

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2017 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Present: Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Lesley Andres, Claudia Diaz, Jason Ellis, Mona Gleason, Erin Graham, Patty Hambler, Erika Hughes, Deirdre Kelly, Michael Marker, Carolina Palacios, Wendy Poole, Kapil Regmi, Sam Rocha, Shermila Salgadoe, Hongxia Shan, Alison Taylor, Wendy Trass, Jude Walker, Pierre Walter, Taylor Webb, Handel Wright

Regrets: Vanessa Andreotti, Gerald Fallon, Garnet Grosjean, Amy Metcalfe, Bathseba Opini Fei Wang

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes (meeting of October 19, 2017)

Carolina requested that an addition be made to item #4b “Sessional Report”. She asked that the word “honorarium” is changed to “professional development reimbursement” in the phrase “EDST paid a one-time honorarium of \$10k to the sessionals who taught for EDST”. This request was not approved as the budget line for 2016/17 recorded this payment as an honorarium.

Erin requested that the following sentence is added to item #4b: “Sessionals teaching large Faculty of Arts classes have TAs to assist them.” This request was not approved as this fact was not discussed during the last department meeting.

3. Early alert and counseling resources (Patty Hambler)

Patty Hambler, Director of Student Wellbeing and Promotions at the Student Wellbeing Promotion Unit, spoke to the department about the services her unit provides to students. The Wellbeing Promotion unit encourages students to be proactive about their mental health and wellbeing throughout their studies. Students should not wait until they’re struggling before seeking help. They should feel comfortable reaching out for help at any point during their studies.

The Health and Wellness website <https://students.ubc.ca/health-wellness> has a lot of self-help resources for students, including contact information for numerous support services. These resources are available for both undergraduate and graduate students. Services specifically for graduate students include: Grad Pathways to Success, Grad Game Plan and workshops on how to build a good relationship with your supervisor. There are also peer support networks to help students navigate their way through UBC academia.

Health and Wellness is moving towards a step care model for mental health support. They recognize that not all students are ready to work one-on-one with a counselor. As such, Health and Wellness will be launching online and group counseling, as well as individual counseling. Counseling services are available at Brock Hall and there are councilors available who specialize in different areas. Students can specify their needs when requesting an individual councilor. They should be mindful that finding the right fit with a councilor is a process and may take a bit of time.

Student Services are also working to ensure that everyone has access to mental health resources on campus. This includes a full-service medical clinic located at the UBC Hospital. Appointments at this clinic are free of charge and can be booked online after the student's initial visit. A new telephone service is also available to students. This service, called Empower Me, provides 24 hour counseling services to students, 7 days a week. It can be reached toll-free at 1 (844) 741-6389.

Student Health and Counselling Services also provide Early Alert training sessions for faculty, staff and TAs. These training sessions only take 50 minutes and are offered in person and online. Early Alert is a system which allows faculty and staff to report concerns about a student in a secure, online form. These concerns are then reviewed by an Early Alert advisor who recommends the best methods needed to help the student. More information on the system and the training sessions can be found at <https://facultystaff.students.ubc.ca/systems-tools/early-alert>

Patty distributed folders to everyone which contain more resources on assisting students in distress. These folders include what to look for in terms of warning signs, as well as conversation templates to follow when warning signs are detected. Patty also said she is happy to be contacted by email at patty.hamblen@ubc.ca if anyone has any further questions.

Discussion:

One person asked how long the wait times are for students to talk to a counselor or a wellness advisor. Patty said students now have same day access to meet with a wellness advisor. Every student who walks through the door of their offices will be able to have a one-on-one assessment that day, if they so choose. The student will then be directed to the best person to speak to next. Unfortunately, these post-assessment appointments can take anywhere from 1 to 4 weeks to schedule. Level of concern is taken into consideration and the appointments can take place earlier if absolutely necessary.

Another faculty member asked what the Wellness Centre's hours of operation were. If an issue emerges during an evening or weekend class will the center be able to address it? Patty said instructors should always call 911 if they fear the distressed student will harm themselves or others. In less serious cases, the instructor should suggest that the student calls Empower Me, in order to receive over-the-phone counseling. Instructors can also encourage the student to visit the Health and Wellness Centre the next available business day to speak to someone in person.

4. Topics for discussion/decision

a. Head's report (Ali)

2018 summer noted scholar

EDST has been selected to host the Faculty of Education's 2018 Noted Summer Scholar. Faculty are encouraged to think of people they would like to nominate for this position and to submit their suggestions to Ali. Ideally, faculty should aim to invite someone who can enrich the students in terms of ideas. Alison has received suggestions from EDST students and she will share this information with Ali and the rest of the department. Ali reminded the department that suggestions must also include the nominee's CV and a tentative time-commitment from them for the month of July. Once Ali receives several suggestions, the department will be asked to vote on whom they would most like to invite. The winner's name will be submitted to DNSO and a formal invitation will be issued.

