

LSA INCOME-BASED DUES FEASIBILITY STUDY

Report

September 2026

In our continuing effort to explore every option to strengthen the LSA's finances while staying mindful of the pressures many linguists are facing right now, we have been considering shifting from the current membership dues structure to an income-based membership dues structure. The central idea of an income-based structure is that members who earn less would pay less, and those who earn more would pay more.

To support this exploration, in late July/early August a team composed of Jon Coltz, a lifetime LSA member and market research expert, and Margaret Vitullo, LSA Executive Director, conducted 19 half-hour interviews with 14 members and 5 non-members, asking about their views of the current dues structure as well as their views of the potential new income-based dues structure. The interviewees represented a spectrum of incomes, ethnicities, and employment status and type (i.e., students, faculty, retirees, academia, industry, etc.).

Building on the results from the interviews, Coltz and Vitullo then developed two slightly different brief surveys, one for all current members and another for recently lapsed members. The surveys were open from August 18 until September 4.

Both the interviews and the survey referred to the income-based dues structure in Table 1. Under this model, the LSA's lowest dues option under the current dues structure is cut by nearly 50% (\$47 to \$25); the proposed highest dues level remains below the highest dues level for three of the four comparable national-level major disciplinary societies. American Sociological Association, American Anthropological Association, American Political Science Association all have top-level dues over \$325. At \$280, only the American Educational Research Association's top-level dues are lower.

Table 1

Annual Income	Proposed Dues	Other Society Comparisons (Rough Because Categories Vary)
\$200,000 and above	\$325	Top category: ASA=\$428; AERA=\$280; AAA=\$356; APSA \$359
\$170,000 and \$199,999	\$275	ASA=\$428; AERA=\$280; AAA=\$356; APSA \$305
\$130,000 and \$169,999	\$225	ASA=\$428; AERA=\$280; AAA=\$356; APSA \$305
\$100,000 and \$129,999	\$175	ASA=\$398; AERA=\$280; AAA=\$356; APSA \$271
\$70,000 and \$99,999	\$125	ASA=\$398; AERA=\$280; AAA=\$254; APSA \$235
\$50,000 and \$69,999	\$ 75	ASA=\$398; AERA=\$280; AAA=\$209; APSA \$194
\$30,000 and \$49,999	\$50	ASA=\$398; AERA=\$180 (Early Career); AAA=\$209; APSA \$194
Below \$30,000	\$25	ASA=\$91; AERA=\$80 (Grad student); AAA=\$119; APSA \$108

Interview Process and Results

Three objectives guided the interviews: (1) determine whether the current dues structure is a barrier to membership renewal; (2) gather feedback on an income-based membership structure; and (3) assess whether the proposed dues under an income-based structure are a barrier or an incentive to membership renewal. (The Interview Discussion Guide can be found at the end of this report.)

Interviewees were first reminded of our current dues structure.

Current (2026) membership dues

Membership level	Dues
Student	\$47
Associate	\$100
Regular	\$141
Lifetime (phasing out)	\$2,539

They were then told that LSA is exploring the possibility of a different approach to dues and the table below was shared with them.

Income-Based

Annual income	Dues
Under \$30,000	\$25
\$30,000 to \$49,999	\$50
\$50,000 to \$69,999	\$75
\$70,000 to \$99,999	\$125
\$100,000 to \$129,999	\$175
\$130,000 to \$169,999	\$225
\$170,000 to \$199,999	\$275
\$200,000 and above	\$325

From the interviews, we learned:

- 17 of 19 interviewees (90 percent) favored switching from the current membership structure to an income-based structure because it would lower the financial barrier to membership for early-stage linguists (students, postdocs, and junior faculty).
- These 17 also said that, with such a switch, they would be more likely to renew their LSA membership next year.
- More generally, interviewees told us they would view this switch to an income-based model as a sign that the LSA was working in a “sensitive” and “thoughtful” manner, particularly for those for whom the current dues are a barrier to membership renewal/reactivation. Upon seeing the income-based dues structure, one respondent commented, “I feel seen and represented here—as someone who is in a small liberal arts teaching college.”

- The two interviewees who viewed this switch negatively were (1) uncomfortable revealing their annual income to the LSA and (2) less inclined to pay higher dues than current. One of these respondents who was in the over \$200,000 category said they would ask themselves, “Do I feel twice as good about contributing to the LSA when the price is twice as much?”

SUMMARY

Most interviewees favored moving from the current membership structure to an income-based structure.

Survey Process and Results

A total of 514 people responded to the survey, of whom 369 were current members (out of 2,498, resulting in a 15% response rate) and 145 were lapsed members (out of 1,479, resulting in a 10% response rate). While 10% response rates are now considered reasonable in this age of widespread survey fatigue, caution in interpreting the results is nonetheless called for, given the low response rates.

