

**Department of Educational Studies**  
**Department Meeting Minutes**  
**February 11, 2016**

*Present:* Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Lesley Andres, Shauna Butterwick, Jason Ellis, Mona Gleason, Garnet Grosjean, Deirdre Kelly, Michael Marker, André Mazawi, Jo-Anne Naslund, Carolina Palacios, Sam Rocha, Claudia Ruitenber, Shermila Salgadoe, Hongxia Shan, Alison Taylor, Rob Vanwynsberghe, Fei Wang, Handel Wright

*Regrets:* Jo-ann Archibald, Gerald Fallon, Amy Metcalfe, Wendy Poole, Michelle Stack

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved

**2. Approval of minutes (meeting of January 21, 2016)**

The minutes were approved

**3. Topics for discussion/decision**

**a. Head's report (Ali)**

This summer, noted summer scholar Dr. Schugurensky will be teaching *Citizenship Learning and Participatory Democracy*. He will be submitting a course description shortly, at which time the department will begin advertising.

Ali and Claudia had a meeting with graduate students at the beginning of the month. The meeting was to allow students to voice any educational concerns they had. One of the students suggested creating a drop box where students could submit questions. The two GAA's, Sereana Naepi and Gang Li, would be in charge of collecting the questions and directing them to the appropriate person for response. The resulting answers would be sent to all EDST students for their general information.

Currently, the department's facilities are not conducive to people sharing or collaborating on ideas. Once the department moves to Ponderosa Commons, everyone will be located in one building. This will create a more cohesive environment and should encourage scholarship connectivity.

*Discussion:*

Sam will be opening the “Door Sign Study Collection”. This is a curated collection of articles and art relevant to his field of research. Everyone is welcome to stop by during open hours (to be announced).

A few faculty members asked if it was possible to put artwork and plants in the hallways on the third floor of Ponderosa Commons. Ali replied that we will need to check with Tracy to see if this is possible as it will be a shared space with LLED.

**b. Graduate advisor report (Claudia)**

Claudia informed faculty that students are allowed to take courses at UBC-O. This is separate from the Western Deans Agreement and further information will be sent to students and faculty.

If anyone has questions about anything student related please don't hesitate to contact Claudia. It is important that students receive correct information.

*Discussion:*

A faculty member raised the issues surrounding the application for Permanent Resident (PR) status. Faculty should be aware that the work students carry out at UBC may not count towards Canadian work experience. The nature of the degree students are completing also plays a factor when applying for PR status. The department may follow up with other agencies and collect more information on this topic.

**c. Ponderosa commons update (Shermila)**

All faculty members have been issued keys for their new offices in Ponderosa Commons. If you have not picked up your key from the key desk please do so as soon as possible. Faculty wishing to enter Ponderosa Commons after hours can use their UBC ID card. Faculty were asked to note that the second floor kitchen and lounge area will only be open weekdays, from morning to late afternoon.

Deirdre acknowledged the hard work Shermila and the staff have put into preparing for the move. She also recognized the work of the students who have helped with packing. Ali also acknowledged the work that Felix has put into move preparations. The department has purchased a thank-you gift for him as a token of everyone's appreciation.

#### **d. Sessional report (Carolina)**

Over the past few months Carolina has been discussing the issue of unpaid sessional work within the department. This year, there have been 13 sessionals teaching in the department, primarily within the teacher education and adult online diploma program. Most of these sessionals teach on an ongoing basis and quite often from term to term. Previously, sessionals would be given a course that was ready to be taught. This isn't the case now, primarily due to the continuous nature of their teaching. Sessionals are now responsible for adding new course material, creating new assignments, writing reference letters, handling plagiarism cases and meeting with program coordinators. Based on this information, sessionals now spend between 35 – 50 additional hours of work per course per term.

Notice of Motion: The Department of Educational Studies recommends that the \$29,559 surplus generated from the Adult Education online diploma courses be used to remunerate the unpaid labour of sessionals and that the funds be spent as outlined in the formula provided.

The remuneration amount proposed is based in the term when the sessional taught the most credits. Those who taught three-credit courses would receive \$800, an amount which is pro rated to \$267 for one-credit courses. These amounts were chosen by taking the extra 35-50 extra hours sessionals work per week and basing the amount on a 40 hours a week where pay is received at \$20 per hour. Using this formula, it will cost the department \$26,500 out of the \$29,559 surplus. This leaves the department with a surplus of \$3,059. This request doesn't represent a salary increase or a bonus. It is asking for payment for unpaid labour. The sessionals are willing to work with the department to find a more permanent solution to the unpaid labour situation.

