The SIG Business meeting began with an overall reflection on the great year of 2015, including a summary of several well-received webinars over the summer. SIG Chair Dr. Paula Garrett-Rucks introduced the SIG officers and encouraged the attendees to submit articles to the newsletter. Paula also thanked the out-going SIG Vice-Chair Dr. Stacey Johnson for her dedication to the SIG business and presented a souvenir to Stacey. Paula updated the new leadership team. She congratulated and welcomed Dr. Isabelle Drewelow to be the new SIG Vice-Chair.

Paula presented the State of the ACTFL Union on the teaching and learning of cultures. She refreshed the culture standards, and explained the ACTFL global competency position statement. She then announced the upcoming rubrics to assess learners’ intercultural communication competence in 2017.

After presentation, Paula presented the 2016 Special Recognition award to Dr. Jacque Van Housten for her outstanding contributions on the NCSSFL-ACTFL intercultural communicative competence Can-Do statements, coming in the summer of 2017.

Because Paula had to leave earlier to receive an award, Stacey and Kaishan continued the business meeting. Stacey explained the SIG budget and where the money was spent in the last year.

Kaishan talked about the significance of SIG newsletter and encouraged the members to submit their writings. She also answered attendees’ questions on submission requirements and deadline.

Stacey explained how ACTFL conference proposals were selected in 2016. The culture SIG received over 80 proposals that indicated to be sponsored by the SIG, and explained how the three officers fairly reviewed these proposals based on the frameworks to represent the SIG. Stacey also encouraged the attendees to sign up as volunteers to review this year (2017) proposals.

Kaishan announced the Culture Research Grant winner: Silvina Orsatti: *Gamification of the Spanish Curriculum*, and Culture Pedagogy Grant winner: Andie Fang Wang: *Integrating Social Media in a Chinese language and Culture Class*. Silvina was not present at the meeting, but she sent in a video to talk about her project. Andie was there to present her project in person and answered questions from the audience.

Four presenters at the SIG sponsored sessions had an opportunity to give a recap of their presentations. They were:
• UNESCO’s Sites: Inspiring and Engaging Students to Become World Citizens (McKew Devitt).
• Taking a Virtual Walk through the Linguistic Landscape to the Five C's (Brandon Tullock).
• Connecting through Architecture (Kathleen Reardon).
• Spanish-American Cultures and Communities as Catalysts for Social Justice (Linwood Randolph Jr.).

• Stacey announced some important dates: (1) ACTFL 2017 conference proposal due date: 1/13/2017; (2) Culture SIG 2017 Grant Proposals due date: 4/15/2017. Pedagogy Grant: $175, Research Grant: $175 and Honorable Mention: $50.

The meeting was adjourned.

2016 Officers:
Chair- Paula Garrett-Rucks, Vice-Chair- Isabelle Drewelow, Secretary-Kaishan Kong