



2024 Literary Division Annual Meeting – Minutes

The 2024 Literary Division annual meeting was held virtually on October 10, 2024, at 9 AM PT/12 PM ET.

19 members were present:

Amanda Axsom
Eva Balsach-Rizo
Kate Costello
Kate Deimling
Shelley Fairweather-Vega
Mercedes Guhl
Armando Infante
Dana Kadish
Ruth Krawczyk
Laura Nagle
Lisa Phillips
Kelley D. Salas
Lesley Schuldt
Helena Senatore
David Stephenson
Marybeth Timmermann
Patrick Weill
Sera Yu
Zakiya Hanafi

The **meeting agenda** was presented and accepted. **Kelley Salas** made the motion to accept and **Patrick Weill** seconded.

The **minutes of the 2023 annual meeting** were shared on the screen, read by attendees, and approved without changes. **Laura Nagle** made the motion to approve and **Patrick Weill** seconded.

Summing up 2024

Shelley Fairweather-Vega said that overall in 2024 the Lit Div's efforts were focused on securing a place for literary translators within ATA. Meanwhile ATA HQ experienced staff turnover and changes in policy and this caused communication challenges.

Book and Resource Fair

Lit Div was not invited to participate this year at ATA65 in Portland. Members can still book their own individual tables. Next year she hopes Lit Div can have a table again and will start working on this early.

Literary translation sessions at ATA65

Mercedes Guhl went over the upcoming literary translation presentations at ATA65. Some do not come up if you search by checking “book” or “literary” but they are still related to the concerns of literary translators.

Mercedes reminded the group about the After Hours Café. Shelley said if you'd like to read, it is first come, first served.

Mercedes pointed out literary translation presentations that conflicted on Saturday. Her own session is canceled but still appears in the program. She asked ATA if they could move one of the Saturday sessions to her time slot and avoid a conflict. Shelley said Veronika Demichelis was responsive about trying to avoid scheduling conflicts. But she had to step down and now we need to address this again.

Lit Div lunch at ATA65

8 or 9 people were there for lunch last year. Shelley suggested lunch on Friday or Saturday.

Lit Div website

The Lit Div website still suffering from crash over a year ago. Shelley and **Melody Winkle** rebuilt it, and **Kate Deimling** contributed. It's sort of boring to look at but has some resources. Melody has been the web manager. But ATA has been slow to work with. We hope ATA will fund some work on it.

We have a blog now, with two entries so far. Please send us submissions – essays about translation, short translations you're not publishing anywhere else, book reviews, etc. Email Shelley or Mercedes if you have any ideas.

Social media

Shelley handles Facebook and Mercedes handles Twitter. Mercedes says there is little activity and we don't get replies. She asked if members prefer to receive news through the listserv. Some members said they don't use social media. Others do, or think that it's important to have a presence there for those who do participate in it. Mercedes added that a past survey for Lit Div members indicated that social media was not very important.

New business for 2025

Shelley issued an open invitation for ideas for next year. We'll need to propose a distinguished speaker for the 2025 conference in Boston. Easier to get approved when the person is a celebrity and/or closer geographically. Shelley suggested Jennifer Croft – she turned them down previously when about to have twins, but can safely ask her again.

Kate Deimling asked about urging the ATA to increase the travel expense limit (\$500), which has not kept up with inflation. Kelley said there should be an honorarium. Shelley said given these constraints, we need to find someone who is enthusiastic about coming.

Mercedes said in the past the Lit Div has shared speakers with the Italian, Slavic, and Portuguese divisions. Sharing is not allowed anymore, and with new biannual arrangement choices to share with are limited. But we can still look into doing this.

Deborah Smith (Han Kang's translator) and Chinese translator Ken Liu were suggested in the chat as speakers. Ken Liu lives in Boston.

Catalogue of translations by members

Shelley said we aren't doing it this year but will start up again next year. **Kelley Salas** agreed to continue formatting it.

Nominating committee

Mercedes and Shelley are stepping down at the end of 2025 because of term limits. A nominating committee is needed. Nominating committee members can't be members of the Leadership Council and they may not nominate themselves. Mercedes checked that you do not need to be a voting member of ATA to be on the nominating committee.

Patrick Weill volunteered to be on the nominating committee in the chat.

Leadership Council

LC terms are for one year. Of those present at meeting, Kelley, Laura, and both Kates are part of LC currently. Current members are invited to return, and we have a couple vacancies. Write to Mercedes or Shelley if interested.

Amanda Axsom asked what is involved in the LC. LC members replied that it is mostly a sounding board. LC is also informed about Lit Div's quarterly reports to the board.

Zakiya said she is interested.

Mercedes clarified that you don't need to be a voting member of ATA to be on the LC.

With business finished, attendees were invited to bring up any questions or concerns:

Literary translation programming ideas

Kelley is interested in having more programming in her regional translation organization (MATI) about literary translation. She is looking for ideas. NOTIS has done a lot in this area.

Laura Nagle wondered how NOTIS has balanced in-person event versus remote events.

Shelley said they do both. Some people only come to one or the other. She says the numbers have increased. She suggests that MATI offer a talk about some literary topic and see who shows up. NOTIS also does workshops. Two or three people share a page they want feedback on.

Kate Costello asked if the Lit Div could do something like this at ATA. Shelley said there's a mechanism for webinars through ATA. We could perhaps have a workshop. Kate C. volunteered to help with it. She described the "Translation taster" sessions of the London Poetry Workshops. A poem is brought in from any language by a participant who has prepared a literal translation. People take turns proposing translations for each line. It's collaborative activity where you get to know the people you're working with as well. Zakiya loves the idea.

Laura said at last MATI conference Meghan McCallum ran an event where you have a text in EN and people got into language groups and talked through the difficulties of translating it into another language. An interesting activity for those who usually translate into EN.

Shelley said she will talk to Kate C. more about this idea. Kelley is also willing to help.

Shelley adjourned the meeting at 9:51 Pacific time/12:51 Eastern time.