Of the 369 members, 84 were Lifetime LSA members and were excluded from the subsequent analysis of how the shift might impact annual dues-paying members, leaving data from 285 members in the analysis.

Respondents were first asked to rate their likelihood of renewing their membership under the current dues model on a five-point scale (1-Very unlikely to renew, 2-Somewhat unlikely to renew, 3-Neutral, 4-Somewhat likely to renew, 5-Very likely to renew).

Respondents were then presented with the income-based dues option and asked to rate their likelihood of renewing under that dues model. A preface to this question was crafted based on feedback from the interviews. It explained that the new dues model was designed to be a bridge to membership, not a barrier. It also explained that their responses would be confidential, that there would be no income verification, and that they were free to select their income level based on individual or family income (both in the survey and in the new dues process, if it was adopted). They were further invited to adjust the income level/dues level they selected to take into account their personal financial situation – because they might be providing financial support for extended family members, or have a child with special needs, or other factors that impacted their financial situation. (The complete surveys for current members and recently-expired members can be found at the end of this report). If the income-based dues structure is adopted, a similar preface would be included on the actual membership form people would see when selecting their income/dues level.

Overall results

Figure 1 shows the likelihood of renewing membership among current LSA members under (1) the current dues structure and (2) an income-based dues structure. In moving from current dues to income-based dues:

- The bottom-two box percentage (**very unlikely/somewhat unlikely**) reduces from 17.6% to 8.1%
- The top-two box percentage (**somewhat likely/very likely**) increases from 76.1% to 85.6%
- This upward shift in renewal likelihood is statistically significant (Wilcoxon signed-rank test, $p < 0.001$)

Figure 1

Current members: Likelihood to renew LSA membership

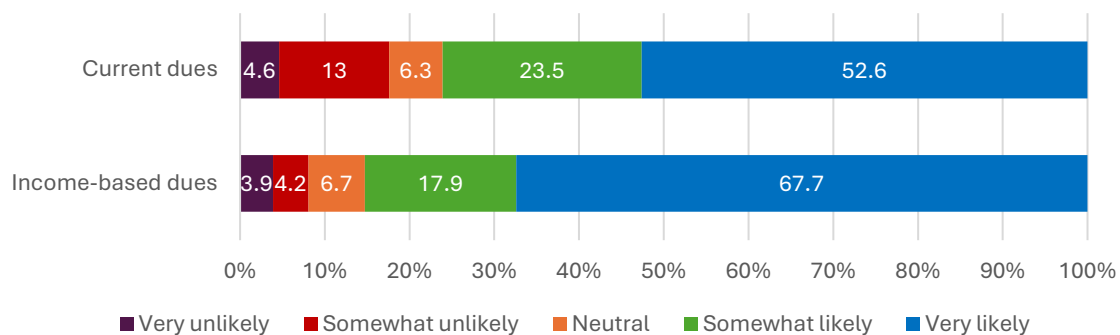
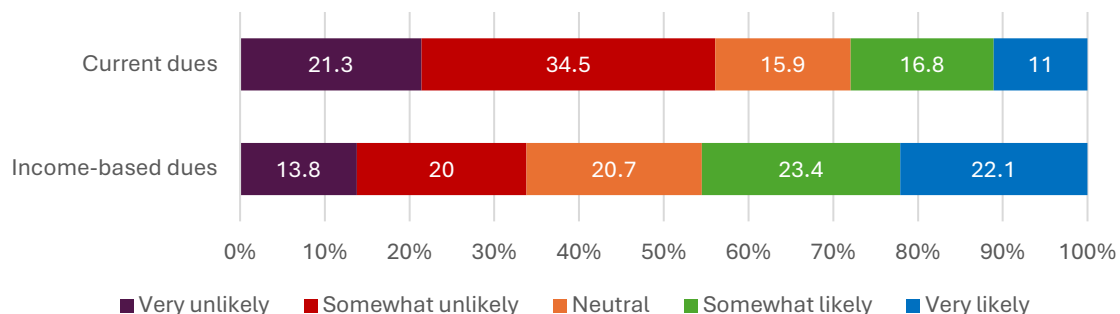


Figure 2 shows the likelihood of lapsed members rejoining the LSA under (1) the current dues structure and (2) an income-based dues model. With a change in dues structures, we see:

- The bottom-two box percentage (**very unlikely/somewhat unlikely**) reduces from 55.8% to 33.8%
- The top-two box percentage (**somewhat likely/very likely**) increases from 27.8% to 45.5%
- This upward shift is also statistically significant (Wilcoxon signed-rank test, $p < 0.001$)

Figure 2

Lapsed members: Likelihood to rejoin the LSA



SUMMARY

Under an income-based dues structure, current members are more likely to renew their LSA membership, and lapsed members are more likely to rejoin.