#### *Discussion:*

Several faculty members were uncomfortable with this situation. One stated that this is something that should be taken to the Faculty Association (FA), rather than the department. Another mentioned how this is a violation of union democracy principles. Others were concerned about how this proposal fits into labour relations on campus and who has jurisdiction over this type of proposal. Carolina replied that the collective agreement sets out a minimum salary scale for sessionals. This scale varies per Faculty, depending on the number of credits constituting a full-time teaching load. She also reiterated that the motion is not asking for a salary increase, it is asking the department to use a surplus to pay sessionals for unpaid work.

Other faculty members stated that this motion supports the case for building this type of expense into the budget. It was suggested that the department look into how this situation is dealt with elsewhere on campus. It might be possible to put together something similar to the graduate student travel fund, as a means of distributing extra pay for sessionals. This issue speaks to people who are unrepresented by the collective agreement and asks the question what type of community the department wants to be. As long as the department maintains that sessionals are part of the community, then EDST has the moral and ethical right to raise these issues on their behalf. However, the department needs to understand the implications of what they want surpluses to do. The wide range of departmental needs and the new budgeting model need to be taken into consideration.

Ali reminded the faculty that EDST does not have the power to sign away the requested money to sessionals. All the department can do is approve the motion and pass the recommendations to the Dean. Based on the discussion, Carolina decided to table the motion in order to rework it.

Notice of Motion: Table the motion

*The motion was presented by Sam and seconded by Lesley.*

*Carried unanimously, 1 abstention*

#### **4. Category 2 course title/calendar change, ADHE 493/EDST 493 (Amy/Ali)**

Lesley presented the Category 2 change for ADHE 493. This course was originally offered as an elective through the Teacher Education Office. However, Lesley redesigned the course into an online offering. The resulting Category 2 change proposes changing the acronym, title and description for the course. The proposed changes have received unanimous support from UPACC. If the department decides to approve the motion, the changes will still require the approval of CCASA.

Notice of Motion: Change of acronym, title and description for ADHE 493

*The motion was presented by Lesley and seconded by Mona.*

*Carried unanimously*

#### **5. EDST practicums/community-engaged learning/partnerships (Shauna)**

EDST 561 is a practicum course where students work with community based organizations. Shauna is teaching the course and has worked to find placements for many of the enrolled students. She would like to establish longstanding partnerships with the selected organizations so students would have practicum opportunities every year. Shauna has already created a bank of organizations

previous students have worked with and is building a repository for undergrad and graduate level students. Faculty were asked if they were in support of this plan.

*Discussion:*

Many faculty members agreed, stating that these kinds of courses are non-sustainable if only worked on by individuals. It would be much better if this task was shared by others. Another faculty member commented that the other units within the department may be able to provide suggestions of potential organizations for students to contact. This in turn will promote more cohesiveness across the departmental programs. Others suggested that, given the kind of professional interest that shown in the program, the department should consider ways to develop this course. It might be worth using the budget to pay for a buyout for someone to develop this idea.

## **6. Report from PhD admissions and management committee (Handel)**

Handel thanked André, Michelle, Fei and Sandy for their work on this year's PhD committee. The committee adjudicated thirty-eight applications from fourteen different countries. There were also three Indigenous applicants this year, which is an improvement from last year. The committee will be extending offers to sixteen applicants, three of whom will receive 4YFs. Seven other applicants will receive funding offers of \$14,700.

*Discussion:*

A faculty member asked if the department could improve upon the financial offerings with the department's own funds, particularly for those who will not receive 4YFs. Ali stated that this is something the department could think about. Another faculty member asked if the department could formally engage a conversation on budgeting and thinking strategically. Ali confirmed that a committee would be struck to act on this issue.

## **7. Announcements**

Congratulations were given to the following students and faculty:

- Michelle Stack and Genevieve Creighton on being awarded the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Institutional Collaborative research grant

The Critical Dialogues and Student Seminar Series will now take place in the multipurpose room in Ponderosa Commons. Since faculty offices will be located in the same building it will be easier for more people to attend.

Jason thanked the department for the card, flowers and diaper fund donation his family received for his daughter.

Handel introduced Frantisek Trapl, a visiting international research student. Frantisek will be working with Handel in CCIE during his stay at UBC. He will be with the department until at least the summer.

## **8. Adjournment**

*Adjourned at 2:30 pm*