Discussion:

One faculty member suggested that the department invites someone from the developing world. Another faculty member asked if students should submit a letter of nomination for the person they would like to invite. Ali replied that no, students only need to submit the name, CV and time-commitment details from their nominee.

Provost's visit

The Provost, Dr. Andrew Szeri, visited the Faculty of Education on November 9th. During his visit he announced that a small funding request from the Faculty of Education (FoE) was approved. The Provost's Office has agreed to provide the FoE with \$50,000. This will be dispersed amongst the units, with each one receiving \$10,000. This amount is possibly earmarked for Masters' students. Ali will confirm the fund usage and will also check to see if this is a one-time or a reoccurring fund.

EDAL job searches

Pierre reported that the EDAL Search Committee will be shortlisting candidates next week. They plan on holding interviews by February at the latest. The committee is hopeful that successful candidates may be able to start in July. Ali thanked the committee members for all of their work thus far.

GAAs

Ali thanked everyone who participated in the student workshops this year. He is very pleased with all of the hard work the GAAs have put into these events. Alison reminded everyone that the annual EDST Student Research Day will be held in the spring and all are encouraged to attend. More details to follow.

5. Strategic plan overview (Handel)

Handel thanked the committee members for their work at the first strategic planning meeting that was held earlier this month. The committee included a summary of what they discussed in the meeting package. The committee would now like to solicit feedback from the department before proceeding any further.

Discussion:

One faculty member disagreed with the use of the word “silo” in the phrase “reach out across program silos”. The faculty member requested that this word is changed to a less inflammatory term. Another faculty member agreed, stating that the word “silos” implies that the department doesn’t have a collegial spirit now. The committee agreed to relinquish this metaphor. However, the idea still stands as EDST has several isolated programs and needs to find a way to encourage more cross-program work. A few faculty members commented how they haven’t found programs closed off and have been invited to work across different areas. Others disagreed, stating that they sometimes feel trapped in their own program areas and would like the opportunity to work in other areas occasionally. The committee may try to examine the conditions that led to program isolationism. A few people said it is related to the type of courses offered. Another suggested that the course scheduling worksheets should be distributed earlier in order to allow more opportunities to teach in different program areas.

A few people said they don’t like the idea of creating large lectures out of EDST TEO classes in order to garner TA opportunities for students. One person said large lectures are a problematic way to teach and suggested that TAs should be hired for smaller classes instead. The committee explained the rationale behind this suggestion is not to create large lectures, but to create circumstances which provide students with academic and financial opportunities. Another faculty member stated that combining sections to make one large class doesn’t guarantee that a TA will be allotted.

One faculty member mentioned how a few years ago TAs were hired for EDST 500, as it was considered a good teaching opportunity for PhD students. The department should revisit why this particular TA funding was cut and rational behind it. A few other faculty members commented that other universities offer TA opportunities not only for PhD students, but for MA students as well. The lack of these teaching opportunities puts EDST students at a disadvantage. The department needs to determine how and why these opportunities were lost. Ali has mentioned this to DNSO several times, as they are the ones who control the funding for these positions.

Ali suggested that EDST may need to have an extraordinary department meeting in January to discuss these matters further.

6. EdD program chair report (Deirdre)

Many EdD students work full time and so are unable to take advantage of the GAA student workshops. As a result, the EdD program is planning a writing retreat which will take place on a Friday afternoon and Saturday. Anthony Paré, LLED Department Head, agreed to be the keynote speaker at this event. Michelle Stack has also agreed to attend in order to present the writing techniques she uses with her students. The retreat will primarily be organized around the particular needs of EdD students; however invitations will be extended to all EDST students. This will be a positive way to connect EdD students to rest of the department. Depending on the number of attendees, the retreat may be held in the PCOH 1306A, the videoconferencing room.

This will allow students to patch in remotely to hear the keynote speech. Retreat organizers are also considering renting the PCOH ballroom for lunch if the attendee numbers are high enough.

7. **Announcements**

Congratulations were given to the following faculty members:

- Deirdre Kelly on receiving an RISS grant from ORE
- Rob VanWynsberghe on receiving a Pathways Grant

The EDST Holiday Lunch will be held on December 14th from 12:00-2:00pm at St. John's College. Faculty, students, sessionals, visitors and emeriti are invited. Please be sure to RSVP by December 1st if you haven't done so already.

Jo-Anne Naslund and Chris Ball will be retiring from the Faculty of Education Library in December. All are invited to attend their retirement parties, which will take place on the following days:

- Jo-Anne – November 28th from 3:00-5:00pm in the Chilcotin Room at the Irving K. Barber Centre
- Chris – December 12th from 3:00-5:00pm in the Dodson Room at the Irving K. Barber Centre

Adjourned at 1:42