

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2017

Present: Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Lesley Andres, Steve Cardwell, Claudia Diaz, Jason Ellis, Gerald Fallon, Erin Graham, Garnet Grosjean, Erika Hughes, Michael Marker, Amy Metcalfe, Bathseba Opini, Carolina Palacios, Wendy Poole, Kapil Regmi, Sam Rocha, Shermila Salgadoe, Paulina Semenec, Hongxia Shan, Alison Taylor, Rob VanWynsberghe, Jude Walker, Pierre Walter, Taylor Webb, Handel Wright

Regrets: Shauna Butterwick, Mona Gleason, Jo-Anne Naslund, Leslie Roman, Claudia Ruitenbergh, Fei Wang

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes (meeting of May 18, 2017)

The minutes were approved.

3. Topics for discussion/decision

a. Head's report (Ali)

Executive Committee

Ali thanked Amy, Claudia and Shermila for the work they have done this year as members of the Executive Committee. Ali also thanked Handel and Alison for agreeing to take on the new leadership positions in the committee.

The Executive Committee will now be known as the Head's Advisory Committee. The function of the committee will remain the same.

Adjunct Professor

Elaine Decker's 12-month lecturer position ends on August 31, 2017. She does not intend to apply for an additional appointment. EDST would like to appoint Elaine as an adjunct professor so she can continue to teach for the EDAL program.

Motion

We move that the department appoints Elaine Decker as an unpaid Adjunct Professor. This appointment will be for a three year period, subject to renewal.

The motion was presented by Gerald and seconded by Steve.

Approved unanimously

Associate Member

UBC president, Dr. Santa Ono, has requested to join EDST as an Associate Member. The president is interested in higher education scholarship. Dr. Ono would also like to sponsor a HIED postdoc, details to be determined. Ali has already spoken with the Executive Committee and the HIED Committee about this request. Members of both committees have raised issues which require further discussion.

Discussion:

One faculty member commented how it would be difficult for the department to turn down this request. Delaying the response may not be in the best interest of the department either. Another person commented how the department has never heard anything directly from the president as to how this request originated. The method in which the request was made, via a request from the Dean's office, shows more of an institutional flow rather than a scholarly collegial flow. The request also highlights the inequity of administrative versus faculty appointments. It is difficult for many faculty members to hold dual placements yet Dr. Ono is able to due to his administrative position. This request may also set a precedent for anyone in an administrative position to be appointed as an Associate Member of EDST.

If the appointment is approved the department should discuss what the membership would entail. Associate members may have voting rights. One faculty member was uncomfortable giving the president voting rights and asked if it was possible to specify that these rights were not included in associate memberships. Others commented that this issue is irrelevant as Dr. Ono will most likely not attend department meetings and therefore will not be present to vote on EDST issues.

Several faculty members were in favour of the appointment, stating that Dr. Ono's works are read more widely than many texts published by EDST faculty. Others pointed out that the department rarely shows on the university radar. Being associated with the UBC president will put EDST on the radar at the university level. Faculty could also learn a lot from Dr. Ono's professional experience. Several faculty members suggested EDST should invite Dr. Ono to a department meeting in the fall and have him talk about what his intentions are as an associate member.

Motion

We move that the department appoints Dr. Santa Ono as an Associate Member of the Department of Educational Studies.

18 in favour, 2 opposed, 1 abstention

Affiliate Professors

The department can appoint individuals who hold appointments at other universities as affiliate professions to EDST. These appointments will help enhance the external reputation of the department. Faculty members should think of suggestions over the summer and in September the department will discuss appointment possibilities. Ali will look into whether affiliate members can sit on committees. As it stands, anyone outside of the university needs to be approved by Graduate Studies to sit on a PhD Supervisory Committee.

Discussion:

One faculty member expressed frustration that while many faculty members are suffering from a lack of grant funding, the department is able to spend money on outside appointments. There is a visiting scholar invitation fund within the Faculty of Education that can be used as a financial resource to bring outside scholars to the department.

Strategic Plan

The department is going to start working on a strategic plan in the fall. This will be in response to the strategic plan the Faculty of Education plans on publishing. EDST has been without a strategic plan for several years. A manifesto was drafted some time ago, however much of this information is now obsolete. The department will use updated documents to craft a new strategic plan, including the PSI report and the 2015 faculty review. Ali will chair an extraordinary meeting in September for the department to discuss this further.

Discussion:

One faculty member said the department should ask after the Faculty working groups and try to become influential at that level. Rob volunteered to look into this and will share his findings with the department. Other faculty members said the department needs guiding principles to help it move forward. Many students are opting to attend other universities because EDST cannot offer them everything they need. Another faculty member said drafting this plan should lead to a bigger discussion relating to the department’s identity.

PSI

Strategic planning will be dependent on the outcome of the department’s PSI submissions.