Results by income level

We then broke down the overall results by reported annual income. Figure 3 shows the mean likelihood scores of current members to renew by income under the current dues structure (blue line) and an income-based dues structure (orange line). (Note: The numbers in parentheses below each income bracket indicate the number of respondents in that bracket.) We see the following:

- Under the current dues structure, the mean likelihood-to-renew scores for members with an annual income below \$70,000 are 3.6 or less
- Under an income-based dues structure, we see mean scores in the range of 4.4 to 4.7 for those same members

At the upper end of the income scale, we see another bifurcation:

- Members who earn more than \$100,000 per year are more likely to renew under the current dues structure and less likely to renew under an income-based structure
- This gap is especially pronounced for those with an annual income above \$170,000.

The crossover we see is statistically significant (Jonckheere-Terpstra trend test, $p < 0.001$).

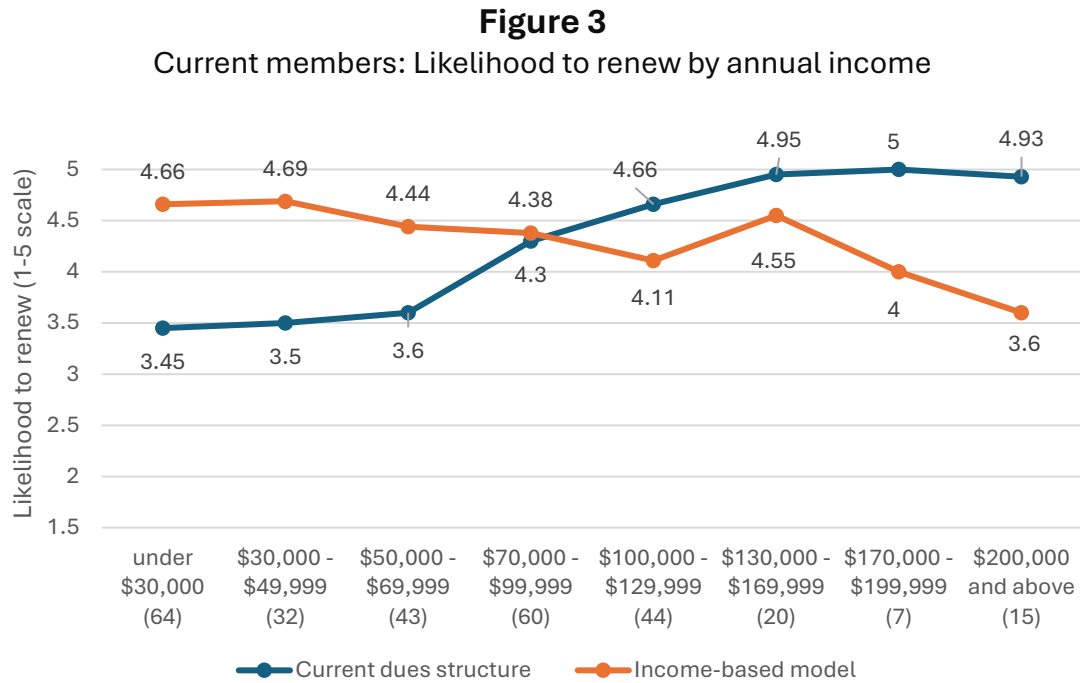


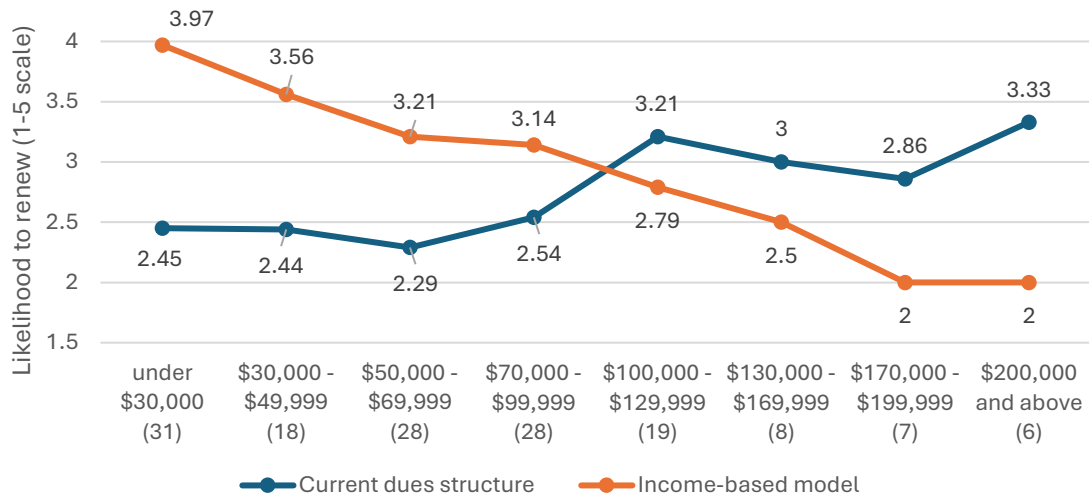
Figure 4 shows the same analysis for the lapsed member data. Notably, mean likelihood-to-rejoin scores are lower for lapsed members than they are for current members (downward shift in mean scores on the y-axis), but the crossover pattern is largely the same:

