

Minutes/Summary of Roster Meeting 5-16-07

In attendance: Tara Gibbs, Silvia McCalip, Natasha Geilman, Michelle Murdock, and Kathy Carey.

1. How much breadth should the roster have?

The roster group discussed the breadth of the roster. Options discussed were medical focus only, or medical, education, law enforcement, health and human services, and other areas. We believe it would be more beneficial to have a broader roster and to create a search for specialization. The roster would include all areas except court interpreting.

Action to be taken: Natasha will look for a list of specializations used by the ATA to help frame further discussion of this matter.

2. How should the roster be structured?

a. How many tiers should it have?

The issue of tiers vs something else was discussed. Tiers are a problem, because they do not work across all languages, Spanish having clearly better training and standards available than uncommon languages.

A possible solution was brainstormed which would use a formula to rank interpreters. The formula would output a score for each interpreter on the register. This number could be used to rank interpreters relative to each other within a given language, or to compare interpreters across languages. A threshold of skills could be set to be on the roster, unless fewer than some number (say 5) people meet the threshold level.

b. What are the benefits of a gradient formula and threshold structure?

In languages like Anwak with no one at the threshold level, available interpreters would be ranked relative to each other, so potential employers could identify the best standard available. A score definition chart would allow people employing the interpreter to understand the abilities of interpreters in a particular band.

In languages like Laotion, with only a few interpreters available, but a few clearly a cut above the rest, it would employ a threshold which would eliminate poor interpreters from eligibility to be on the roster, and would rank the more qualified interpreters with a score clearly higher than the others.

With Spanish, with many qualified interpreters, the threshold would again eliminate poor interpreters from eligibility to be on the roster and would rank the more qualified interpreters with a score higher than others.

c. If you wanted to search on a specialization, would interpreters still be ranked?

The roster could output a list based on everyone in the language, or could search on language and a specialization. In either case, whatever group of interpreters was selected, they would be ranked relative to each other, and a raw score would also be available.

d. What should be included in the formula?

Ethics and practices score+Language proficiency 1 + Language proficiency 2
+ Consecutive skills + Simultaneous skills + Sight Translation Lang 1 + Sight
Translation Lang 2 + Education + Experience= Score

Each item would be weighted.

e. Should education be included?

It will show up in the interpreting skill scores already.

Education shows ability and disposition towards learning and improvement,
continued professional development, and engagement in the field and should
be included.

Education shows ability to articulate why you need to do something and to
advocate for changed structural policies within an institution.

Education shows training to manage a situation and interact in a situation.

f. Should experience be included?

Some interpreters after 6 years in the field of medical interpreting still haven't
developed a way to deal with the word "stool", for example, do not know their
role, and do not know how to manage a situation.

Experience shows ability to function in an interpreting situation, ability to be
on time, and to work within a system. It shows interest in a field over a
sustained period of time. It also shows familiarity with procedures and
systems.

g. How will ethics and practice be evaluated?

Low on time, to be discussed more fully. Options range from an essay and
mc exam to evaluation by tools being developed for evaluated observation
and shadowing.

h. What should the threshold level be? What are the qualifications for being
listed on the roster at all?

Low on time, to be discussed more fully.

i. By what mechanism would specializations be eligible for listing?

Could be a technical vocabulary test, another interpreting skills test like
RID does, experience in a field after achieving xyz level, etc. Low on
time, to be discussed more fully

j. Do we need a two or three phased plan?

Additional actions to be taken:

Find out more about the Roster system in England

Find out how the Better Business Bureau's complaint system works

Get stats from a study done by the courts on the business case for qualified interpreters
(Silvia)