The PSI proposals and savings submitted to the Dean’s office were:

					Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Consolidated Total
EDST	P1	New DE course sections - total 9 sections	Approved Draft	RACR	\$ 109,334	\$ 104,667	\$ 104,667	\$ 318,668
EDST	P1	New DE course section - oncampus	Approved Draft	RACR	4,300			4,300
EDST	P1	New DE course section - oncampus	Approved Draft	RACR	367			367
EDST	P1	sub-total			114,001	104,667	104,667	323,335
EDST	P4	Tenure track faculty teach undergrad prgs.	Approved Draft	Saving	6,000	12,000	18,000	36,000
EDST	P5	Faculty Salary Savings	Approved Draft	Saving	99,099			99,099
EDST	P4 & P5	sub-total			105,099	12,000	18,000	135,099
EDST		Approved Total			219,100	116,667	122,667	458,434
		PSI Target			\$ 126,074	\$ 126,074	\$ 126,074	\$ 378,222
EDST		Balance funds			\$ (93,026)	9,407	3,407	\$ (80,212)

b. Operations report (Shermila)

Erin Hagen has accepted a position in the Faculty of Medicine. Her last day will be Friday, June 23rd. Shermila thanked Erin for the excellent work she has done in her role as Graduate Student Assistant. A Hiring Solutions employee will temporarily fill the position until a permanent replacement can be found.

c. Sessional report (Erin)

Ali welcomed Erin Graham as the new sessional representative. Erin introduced herself and thanked Carolina for her tireless work as sessional representative over the past two years. Erin will continue Carolina's work of improving the working conditions for sessionals.

4. Rix professorship hiring (Pierre)

The search for a suitable applicant for the Eleanor Rix Professorship in Rural Teacher Education is currently underway. The professorship mandate is to work with rural BC school districts and aboriginal communities across BC. The position can be located in any department in the Faculty of Education. There will not be any resource implications for the department that houses the successful Rix candidate. An endowment fund has been set up for this position and the money will come from here rather than from the chosen department.

In the fall the search committee will invite short listed candidates to present to the Faculty of Education. Pierre will keep the department informed of any candidates expressing interest in EDST.

5. Motions to revise general principles and process section in EDST policy (Amy)

The department's PSI proposals demonstrate how EDST can financially benefit from more faculty members teaching undergraduate courses. Undergraduate education is an area that could be EDST's strength, particularly as many of the department's new faculty members are committed to contributing to TEO. The proposed changes to the policy document do not mean that faculty members will be required to teach undergraduate courses every year.

Motion

Amy circulated the proposed changes to the language in the *General Principles of Assignment of Course Teaching in the Department of Education Studies* document. The changes are to the **General Principles and Process** paragraph. This document was included in the meeting package. The priority levels for the undergraduate courses offered would remain the same as they are now.

The motion was presented by Amy and seconded by Jason

Discussion

One faculty member disagreed with this motion as it would reduce the number of sessionals the department hires to teach undergraduate courses. Another faculty member asked how the

motion relates to the other priorities outlined in the document. Others commented on the program hierarchy that is built into the document.

A friendly amendment to the motion was suggested. The phrase “normally be expected to” should remain in the document and the suggested addition of “electives” should be removed. Another faculty member suggested “unnecessary electives” should be added instead as not all of the electives need to be offered all the time. The number of electives offered by the department occasionally results in some not reaching their registration quota. Others quibbled with the idea of removing “electives” at all. It is the responsibility of each program to provide a wide selection of elective options for all students, not just the ones enrolled in a specific program.

The department needs to have a larger discussion on electives. Although they rarely admit it, most programs rely on the electives offered by other programs in the department. Faculty members frequently try to tear down the silos between programs but build them back up quite quickly. Faculty should note this motion (amended or otherwise) does not prohibit the creation of new electives. Faculty members will always be encouraged to develop new courses.

Amended Motion

The department voted on the amended motion (leaving in “normally be expected to” and removing the suggested word “electives”)

Tenure-track EDST faculty will normally be expected to teach at least one course in undergraduate education out of every four courses taught. As a general rule, these responsibilities must be fulfilled before faculty can offer special studies courses or courses for other units within the Faculty or UBC.

17 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions

6. Announcements

Congratulations were given to the following faculty and students:

- Jo-ann Archibald for receiving the 2017 award from the Association of BC Deans of Education for Lifelong Service to Education
- Shauna Butterwick for receiving the 2017 lifetime achievement award from the Canadian Association for the Study of Adult Education
- Jo-ann Archibald on receiving an honorary degree from Kwantlen Polytechnic University
- Jason Ellis on being named a 2017 Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow
- Lesley Andres and Taylor Webb for receiving International Research Visiting Fellowships

Ali thanked Steve and Elaine for their service to the department and congratulated them on their new positions. Ali also thanked Amy for serving as Deputy Head over the past 2 years. Claudia was also thanked for her 3 year tenure as Graduate Advisor.

Amy and Mona thanked everyone who attended their book launch earlier this month. A cheque for \$100 as well as 3 bags of books were donated to the charity Books for Me thanks to the generous contributions of the book launch attendees.

There were several well-attended Critical Dialogues seminars over the past month. The seminars will resume again in September.

Adjourned at 2:10pm