



COTSEAL



The Council of Teachers of Southeast Asian Languages

COTSEAL/AAS 2014

COTSEAL Business Meeting: Date: **SATURDAY**, March 29th, 2014 Time: **1:00pm – 2:30pm** Venue: Room 502 (downtown Marriott Hotel)

Attendance:

Kathie Carpenter (University of Eugene-Oregon), Barbara Gaerlan (University of California-Los Angeles), Rahmi Hartati (Northern Illinois University), Chhany Sak-Humphry (University of Hawaii-Manoa), Kheang Leang (Northern Illinois University), Binh Ngo (Harvard), Phuong Nguyen (University of Massachusetts-Boston), Stephen O'Harrow (University of Hawaii-Manoa), Jolanda Pandin (Cornell), Ellen Rafferty (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Desiana Pauli Sandjaja (University of Washington-Seattle), Maria Teresa Savella (Cornell), Frank Smith (University of California-Berkeley), Myint Soe (Foreign Service Institute), Juliana Wijaya (University of California-Los Angeles), Mary Jo Wilson (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

I. Administrative Reports

1. New executive officers

Frank Smith (UC-Berkeley), president; Jolanda Pandin (Cornell), vice-president; and Sheila Zamar (UW-Madison), secretary

2. Financial Report

Based on the financial statements issued by the AAS at the end of the year, as of December 2010 COTSEAL had \$7,402 in its account. In December 2013, \$9,406. All financial transactions were taken care of by AAS, including the \$300 web hosting fee from SEAC, logistical finances for conducting e-teacher training via webinar, and officers' travel requests.

3. Memberships

During the 2011-2013 term, the individual membership payments dropped significantly: about 50% from the previous term (79 payments down to 40), and only one center regularly paid its dues.

4. COTSEAL website and e-Newsletter, and E-JSEALT

Frank is taking over the website administration and is going to improve the content by uploading articles about teaching techniques. Thus, it will include the newsletter. The new website link is <http://cotseal.net>. He will use Twitter to announce the updates.

During the 2011-2013 term, the E-JSEALT produced no articles.

5. Language Reports

5.1. Abroad Language Programs: AFA (Advanced Filipino Abroad), AST (Advanced Study of Thai), ASK (Advanced Study of Khmer)/CKS (Center for Khmer Studies), COTI (Consortium for the Teaching of Indonesian), SAIL (Summer Study Abroad in Laos), VASI (Vietnamese Advanced Summer Institute)

Last year AFA and VASI did not continue. AST/CKS is going to survive without funding. Only COTI was granted yearly funding for a four-year cycle, since last year, and there were 12 students participating last summer. Stephen questioned the fact that only the Indonesian abroad program received funding from the government.

5.2. SEASSI

Last year there were 97 students, with 7 joining from remote sites and 90 on the site. There were 8 languages offered. The availability of language offerings has been contingent upon the enrollment. The Khmer Program started the distance learning with two or three remote students. Though the distance class is a technological way to open a class, the hurdles were that it was difficult to handle administratively and to demand students' full participation in real-time class interaction. Distance students were charged equally, yet SEASSI gave out \$3700 tuition scholarships to 35-45 recipients. Concerns about distance learning teachers getting overworked were raised because preparation time took 2-3 times more than regular classes.

5.3. New languages courses offered or new SEA funding at Institutions

* At Harvard, Khmer will be taught one year, and there are big Vietnamese classes.

* UC-Berkeley offers intermediate and advanced Khmer courses at UCLA as language courses swap, without money exchange. UC-Berkeley also offered distance courses of Khmer and Thai to UW-Madison students.

6. Conferences/Workshop Planning's 2014-2015: Communicate with new officers

f.1. A summer workshop will be held at SEASSI at the end of the fifth week on July 18th and 19th. It will be made available online if enough support is available.

f.2. NCOLCTL in April 2014 and AAS (Panel & Round Table Discussion) in 2015

f.3. A possibility of a West Coast workshop in 2015.

7. Miscellaneous - FLAS

The unclear situation regarding the late announcement of FLAS during summer raised a serious concern.

II. Round Table Themes & Discussion

1. Report on SEA Reading Assessment

About a project of the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM), Center for Southeast Asian Studies, composed by Dr. Yuphaphann Hoonchamlong, Thai Language Program Coordinator, and Dr. Pia Arboleda, Filipino Language Program Coordinator. It was presented by Dr. Steve O'Harrow, Director of Center for Southeast Asian Studies at UHM, with a brief account of its background and its current state:

The project was a response to the measurement irrelevance of OPI to much of university language teaching that was requested for the reading comprehension measurement. The University of Hawaii-Manoa, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Harvard University collaborated for 4 years. Because Thai professors Dr. Prawet and Dr. Yuphaphann were associated with the Thai government's reading project, the project started first with Thai. They created a basic template, and now the Thai reading assessment computer-based testing is available. The project continued and finished with Filipino. Last year, the project made a regression. The UH was still interested in continuing the project for other languages, yet it depends on the decision of the incoming director. Thus, UH is open if other universities would like to continue. The project's training sessions were recorded and archived in the COTSEAL website.

2. Survey on **Beyond "Use it or Lose it": Strategies and Challenges of Language Loss and Language Maintenance**

About a survey of the graduates of the Advanced Summer Khmer program (ASK) since 2005. It was presented by Dr. Kathie Carpenter, Associate Professor, International Studies Department, University of Oregon. The survey was administered using Arbitrant. One result of the observations concerned the graduates' language negotiation skills, i.e., feeling apologetic with their language skills. If interested in other results of the survey, please contact Dr. Carpenter (kathiec@uoregon.edu).

Regarding language maintenance, the Tagalog conversation table continued online after SEASSI ended and was moderated voluntarily by Sheila Zamar, the instructor. At the University of Hawaii-Manoa, for heritage students of Vietnamese, the language cohort is changing due to the outlook and attitudes that are very American. It thus raises a question about which Vietnamese language to teach: that of the country of Vietnam or that spoken among the immigrants.

Aloha and Mahalo niu with your support

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Chhany Sak-Humphry, Outgoing President

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