- Lower-income lapsed members (below \$70,000) are more likely to rejoin under an income-based membership structure
- Higher-income lapsed members (\$100,000 and above) are less likely to rejoin under an income-based membership structure

This crossover is also statistically significant (Jonckheere-Terpstra trend test, $p < 0.001$).

Figure 4

Lapsed members: Likelihood to rejoin by annual income



Summary

Switching to an income-based membership structure increases the likelihood of renewing/rejoining for lower-income individuals and decreases it for higher-income individuals.

Analysis of open-ended responses

Current members ($n = 222$ comments)

- Sentiment was generally favorable to switch to an income-based dues structure: 50% supported the switch, 22% were divided, 16% were neutral or off-topic, and 12% opposed it.
- Top reasons for supporting the switch included: Affordability/accessibility for students, adjuncts, and early-career linguists (16%), followed by a fairness/equity argument that higher earners should subsidize lower earners (9%).
- The single biggest concern (11%) was that higher top-tier fees risk driving away high earners.
- Cost-of-living concerns also arose (8%). Some domestic members (in high-cost US cities) and international members (in high-cost international cities) said income doesn't reflect everyday purchasing power.
- A cluster of members offered concrete alternatives, including rank/title-based tiers.
- Smaller but real concerns included: Verification/honesty risk (5%, several said they would underreport income), dues being paid via institutional/research funds so personal income is irrelevant (5%), retiree/fixed-income situations (5%), and a privacy objection from a handful who said LSA has no right to ask (5%).

Lapsed members ($n = 84$ comments)

- Sentiment was more muted and more off-topic vs. current members: 37% were supportive, 25% divided, 10% opposed, and a notably larger 29% neutral bucket.
- 19% explicitly said cost is why they lapsed; another 19% explicitly said it was not, and that something else was (forgotten renewal, low perceived value, life circumstances, a bad department experience). 62% didn't address the question directly.
- Affordability/accessibility was still the top advantage, and it was even higher than for current members (20%). Several said explicitly that lower dues would bring them back.
- Unlike current members, the top concern wasn't steep top-tier fees (only 5%). Rather, it was (1) international/non-US barriers (currency, distance from the US-based conference), and (2) a perceived lack of value regardless of price (12% for each).
- Notably, several lapsed members said their dues would be covered by grants or institutional funds (8%) or that the conference registration fee, not membership dues, is their real cost barrier (6%), meaning a dues change wouldn't move them either way.
- Over all, it seems that income-based dues may reactivate the price-sensitive segment of lapsed members (students, unemployed, early-career), but a comparably sized group left for reasons a price change doesn't address: value perception, currency/distance friction for international members, and life circumstances unrelated to cost.

Revenue modeling

There are two major motivations for exploring the feasibility of income-based dues. The first is responding to the considerable pressure that many linguists are facing today, pressures that make membership in the LSA unaffordable for some. The second is working toward a viable future for the LSA. The analysis below focuses on the impact of a possible shift to income-based dues in terms of revenue and membership numbers – both of which are essential to assuring a viable future of the LSA.

Current dues model

Modeling the number of annual-dues paying members we will have in 2027 and the amount of revenue that will be generated is the first step in determining if a shift in our dues structure is advisable. We have a lot of members who don't pay annual dues, including those who are lifetime members, honorary members, K-12 student members, and those who receive dues waivers (Indigenous scholars of the Americas plus essentially everyone who submits a dues waiver request). So only counting the paying dues categories (regular, student, and associate, shown in bold in Table 3 below) and subtracting the number of dues waivers granted through July of 2026, brings us to 1,698 dues paying members for FY2026.

Table 2

Members per category as of July 2026	Current dues waiver practice	Offer 25% as many dues waivers
Total Members	2580	2580
Regular Members	927	927
Student Member	803	803
Life Member (deferred revenue added Oct. 1 each year)	655	655
Associate Member	103	103
Honorary Member	56	56
K-12 Student Member	38	38
# of dues waivers granted (approx)	135	33
Annual Dues Paying Members in 2026	1698	1800
Annual Dues Paying Members in 2027, assuming 5% annual decline	1613	1710

As we consider the number we will have in FY2027, we must keep in mind that for the past several years we've been experiencing roughly a 5% drop in membership year-over-year. If all else stays the same, that suggests we'll have 1613 annual dues-paying members in FY2027.

