Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2016

Present: Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Mark Beauchamp, Steve Cardwell, Wendy Carr, Elaine Decker, Gerald Fallon, Blye Frank, Heather Frost, Mona Gleason, Garnet Grosjean, Jan Hare, Erika Hughes, Deirdre Kelly, Kelsey Leung, Michael Marker, Amy Metcalfe, Jo-Anne Naslund, Robert Olaj, Bathseba Opini, Carolina Palacios, Wendy Poole, Sam Rocha, Leslie Roman, Claudia Ruitenberg, Shermila Salgadoe, Hongxia Shan, Michelle Stack, Alison Taylor, Rob VanWynsberghe, Jude Walker, Fei Wang, Taylor Webb, Handel Wright

Regrets: Lesley Andres, Shauna Butterwick, Sereana Patterson, Pierre Walter

1. **Approval of agenda**

   The agenda was approved.

2. **Approval of minutes (meeting of June 16, 2016)**

   The minutes were approved.

3. **ORE update (Mark Beauchamp)**

   Mark Beauchamp, associate dean of the Office of Research in Education (ORE), provided several updates on the services offered by ORE. ORE currently has $50,000 available for Faculty of Education use. This money may be used for visiting fellowships or seed grants. ORE will consult with the Dean's Advisory Committee on Research (DACR) before making a final decision. Vanessa Andreotti is the department's DACR representative. If faculty members have any suggestions they should talk to Vanessa or contact ORE directly.

   ORE will circulate a draft document which outlines a funding strategy for PhD students. The office is looking for private, ethically sourced, funding for students. Suggestions or comments are welcome.

   ORE is in the process of simplifying the grant application process for faculty members. Faculty members are reminded that it is the applicant's responsibility as a researcher to fill out the forms correctly. These forms are very easy to complete and ORE has examples to follow on their website.

   ORE will shortly commence the search for two Canada Research Chairs. The office consulted with faculty heads for each of these positions. The first chair is a Tier II

position for Indigenous Health and Well-being. This chair will be open to all units and the recipient will receive support from ORE. The second chair is a Tier I position for Resurgence and Reconciliation. Advertisements for these positions will be circulated at the end of the month.

4. Topics for discussion/decision

a. Head's report (Ali)

The Executive Committee would like to change its name to the Head's Advisory Committee. The committee says this change would create a more collegial framework and would also allow them to think differently about representation. Individuals would still be appointed to the committee. However, membership may be extended to the admin manager. The Head's Advisory Committee is the name used by similar committees throughout the Faculty of Education.

Discussion:

Many faculty members agreed that the committee should be renamed, although not everyone agreed with the new choice of name. Some faculty members suggested the need for a larger department conversation on governance. The department decided to postpone the conversation and revisit it at a later date.

The first meeting of the ad hoc graduate student scholarship committee was held on September 9th. Claudia (chair) and the committee are looking into creating six small scholarships for students. Further meetings will take place and information will be brought to the department before any decisions are made.

b. Graduate advisor report (Claudia)

Claudia presented the department with three motions on category two changes. These changes were already discussed in GPACC.

Motion #1:
We move to replace the requirement for course EDST 602 3/6 to be taken in the second year of a doctoral program with requirement that it be taken in the first or second year of a doctoral program.

The motion was presented by Claudia and seconded by Alison.

20 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

Discussion:

These courses appear in the calendar as EDST 601 and 602. The A and B designations are not included in the listings. A faculty member asked if PhD students were consulted about this proposal. Faculty were told that this change grew out of the student input collected by the previous PhD committee. Many PhD students wanted to take this course in the first semester of their first year of study. The wording of the motion leaves the decision of when to take this course up to the students. Several faculty members agreed with this wording as there are circumstances in which it is better for the student to take this course in second year.

Motion #2
We move that the department approves the category 2 change proposals for EDUC 503 and EDUC 504. These changes include removing the current prerequisites as well as changing the course acronyms from EDUC to EDST.

The motion was presented by Claudia and seconded by Michelle.

25 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

c. **Operations report (Shermila)**

Shermila reminded faculty to complete the required financial forms before submitting reimbursement requests to the department. These forms are easy to fill out and are required by the Faculty of Education in order to process reimbursements.

