

**Department of Educational Studies**  
**Department Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 21, 2017 12:30 to 2:30 pm**

*Present:* Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Lesley Andres, Claudia Diaz, Jason Ellis, Gerald Fallon, Blye Frank, Mona Gleason, Erin Graham, Garnet Grosjean, Erika Hughes, Mary Kostandy, Michael Marker, André Mazawi, Amy Metcalfe, Bathseba Opini, Carolina Palacios, Wendy Poole, Kapil Regmi, Sam Rocha, Shermila Salgadoe, Hongxia Shan, Alison Taylor, Tammy Tao, Rob VanWynsberghe, Pieter Verstraete, Pierre Walter, Fei Wang, Taylor Webb

*Regrets:* Deirdre Kelly, Jo-Anne Naslund, Claudia Ruitenber, Jude Walker, Handel Wright

**Agenda**

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes (meeting of June 15, 2017)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Welcome message (Blye Frank)**

The Dean told the department that the Faculty of Education hiring freeze is now lifted. The Faculty is about to submit its high impact hiring proposals to the Provost's office for at least five new positions. The Dean also informed everyone that despite the hiring freeze, the Faculty of Education's tenure-track faculty complement has not diminished.

There has been a 50% increase in SSHRC applications this year. Those who have not applied are encouraged to do so, with the help of the Office of Research in Education (ORE).

This year the Teacher Education Program has admitted an additional 100 students. Due to this increase, the Dean has asked the province to increase the program's funding.

All of the tenure and promotion files put forward by the Faculty of Education this year were successful. The Dean thanked all of those involved with the process, including those who served on SAC.

The minimal funding requirements for incoming PhD students is causing some concern. The Dean has requested financial assistance from Provost's office. He is currently awaiting their response, but is optimistic that they will provide assistance.

*Discussion:*

A few people asked for more information on the Faculty of Education's hiring plan now that the hiring freeze is lifted. The department was told that the Faculty needs to have a conversation on potentially increasing the number of people hired in the leadership stream.

Another faculty member asked if it was possible to offer 12-month lecturers buyouts for their unpaid administrative work. The Dean said this is a matter best taken up with the Faculty Association. If ever anyone thinks there is something amiss with the Faculty Collective Agreement, Faculty Relations should be contacted. The Dean also said department heads have the power to negotiate amended workloads with 12-month lecturers. Ali told the department he has already raised this issue with the Faculty of Education as the current workload required of 12-month lectures is unreasonable.

**4. Topics for discussion/decision**

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

The call for applications for the two EDAL positions closed on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Ali thanked Pierre, for agreeing to chair the search committee, as well as the other committee members for the work they will be doing over the coming months.

EDST met on July 5<sup>th</sup> to determine the department's high impact hiring suggestions. The department agreed to submit two proposals: one for Higher Education and one for Indigenous Education. These proposals have since been submitted to the Provost's office. Ali will inform the department of the outcome once a decision has been made.

The new Collective Agreement includes a few small changes to the tenure and promotion process. Initial appointments and reappointments will now be on a 4, rather than 3, year timeline. Ali is meeting with Anna Bin to discuss these changes and will provide more information at the October department meeting.

The Head's Advisory Committee (HAC) has decided to form an *ad hoc* committee to determine EDST's provisional strategic plan. This committee will be chaired by Handel and will include the program chairs, the graduate advisor and the administrative manager. More details to follow.

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

The Graduate Student Orientation was held on September 8<sup>th</sup>. This event was a success and more than half of this year's incoming students attended. Alison thanked the EDST staff for their work in organizing this event.

Alison will be on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays this year if anyone needs to speak with her in person in her capacity as graduate advisor.

The university will be hosting the symposium "Reimagining the PhD – 2017" on September 29<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.

Earlier this month Alison and Gerald co-presented a student workshop on how to apply for SSHRC awards. This workshop was well attended and Alison thanked Gerald for his assistance. Faculty are reminded that supervisors should be the first point of contact for students for all SSHRC matters.

*Discussion:*

One faculty member said they have received inquiries from applicants about the PhD program. Many are asking about the availability of the part-time option for incoming PhD students. When will the department decide if this is an option EDST will invoke? Alison said this is something the department will discuss at today's meeting, as it is on the agenda.

**c. Operations report (Shermila)**

The Graduate Student Support 2 position has been advertised. Eighty-seven applications have been received and Shermila will be conducting formal interviews for this position next month.

Faculty are reminded to email Erika with your upcoming travel plans (conferences, research trips, etc.) This information will make it much easier for EDST staff to organize meetings, obtain signatures and answer student questions on faculty whereabouts.

Faculty should also inform Erika as soon as possible when they plan to invite a visitor to the department. EDST is short on visitor office space and having as much advance warning as possible is helpful in making sure everyone has a place to work when they arrive. It's also quite difficult in Vancouver to find good, affordable rental housing (particularly at this time of year). The earlier the department knows about an upcoming visitor, the faster the individual can be put in contact with Housing and Relocation Services. This will increase the visitor's chances of finding a decent place to live while they are here.

**d. Sessional report (Erin)**

Several sessional instructors have commented on the lag between the start date of sessional teaching appointments and the reinstatement of benefits. Erin is looking into ways of improving this.

The new Collective Agreement includes a slight pay increase for sessional instructors.