In 2023, after adjusting dues rates to reflect the impact of inflation since dues were last increased, the Executive Committee agreed that moving forward annual member dues would rise each year by the federal cost of living. Taking into account the anticipated 5% decline in membership, as well as a 3.8% cost of living adjustment, brings our projected revenue for 2027 under the current dues model to \$154,685.

Table 3

	2026	2027
Dues paying members (continuing "no questions asked" waivers)	1698	1613
Revenue	\$156,862	\$154,685

Income-based dues model

As we shift to thinking about the number of members and the amount of revenue we might generate under the income-based dues model, it seems reasonable to re-think our "no-questions asked" dues waiver practice. With the income-based dues structure, someone is free to choose any dues level they wish. Apart from Indigenous Scholars of the Americas, it seems reasonable to ask everyone else to pay at least \$25 to become a member of the LSA. If we plan to provide only 25% as many dues waivers in 2027, and we plan on a 5% overall decline in membership, then we'd project 1,710 dues paying members in FY2027 (as shown in the final column of Table 2).

The data from the interviews and survey reported above suggest that under the income-based dues structure, a higher proportion of the large group of linguists earning less than \$100,000 would renew their membership, while a lower proportion of the comparatively smaller group of linguists earning \$100,000 or more would do so. A crucial question is whether the positive financial impact of a larger proportion of folks at lower income levels renewing would be large enough to outweigh the negative impact of a smaller proportion of higher income folks renewing?¹

To answer this question, we began by calculating percent change between the current dues model and the income-based model in the likelihood of current members saying they are *very likely* or *somewhat likely* to renew. Those results are seen in Table 2.

Table 2

Percent change with move from current to income-based dues structure - (T2-T1)/T1	
Income level	Very or somewhat likely to renew
\$200,000 and above	-33%
\$170,000 - \$199,999	-14%
\$130,000 - \$169,999	-15%
\$100,000 - \$129,999	-17%
\$70,000 - \$99,999	2%
\$50,000 - \$69,999	32%
\$30,000 - \$49,999	53%
Under \$30,000	61%

The next step is to take that number and begin projecting revenue. The LSA membership form includes a question that asks people joining the LSA to indicate their annual income level. That allows us to project the number of dues paying members who might fall into each of the income categories in the new dues structure. Moreover, with the data from the survey, we can also project whether the increase in number of members at the lower income levels will make up for the decrease in number of members at the upper income levels.

Table 4 incorporates the survey results into projections of membership numbers and membership revenue. It also assumes that we curtail our “no questions asked” approach to dues waivers. Before the survey results are added, we would project that under the income-based dues model we would have 1710 members and revenue would total \$156,471. The survey results suggest that the gains in membership among people in the lower income categories would more than make up for the losses of membership in the top income categories. Projections suggest that both the number of members would be higher (by 500 members), and overall revenue would higher (ever so slightly, by \$8,193).

¹ Special thanks to Andries Coetzee (University of Michigan) for his assistance with this part of the analysis.

Table 4

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Income level	Proposed Dues	Percent of members in category	2026 Dues-paying members with 5% drop in members and fewer dues waivers	2027 members per category before survey results added	Projected revenue for income-based dues before survey results added	% change in 'very' or 'somewhat likely' to renew based on survey results	2027 members per category with 5% drop adjusted for % change in column "G"	Income-based dues projected revenue with survey results
\$200,000 and above	\$ 325.00	2%	1710	42	\$13,588	-33%	28	\$9,059
\$170,000 and \$199,999	\$ 275.00	1%	1710	25	\$6,899	-14%	22	\$5,913
\$130,000 and \$169,999	\$ 225.00	5%	1710	88	\$19,755	-15%	75	\$16,792
\$100,000 and \$129,999	\$ 175.00	10%	1710	167	\$29,267	-17%	139	\$24,270
\$70,000 and \$99,999	\$ 125.00	21%	1710	351	\$43,900	2%	358	\$44,761
\$50,000 and \$69,999	\$ 75.00	11%	1710	197	\$14,738	32%	260	\$19,475
\$30,000 and \$49,999	\$ 50.00	17%	1710	293	\$14,633	53%	447	\$22,335
\$30,000	\$ 25.00	32%	1710	548	\$13,693	61%	882	\$22,060
TOTAL				1710	\$156,471		2210	\$164,664

Conclusion

As the Executive Committee considers the possibility of shifting to an income-based dues structure for FY2027, we need to be mindful of both the potential benefits of such a move, and the risks associated with it, as well as the limitations of the data on which all of these analyses are based. We underwent a robust process to explore this option, beginning with adding an income question to the membership form more than a year ago, and then proceeding through the interviews and the survey and the subsequent analysis of all the data. Nonetheless, only a small fraction of our current and lapsed members participated in any of these data collection activities.

