services to students, such as lunchtime seminars, but the School of Education is now under review and facing possible restructure, so it remains unclear what the future will be. At the time of the last update (late 2014) The Writing Centre was being managed by the Maths Centre under the leadership of David Butler, and it appeared that for the most part each faculty had an adviser who was responsible for the students in their retrospective schools. The Faculty of Professions also has a learning unit for its own students.

University of South Australia

The academic language and learning team was restructured this year, after a protracted change management process. The team has been split in two, across two newly-created units:

- The Head, and four (FTE) Language and Literacy Coordinator roles have been moved into the Teaching Innovation Unit (staff and curriculum development)
- Six (FTE) Learning Adviser roles have been moved into the Student Engagement Unit (student services), reporting to a new Manager, Learning Advisers

Rowena Harper continues to Head the TIU team, while Kirstin Marks is the new Manager, Learning Advisers. Jane Kehrwald, previously a Language and Literacy Coordinator, has been appointed Manager, Student Support in the SEU, overseeing the Learning Adviser and Student Support Officer teams. The TIU team will commence recruitment for another Language and Literacy Coordinator in the new year.

Helen Johnston – a long-standing member of AALL, former SA AALL representative, and co-convenor of the 2011 AALL conference in Adelaide – said goodbye to her role as a Language and Learning Coordinator at UniSA in September this year. Helen's expertise in equity matters, and in regional education will be missed by the team, as will her collegiality and her quick wit.

Prepared by Rowena Harper and Saib Dianati, with input from SA AALL members