**e. GAA report (Claudia)**

Claudia and Mary are in the midst of planning student workshops for this term. They will be contacting faculty members and students to help facilitate these workshops. In addition to weekly reminders, students will also be asked to RSVP. The GAAs will run the workshops as long as there are at least 5 confirmed attendees.

5. **HIED curriculum proposal for graduate certificate (Alison)**

Many students in the HIED program are professionals who work full time. These students often find it very challenging time-wise to commit to an MA. Creating the graduate certificate in HIED will provide these students with a low-risk, study opportunity. This certificate will also allow students to ladder in to a MA or a MEd program at a later date.

**Motion**

To approve the Category 1 change to create a graduate certificate in HIED.

*Discussion:*

This certificate is being modeled on the ALE graduate certificate. The required courses for the certificate are already taught consistently every year. As such, there will be no additional costs to the department.

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

*Unanimously approved.*

6. **PhD part-time option & 4-year minimum funding (Alison)**

Every department must choose whether or not they are going to opt into the part-time PhD option. Individuals would apply to either a part-time or full-time PhD program when they submit their applications. Applicants who select the part-time option will be locked into this choice for their duration of study. Part-time students will be considered self-funded and thus ineligible for 4-year funding. These students will end up paying more money over a longer period of time. However, they will have extra time to achieve candidacy.

The PhD committee has discussed this and brought forward a motion to GPACC that EDST opt for the part-time PhD option.

GPACC then discussed this proposal and agreed to bring forward a Category 1 curriculum change to introduce a part-time PhD option for discussion at this meeting. However, GPACC members did raise the following concerns:

- Is the part-time option a back door into a PhD?
- What kind of documentation will applicants need to show to qualify for the part-time option?
- How will the part-time option affect the culture of the PhD program?

Departments do not have to decide to allow this option this year. If EDST does decide to opt-in, the decision will be considered a category change and the required category change procedures will need to be followed. If EDST votes in favour of this motion today, then the department must also begin advertising these choices to students for the 2018 PhD admission intake. The department must also make sure applicants are presented with all of the facts in order select the option that best suits them.

## **Motion**

That EDST adopts a part-time option for the PhD program and thus triggering a category change.

*The motion was presented by Alison and seconded by Wendy.*

### *Discussion:*

Some faculty members were in favour of introducing a part-time PhD option for EDST students. There are currently students in the program who are essentially part-time. There are also students who would benefit from a part-time option, as it would give them more time to complete their program. However, these students currently have access to awards, whereas adopting this policy would limit this type of access.

Others commented how a part-time PhD option may be enormously popular with Indigenous applicants. Introducing this option could increase the number of Indigenous PhD students in the department. This option may also encourage a number of former PhD students to return to the department to complete their programs.

Several faculty members spoke out against allowing a part-time PhD option in EDST. Concerns, such as access to supervision, were raised. The department would need to ensure that part-time students have the same access to supervision as full-time students. Another concern was how introducing this option would change the culture of the PhD program. For instance, the part-time stream may have fewer international students as the timeline for completion is 8 years. One faculty member suggested introducing a ratio of full-time and part-time students as a way of regulating these two streams. Others were opposed to the part-time PhD option as it is very similar to the EdD program. If the part-time option is implemented, these programs will need to be clearly differentiated in the minds of students.

Faculty members did agree that G+PS needs to clarify the wording surrounding part-time admission requirements. Currently, G+PS states that applicants must be in a job relating to their research if they want to be considered for part-time admission. Several faculty members said they were unclear on who would decide the applicants' claims were true. Another faculty member said they objected to labeling the PhD options as full and part-time. Perhaps the department could rename the part-time option extended-time instead.

## **Tabled Motion**

The department will table the motion to a future meeting so faculty can have more time to consider this proposal.

*Mona moved to table the motion, seconded by Gerald*

*14 in favour, 2 opposed, 1 abstention*

The motion will be tabled until a future department meeting.

## 7. Office ergonomics (Pierre)

UBC Human Resources has a lot of useful information about office ergonomics. They have a helpful document called “Ergo Your Office Online Guide” which can be found on the UBC Human Resources website. Consultations with UBC’s ergonomics advisor can also be arranged by contacting UBC Human Resources.

## 8. Announcements

Congratulations were given to the following people:

- Cash Ahenakew on his promotion to Associate Professor
- Brett Schrewe on being awarded a Pierre Elliott Trudeau Scholarship
- Neila Miled, Sonia Medel and Claudia Diaz-Diaz on being selected as UBC Public Scholars
- Dale McCartney on receiving a 12-month fellowship for \$25,000
- Rabia Mir for receiving a 12-month fellowship of \$16,000

Mona introduced Pieter Verstraete and Tammy Tao to the department. Pieter is a visiting assistant professor from the University of Leuven. He will be with the department for the month of September. Tammy is a visiting PhD student from East China Normal University who will be with EDST for the next year. Both scholars are working in the visitor’s office, PCOH 3068, and faculty members are encouraged to drop by to say hello.

Pieter Verstraete will present at this term’s first Critical Dialogues Seminar. The seminar will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in PCOH 2012 and is entitled “We Need to Talk About Silence”. All are encouraged to attend.

Handel will be hosting a CCIE Panel on October 5<sup>th</sup> entitled “Freire for Today: New Directions in Critical Pedagogy”. This panel will take place in PCOH 2012 from 2:00-4:00pm, more details to follow.

*Adjourned at 2:25pm*