The results of the income-based dues feasibility study suggest that a larger proportion of respondents supported the shift than opposed it. The results also suggest that shifting to income-based dues would achieve the goal of responding to the pressures many linguists are currently facing, while also increasing the number of LSA members and modestly increasing annual revenue. Still, a variety of caution points emerged from the analysis, including the possibility that some higher-income linguists would not see membership in the LSA as valuable enough to pay higher membership dues. These results highlight the essential task of building and effectively communicating the value proposition for membership at every level.

POTENTIAL SHIFT TO THE LSA MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE

APPENDIX

INTERVIEW DISCUSSION GUIDE



Membership Fee Interviews

Discussion Guide

Objectives

- Solicit feedback from current LSA members (as well as some lapsed members) about a potential shift from fixed membership fees to an income-based fee structure.
- Develop insights that can be tested in a convenience sample survey sent to all current and lapsed members.
- Secondly, use these interviews to forge stronger connections with members/lapsed members.

Logistics

- For each interview, make Jon a co-host.
- Make sure AI transcription is set to “on.”

Study details

- From Wednesday, July 29, to Monday, August 3, we will conduct up to 30 individual interviews.
 - Interviews will be 25 minutes long and conducted online via Zoom.
 - Jon Coltz will moderate the interviews. Margaret Weigers Vitullo will attend and participate in all interviews.
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Section 1: Introductions

0:00 – 0:05 (5 minutes)

Begin by welcoming the interviewee and thanking them for their time and insights. Inform the interviewee that we will be recording an anonymized AI transcription of the interview and that the transcript is for internal use only and will never be shared publicly. Then share introductions:

- **Jon/Margaret introductions:** We're so glad you're here with us today! Thank you for participating in this short conversation; we welcome your open and honest thoughts throughout! To begin, we'll introduce ourselves. My name is Jon Coltz. I'm a professional focus group moderator and a linguist specializing in pragmatics, and I'm a Lifetime Member of the LSA. With me today is Margaret Weigers Vitullo, the Executive Director of the LSA. (Margaret to say a few introductory words here.)
- **Interviewee introduction:** Tell us about yourself and your relationship to linguistics and the LSA. (Interviewee to share here.)

Section 2: Change in membership fees

0:05 – 0:20 (15 minutes)

In this second section, raise the primary topic of this interview: the possibility of a shift in the membership fee model from fixed fees to income-based fees. Begin by asking how the interviewee feels about LSA membership fees and whether they have ever been a barrier to membership renewal.

- **Membership fees – thoughts and barriers:** We're curious to know: What thoughts, if any, do you have about the current cost of an LSA annual membership?
 - Is this cost something you stop to consider, or do you simply pay what is asked?

- If you do indeed think about this cost, what – specifically – do you think about?
- Has the cost of LSA annual membership ever been a barrier to renewing your membership?
 - If so, do you know why this is?
 - Have you thought about this in dollars? Like, “This is just too much money.”
 - Have you thought about this in terms of value? Like, “For the cost of membership, what am I really getting from the LSA?”
 - Have you thought about this in other ways?

Remind the interviewee of the 2026 membership fees. Ask whether they have any thoughts on these fees in particular.

- **Membership fees – current:** Let’s take a moment to remind you of the current annual membership fees (screen-share the table below):

Membership level	Fee
Student	\$47
Associate	\$100
Regular	\$141
Lifetime	\$2,539

- As you review the cost for each membership level, do you have any questions or thoughts you’d like to share?
 - If so, what?

Probe briefly in more general terms; ask the interviewee what makes a professional society’s membership dues fair.

- **Fair membership fees:** Let’s take a step back for a moment. Before we discuss any possible changes to the current dues structure, we’re curious to know: In your opinion, what makes a professional society’s membership dues fair?

- Have you ever been or are you currently a member of any professional society whose dues you consider fair? If so, what does fairness mean to you in this context?
 - Should everyone pay the same?
 - Should people at different career stages pay different amounts?
 - Should the ability to pay matter?
- At the same time, what feels unfair?

Then, introduce the idea of an income-based fee structure, and describe it in a nutshell: “Those who earn less pay less; those who earn more pay more.” Solicit any thoughts before screen-sharing a table of the proposed fees (Option 2 from the April 2026 memo). Some interviewees may wonder why the LSA is considering this change. We may reply that (1) we want to better serve our membership base – particularly members and students whose income is less than \$100,000 per year, and (2) we want to be responsive to those working in higher education, and in particular, to the stresses they’re experiencing.

