

**Department of Educational Studies**  
**Department Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2018 12:30 to 2:30 pm**

*Present:* Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Lesley Andres, Jason Ellis, Mona Gleason, Garnet Grosjean, Erika Hughes, Deirdre Kelly, Mary Kostandy, Michael Marker, André Mazawi, Amy Metcalfe, Carolina Palacios, Wendy Poole, Kapil Regmi, Sam Rocha, Shermila Salgadoe, Tom Sork, Michelle Stack, Alison Taylor, Handel Wright

*Regrets:* Gerald Fallon, Erin Graham, Bathseba Opini, Leslie Roman, Hongxia Shan, Rob Vanwynsberghe, Jude Walker, Pierre Walter, Fei Wang, Taylor Webb

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes (meeting of January 18, 2018)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Topics for discussion/decision**

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

Department Retreat

Ali, Alison and Handel met with Kathleen Leahy on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss EDST's upcoming retreat at the UBC Learning Exchange. The retreat will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>, in lieu of the department meeting scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. The two themed elements of the retreat will be social justice and community. Faculty will be asked to look at and discuss how these two issues are interrelated. There may be a reading that is sent out as a background piece for the retreat.

The morning session will be outward looking. Kathleen and her colleagues will talk to the department about what they do at the Learning Exchange. There will also be a community panel during the morning session. Alison is asking programs for suggestions on who to invite eg. former students now working in the community.

The afternoon session will be inward looking, with a focus on social justice. Different program areas may be asked to talk about their work in this area. Alternatively, 2 or 3 people may be asked to discuss social justice from particular standpoint. This has yet to be decided.

### *Discussion:*

Several faculty members asked what is the ultimate purpose of this retreat. Is it to teach us and each other of what social justice is? Or is the purpose to teach social justice to others eg. students? Other faculty members said this will be a good opportunity to find out what everyone is doing and what we should be doing. It may also be helpful to share what is meant by the words 'social justice'. Faculty members aren't necessarily doing the same kinds of social justice work so this will be an opportunity to exchange ideas and see how different notions of it appear.

Other faculty members said community engagement starts at home. We need to create more community within the department before moving onto other kinds of external community work. This retreat may begin to make individual work coherent to others.

One faculty member said this retreat is necessary to explore the objectives of department. It is important to hold complexities and to understand that people will use the term 'social justice' differently. Recognition that the term 'social justice' has changed in the department overtime is also necessary. The term itself has a history and set of concepts and burdens. Faculty should ask what the discourses are and what the department is doing around them.

Other people suggested asking how social justice fits into the practical work of strategic priorities. Faculty may not have time to discuss the department's strategic priorities during the retreat. Figuring out a process that would be acceptable in the department to continue this concept is necessary.

### Faculty Hiring

The EDAL Search Committee have decided who to hire for the positions of Assistant Professor without Review and Tenure-track Instructor. Ali will call a DSPC meeting once he receives this information from the committee. Ali thanked the committee members for all of their work.

A draft of the HIED job advertisement was sent to Lesley and Amy. The ad will be for a Tenure-track Assistant Professor. The tentative start date for this position will be September 2018 and the search committee will be chaired by André.

The search committee for the position of Tenure-track Instructor in Teacher Education has also been formed. This committee will be chaired by Pierre.

There are 22 faculty members serving on hiring committees this year. This includes CRC as well as Head search committees. Ali thanked everyone who agreed to participate in these committees.

### Symposium

EDST will be holding a symposium on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> celebrating the work of Dr. Jo-ann Archibald. The symposium is entitled *Conversations with Jo-ann about Indigenous Story work as Pedagogy and Methodology*. Jo-ann's been called the most achieving professor at UBC and it is important that EDST celebrates her work. The symposium is primarily meant for EDST faculty and students but others will be invited as well. More details to follow.

### Summer noted scholar

Dr. Farid Esack received his Summer Noted Scholar offer letter on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The department is still waiting to hear if he will accept this position or not. If for any reason this position does not move forward, EDST will have the chance to host the Faculty of Education's Noted Summer Scholar next year. There are many issues going on in South Africa at the moment which may be contributing to the ongoing silence from Dr. Esack. Ali will keep the department updated.

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

GPACC discussed minimum PhD funding at their most recent meeting. