

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting Agenda and Minutes
December 11, 2014

Present: Ali Abdi, Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Shauna Butterwick, David Coulter, Elaine Decker, Jason Ellis, Erika Hughes, Deirdre Kelly, Michael Marker, Amy Metcalfe, Bathseba Opini, Sam Rocha, Leslie Roman, Claudia Ruitenberg, Hongxia Shan, Michelle Stack, Fei Wang, Handel Wright

Regrets: Lesley Andres, Mark Aquash, Jo-ann Archibald, Jennifer Chan, Gerald Fallon, Hartej Gill, Garnet Grosjean, Autumn Knowlton, André Mazawi, Wendy Poole, Shermila Salgadoe, Tom Sork, Jude Walker

Students: Yu Guo, Sharon Jervis, Gabriella Maestrini, Sarah McCrabe, Neila Miled

Sessional Rep: Deo Bishundayal

Minutes of EDST Department Meeting December 11, 2014

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved.

3. Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4. Recognition of Mary's contributions to EDST

Mary Brooks, an EDST graduate and longtime sessional instructor, is retiring. The department invited Mary to the meeting to acknowledge her years of excellent service. Mary's leadership and tireless contributions to the Teacher Education program were particularly noted. The department wished her all the best for the future.

5. Topics for Discussion/Decision

a. Head's report (Ali)

The hiring freeze that was implemented will last for one year. The university will revisit the policy but there are no guarantees that the freeze will be lifted after the year.

The issue of travel funds was raised at the last Heads' Meeting with the Dean. Faculty will still receive their annual \$1250 travel allotment. However, this money must only be used for travel and cannot be used for other purchases, such as books or computer supplies

b. Graduate Advisor report (Claudia)

The EDST Graduation Tea was held on November 28th. The event was a success and many gathered to celebrate the graduation of the EDST students.

UBC is replacing the SynApps application system with a new program called SITS:Vision. This system will go live in 2015 and all programs with a start date of January 2016 or later will use SITS:Vision. The new system will allow departments to review and evaluate applications online. Erika is currently translating the SynApps questions into the new system. Program coordinators will have the opportunity to review the new system before applications open in August 2015.

c. Undergraduate courses teaching structure (Michelle)

The Faculty of Education plans on changing the format of EDST 401 in an effort to save money. The new course format will be lectures with seminars. Several faculty members are unhappy over this change and Bathseba is writing a report to express their concerns.

Discussion:

Many faculty members expressed their dismay at the potential change in teaching structure. Concerns ranged from the decline of theoretical courses in favour of practicums to an increased workload for instructors. One faculty member suggested holding a straw poll to provide Michelle with strong evidence of faculty opinion for her next meeting. Others suggested passing an official motion on the topic.

Action:

Faculty members who would like to voice their concerns on this matter should contact Michelle.

d. Student governance update (Gabriella)

Gabriella and the student reps are creating a system to ensure the smooth transition of student reps from one year to the next. They are also examining the roles of student reps in other faculties to see what traits can be incorporated into EDST.

6. Pacific Educational Press promotion

Pacific Educational Press has been a part of the Faculty of Education since 1971. They will be holding a week-long series of talks beginning on January 19th. These talks will include breakfast information sessions as well as professional development seminars. Anyone interested in attending is asked to register in advance.

7. Brief overview of EDST website development

Ryan provided an update on the EDST website development. Design and navigation, content, search engine optimization and decoration are the four phases that are currently undergoing development. Other ongoing projects include redesigning the resources and prospective student pages as well as linking the EDST website with G+PS for a more seamless transition.

Website tracking statistics show that students are engaging with the new website tiles. Site visitors are also scrolling down on the pages to see all of the available information.

Anyone with questions or suggestions for the website should contact Michelle.

8. New course proposal – EDST 528

Notice of Motion – to approve the proposal for EDST 528 (new course)

This course was previously piloted under EDST 520 and received positive feedback

The following motion was moved by Claudia and seconded by Shauna and Leslie.

Carried unanimously

9. Announcements

Claudia congratulated Sam on the publication of his book's second edition.

Shauna thanked the instructors in the adult diploma program for their hard work this year.

Bathseba thanked all of those involved in the Teacher Education program this year.

10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:35 pm