- **Membership fees – income-based model:** The LSA is considering moving from a level-based membership fee model to an income-based model. Under this model, the cost of annual membership will be directly tied to income. (Be ready for questions about what we mean by income.) Before we share what this might look like, do you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns?
 - If so, what are they?
 - Before we even share any dollar amounts, what do you think about the idea itself?
 - Here’s a table showing what income-based annual membership costs could look like for the LSA. (Screen-share the table below. Then screen-share the current fee table alongside this table so interviewees can compare the two side by side.)

Annual Income	Fee
Under \$30,000	\$25
\$30,000 to \$49,999	\$50
\$50,000 to \$69,999	\$75
\$70,000 to \$99,999	\$125
\$100,000 to \$129,999	\$175
\$130,000 to \$169,999	\$225
\$170,000 to \$199,999	\$275
\$200,000 and above	\$325

Current

Membership level	Fee
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Income-Based

Annual Income	Fee
Under \$30,000	\$25
\$30,000 to \$49,999	\$50
\$50,000 to \$69,999	\$75
\$70,000 to \$99,999	\$125
\$100,000 to \$129,999	\$175
\$130,000 to \$169,999	\$225
\$170,000 to \$199,999	\$275
\$200,000 and above	\$325

- (Note: Indigenous scholars and K-12 teachers and students will continue to enjoy free membership. In addition, if interviewees aren't readily seeing the changes, tell them that everyone – in particular, students, adjunct faculty, etc. – making less than \$100k per year will be paying less.)
- As you're looking at these two tables, tell us what's catching your attention.
- Now that you see what your LSA membership could cost under an income-based model, what are your thoughts?
 - What questions, if any, might you have about how a system like this would actually work?

- If the LSA were to move forward with an income-based dues model, using the costs in the second table, would you be any more or less likely to renew your LSA membership? Would this affect your likelihood of renewal at all?
 - How so? Tell us more.

If the interviewee indicates they might be less likely to renew under an income-based dues structure, seek to understand why.

- **Less likely to renew:** You mentioned that under an income-based dues structure – specifically, the one shown here – you'd be less likely to renew your LSA annual membership. Tell us more about this.
 - Is this owing more to the general concept of income-based dues?
 - Is this tied more directly to the costs we listed in the table?

If the interviewee objects to the specific costs in the table, screen-share Option 1, etc., from the April 2026 memo. Determine whether these costs are more acceptable, and if so, understand why.

If the interviewee says they would be more likely to renew under an income-based structure, ask why.

- **More likely to renew:** You said you'd be more likely to renew your LSA annual membership under an income-based dues structure – specifically, using the fees we shared here. Tell us more about this.
 - Is this simply because you feel more positively about the idea of income-based dues (i.e., that it's fairer)?
 - Is this owing more to the costs we shared in the table?

If the interviewee says that membership fees have relatively little influence on their decision to renew their LSA membership, aim to understand which factors do affect membership renewal.

- **Neither more nor less likely to renew:** You mentioned that LSA annual membership dues play little to no role in your decision to renew your LSA membership. We're curious to know: What factors do influence your decision to renew in a given year?
 - In the past, what factors have positively influenced your decision to renew your LSA annual membership? That is, what has made you more likely to renew?

- At the same time, what factors have influenced your decision not to renew? What has made you less likely to renew?

Section 3: Additional questions/feedback, wrap up

0:20 – 0:25 (5 minutes)

In this third and final section, seek the interviewee's recommendation on changing the annual membership fee structure. Then, ask whether the interviewee has any additional questions or feedback on any aspect of LSA membership or the LSA more generally.

- **Recommendation:** Thank you so much for sharing your views on income-based membership fees! We have one additional question on this topic: Through your participation in this interview, you are advising the LSA Executive Committee on this decision. Given this, what would you recommend they do?
 - How do you feel they should move forward?
- **Questions/feedback:** Finally, beyond membership dues, we're curious to know whether you have questions about or input on any aspect of the LSA – for example, the Annual Meeting, the LSA Update, publications, etc. We welcome any questions or feedback you may have.

Address questions and feedback as time allows. Thank the interviewee for their participation, provide details on their reimbursement, and invite them to reach out to the LSA with any additional input on membership fees or any other aspect of the LSA.

LSA CURRENT MEMBER SURVEY



LSA Membership Dues Survey

Hello, and thank you for taking this survey on LSA membership dues. This survey consists of **five questions** and should take no more than **2-3 minutes**. We appreciate your time and input!

If you complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a free Apple iPad Air.

* 1. The current LSA membership dues appear in the table below. Given these dues, **how likely or unlikely are you to renew** your membership in the coming year?

Membership level	Fee
Student	\$47
Associate	\$100
Regular	\$141
Lifetime	\$2,539

- ☐ **Very unlikely** to renew
- ☐ **Somewhat unlikely** to renew
- ☐ **Neither unlikely nor likely** to renew
- ☐ **Somewhat likely** to renew
- ☐ **Very likely** to renew
- ☐ I'm a Lifetime Member of the LSA, so I don't renew on an annual basis.

