

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting Agenda and Minutes
March 19, 2015

Present: Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Lesley Andres, Mark Aquash, Jo-ann Archibald, Shauna Butterwick, David Coulter, Jason Ellis, Gerald Fallon, Blye Frank, Hartej Gill, Garnet Grosjean, Erika Hughes, Deirdre Kelly, Michael Marker, André Mazawi, Amy Metcalfe, Wendy Poole, Sam Rocha, Leslie Roman, Claudia Ruitenber, Shermila Salgadoe, Hongxia Shan, Tom Sork, Michelle Stack, Alison Taylor, Jude Walker, Fei Wang, Handel Wright

Regrets: Jennifer Chan, Elaine Decker, Bathseba Opini, Jude Walker

Students: Jessica Egbert, Gabriella Maestrini, Sarah McCabe, Tim Straka

Sessional Rep: Deo Bishundayal

Minutes of EDST Department Meeting March 19, 2015

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. Office allocation draw (Shermila)

Tenured and tenure-track faculty drew lots to determine their office location in Pon Commons. The results were as follows:

EDST is now responsible for paying a \$230 fee for every visiting scholar it sponsors due to the introduction of the CIC compliance fee. The executive committee discussed methods for managing these fees, including:

- asking the faculty sponsor to pay the fee via their research grant
- capping the number of annual visiting scholars at five

As of now the situation will remain as is, with the department paying the compliance fee for each visitor. However, the executive committee will continue to discuss this matter and will work on revising the visitor guidelines for the department.

Hartej Gill has joined the 2015 department retreat planning committee. This year's retreat will take place on April 14th at the Musqueam Reserve. The agenda is in the process of being finalized.

b. Graduate Advisor report (Claudia)

The current department admissions are as follows:

- MEd HIED (May) – 1 admitted
- MEd EDAL (July) – 4 admitted
- EdD – 11 admitted, 4 pending
- PhD – 11 recommendations, 3 more recommendations expected
- MA – 16 recommendations, 1 more recommendations expected, 11 admitted

Claudia is revising the Schedule A/B text that will appear on the e:Vision MA and MEd applications. The text will be circulated to the program coordinators for their approval before being uploaded to the new application form.

At a recent meeting with Pam Ratner, Claudia expressed the concerns raised by program coordinators regarding the need to provide comparative program tuition fees. EDST faculty were unhappy with this request, viewing it as an excuse for the Faculty of Education to raise tuition fees. Pam countered with the information that a similar study was done with the Teacher Education Program. When it was discovered that the tuitions fees for this program were already comparable to other institutions, it was decided not to raise the fees. More meetings will be held to discuss the comparative EDST program findings before any decisions are made.

EDST Research Day will take place on April 10th from 11:00-5:15pm at the Thea Koerner House. This event is not just for graduate students, faculty are encouraged to attend as well.

c. Operations Report (Shermila)

Shermila provided the operating and outreach account reports in the department meeting package. No one had any questions about this information.

d. Student governance update (Gabriella)

Gabriella and Autumn are considering creating a working group, comprised of both students and faculty, to discuss student governance. The purpose of this group would be to decide on an effective method of expanding student representation in department committees. The current timeline sees them providing the department with governance recommendations in August.

Several students expressed concern at the lack of space allocated to students in Pon Commons. They would like an opportunity to discuss this issue in detail before the department moves to the new building.

Discussion:

Shermila informed the students that there are common spaces, including flex rooms, that could be allocated to students. However, whatever decisions are made regarding these spaces must be made in conjunction with LLED, as the two departments will be sharing these common spaces.

A faculty member suggested that students broach this issue through AMS or CUPE in order to ensure they receive the space to which they are entitled.

7. MA program (Lesley Andres)

Lesley provided an update about the MA program admissions. There were 41 applications this year, 39 directly to the MA program and 2 who applied to the MEd program first. Offers of admittance will be made to between 19 and 20 applicants. The committee has managed to secure supervision for most of the applicants they plan on admitting. Unfortunately, they have had to refuse admission to a few applicants because no one agreed to act as supervisor.

The committee is still waiting to hear about the latest CSGM funding decisions (the new MA SSHRC funding.) Once this information is received, funding will be assigned to the incoming students.

8. MA program thesis grading practice (Tim Straka)

Claudia asked the MA committee to consider again why EDST grades MA theses, rather than using the pass/fail system, as practiced by many other departments.

In January, Tim Straka and John Chauhan distributed a survey to the 42 MA students, asking them the following questions:

- Question #1 (i) I prefer my Thesis be assigned a Percentage (%) grade.
- (ii) I prefer my Thesis be assessed Pass/Fail.

Question #2 Comments

Tim and John received 28 responses, the results were as follows:

Question #1 (i) yes = 13 (50%)

(ii) yes = 13 (50%)

*2 students did not respond to this question

Discussion:

Several faculty members were in favour of switching the grading system to a pass/fail method. The vast majority of MA theses at UBC are pass/fail. One faculty member argued that the switch should be made as the PhD dissertation is also marked on a pass/fail method. Another faculty member was in favour of the switch as the thesis grade is not factored into an applicant's GPA when applying for a PhD program. Yet another faculty member suggested that this question be taken up as an action item in GPACC, while someone else suggested it could be brought up as a motion at the next department meeting.

Action:

More discussion is needed, with both students and faculty, before a motion can be presented.

9. Announcements

Several members of EDST (faculty and students) were congratulated on their recent achievements:

- NITEP for receiving the 2014/15 Alfred Scow Award
- Ali Abdi for receiving the Joyce Cain Award for distinguished research on people of African descent
- Claudia Ruitenberg on her appointment to the executive board of the Philosophy of Education Society
- Kapil Regmi on being awarded the Coolie Verner Memorial Research Prize
- Jessica Egbert for receiving the Gordon Selman Award
- Ashley Pullman for receiving the Dean of Education Scholarship Award

Gerald Fallon and Dr. Sierra, a visiting colleague from Columbia, will be hosting a talk on April 21st in the Pon G Lounge. The talk is entitled "Practicing Community Engagement for Sustainability in Rural Colombia".

10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 2:10 pm