Discussion:

A faculty member asked why the computer hardware and software expenses in the outreach account were so high. The department was told that these expenses included the purchasing and installation of the AV system for PCOH 3042. It was announced shortly after the department retreat in April that the equipment was on order for PCOH 3042. However, faculty stated that departmental budget allocation and costs for this were not discussed. The rationale was provided, stating that some faculty members always use 3074 because of the AV set-up and prefer not to book 3042 for meetings. In providing both rooms the same facilities, we increase the potential use of both rooms for meetings. A faculty member said they would prefer to have a department conversation about spending this amount of money before purchases are made. Faculty were told that the costs as well as the need for these purchases were discussed at the Executive level. There were also extensive email conversations on this subject before any money was spent. One member of the Executive Committee expressed dissenting views about spending that amount of departmental funds on this equipment. Ali indicated that he takes full responsibility for the decision he made in purchasing and installing this equipment in PCOH 3042.

d. Sessional report (Carolina)

Carolina asked for an update on the sessional workload motions, which were voted on in the spring. Ali reported that he is still following up on these motions with the Dean's office. He will present the information to the department once the details are confirmed.

e. GAA report (Sereana)

Sereana was unable to attend the meeting and sent her regrets.

5. Indigenous education overview (Jan Hare)

Jan Hare introduced herself to the department as the new director of the Native Indian Teacher Education Program (NITEP). She encouraged the faculty to reach out and collaborate with NITEP whenever possible. Faculty members are also encouraged to attend the events that NITEP will hold throughout the year. This includes today's dialogue on reconciliation in education, which will primarily look at graduate education.

This year NITEP will be working with an indigenous graduate coordinator. The coordinator is Alanaise Goodwill from the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology and Special Education. Her role will be to support indigenous graduate student recruitment.

NITEP is also participating in ORE's search for two Canada Research Chairs. Cash will be serving on the Tier I search committee, while Vanessa will participate in the Tier II search. Additional EDST participation and input is always welcome.

Discussion:

One faculty member asked if NITEP had developed any new initiatives to assist indigenous students who may be struggling financially. Jan replied that NITEP currently has a few scholarships available for students. However, anyone wishing to discuss this issue further or provide suggestions should contact NITEP for more information.

6. Website course descriptions (Jude)

Many students have commented that they would like to see online descriptions for courses offered by the department.

Discussion:

Many faculty members were in favour of having course descriptions available for student reference on the website. Other faculty members suggested the department needs to have a conversation on making these descriptions available for students. Faculty were reminded that Alex already emails them on a regular basis, asking to be sent course descriptions for the website. Unfortunately, faculty members are not providing Alex with this information, despite the numerous reminders she sends. A faculty member suggested that program coordinators could email generic course descriptions to the members of their program. Individuals would be responsible for editing the information. If edits aren't provided, the course descriptions would be published online as is.

7. **DACR updates (Vanessa)**

As the department's DACR representative, Vanessa would like to experiment with a more transparent system of consultation. Rather than receiving faculty suggestions by email, Vanessa plans on creating a fluid survey with questions and spaces for suggestions. The survey will be circulated to the department and the responses will be compiled into a report which will be brought to the DACR meetings.

8. **Dean's welcome message (Blye Frank)**

The dean thanked faculty members for the work they did throughout the summer for both the department and the Faculty. He also thanked the faculty for the services they provide to the university community.

The dean reported that the UBC president, Santa Ono, is developing a new strategic plan and has committed to wide consultation on this issue. The president will also be speaking at the dean's inaugural *Frankly Speaking* lecture series. The first event will be held on October 13th and will address mental health literacy.

The dean is in talks with UBCO about merging their Faculty of Education with the Faculty in Vancouver. The dean reminded the department that he doesn't have the jurisdiction to determine the new governance or budget which would result from this merge. As of now, the fifteen faculty members from UBCO may be attached to specific departments in the Vancouver Faculty. However, no decisions have been made yet.

Discussion:

One faculty member asked if there has been any discussion about transferring faculty members from one campus to the other. The dean told the department that there are no permanent exchange plans in place yet.

9. **TEO update (Wendy Carr)**

   Claire Rushton, new director of the Teacher Education Office (TEO), was introduced to the department.

   TEO is currently working on the *Teacher Education for All!* project. This project aims to raise awareness on educational practices and policies for inclusivity. Events and seminars will be held throughout the year for faculty and students.

   Discussion:

   One faculty member asked if there was a way to combine the cohorts in favour of a single-session, lecture version of EDST 403. If this approach was permitted, would TEO support the hiring of a teaching assistant for the class. Wendy replied that it is up to EDST to decide how this course is offered. Changes like this should be brought forward by the EDST representative to the TEO Advisory Committee. The committee discusses all potential changes and tries to balance what is best for the students with what works best for faculty work-load credits. If EDST and TEO decide on this change, it doesn't have to apply to every section of the course. Some sections could be taught lecture style while others would be left as is.

10. **Announcements**

    Congratulations were given to the following faculty:
    - Michelle Stack and her team for receiving an International Research Roundtable Award from the Peter Wall Institute
    - Fei Wang on being awarded a SSHRC Insight Development Grant

    Faculty members are strongly encouraged to attend this year's *Graduate Student Seminar Series* in a show of support for the student presenters.

    Adjourned at 2:35pm