* 2. The LSA is considering moving to an income-based dues structure next year. This potential new dues structure is designed to be a bridge to membership, not a barrier. If your income is below \$100,000, your dues would be lower to make full participation in the LSA more affordable. If your income is \$100,000 or over, your dues would be higher under this new model, making it possible for the LSA to offer membership at a lower price to less financially secure linguists while sustaining the programs, publications, and advocacy that benefit the whole field.

To find your starting point, look at the table below. You're welcome to base your starting point on either your individual income or your family income – whichever feels like the right measure for your situation.

From there, feel free to adjust up or down. Income alone doesn't always reflect what you can afford. You might, for instance, be supporting extended family members, or facing significant child care costs – including costs tied to a child with special needs. We trust you to **weigh these circumstances and choose the income level/dues level that fits**. Your response to this question, both here and on the membership form (should the income-based dues structure be adopted), will be completely confidential.

Annual Income	Fee
Under \$30,000	\$25
\$30,000 to \$49,999	\$50
\$50,000 to \$69,999	\$75
\$70,000 to \$99,999	\$125
\$100,000 to \$129,999	\$175
\$130,000 to \$169,999	\$225
\$170,000 to \$199,999	\$275
\$200,000 and above	\$325

If the LSA moved to this structure, please indicate the income level/dues level you would select.

- ☐ Annual income under \$30,000 (Dues \$25)
- ☐ Annual income \$30,000 - \$49,999 (Dues \$50)
- ☐ Annual income \$50,000 - \$69,999 (Dues \$75)
- ☐ Annual income \$70,000 - \$99,999 (Dues \$125)
- ☐ Annual income \$100,000 - \$129,999 (Dues \$175)
- ☐ Annual income \$130,000 - \$169,999 (Dues \$225)
- ☐ Annual income \$170,000 - \$199,999 (Dues \$275)
- ☐ Annual income \$200,000 and above (Dues \$325)
- ☐ I'm a Lifetime Member of the LSA, so I don't renew on an annual basis.

* 3. If this income-based dues structure were implemented, **how likely would you be to renew** your LSA membership in the coming year?

- ☐ **Very unlikely** to renew
- ☐ **Somewhat unlikely** to renew
- ☐ **Neither unlikely nor likely** to renew
- ☐ **Somewhat likely** to renew
- ☐ **Very likely** to renew
- ☐ I'm a Lifetime Member of the LSA, so I don't renew on an annual basis.

4. Do you have **any additional feedback** on LSA membership dues (the current dues structure or the proposed income-based dues structure)?

5. Is there **anything else you would like to share** with the LSA (e.g., about the Annual Meeting, webinars, committees, publications, advocacy, the biweekly member newsletter, etc.)?

6. If you would like to be entered into the drawing for the free Apple iPad Air, please enter your name and email address below.

Full name

Email address

LSA LAPSED MEMBER SURVEY



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*1. Our records show that you're not currently a member of the LSA. We're reviewing our membership pricing and would like to know whether our membership dues are a significant barrier to rejoining the LSA. Take a look at the current dues table below, and then tell us: **How likely would you be to rejoin the LSA in the next year?**

Membership level	Fee
Student	\$47
Associate	\$100
Regular	\$141
Lifetime	\$2,539

- ☐ **Very unlikely** to rejoin in the next year
- ☐ **Somewhat unlikely** to rejoin in the next year
- ☐ **Neither unlikely nor likely** to rejoin in the next year
- ☐ **Somewhat likely** to rejoin in the next year
- ☐ **Very likely** to rejoin in the next year

* 2. The LSA is considering moving to an income-based dues structure next year. This potential new dues structure is designed to be a bridge to membership, not a barrier. If your income is below \$100,000, your dues would be lower to make full participation in the LSA more affordable. If your income is \$100,000 or over, your dues would be higher under this new model, making it possible for the LSA to offer membership at a lower price to less financially secure linguists while sustaining the programs, publications, and advocacy that benefit the whole field.

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If the LSA moved to this structure, please indicate the income level/dues level you would select.

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* 3. If this income-based dues structure were implemented, **how likely would you be to rejoin the LSA** next year?

- ☐ **Very unlikely** to rejoin the LSA in the next year
- ☐ **Somewhat unlikely** to rejoin the LSA in the next year
- ☐ **Neither unlikely nor likely** to rejoin the LSA in the next year
- ☐ **Somewhat likely** to rejoin the LSA in the next year
- ☐ **Very likely** to rejoin the LSA in the next year

4. Do you have **any additional feedback** on LSA membership dues (the current dues structure or the proposed income-based dues structure)?

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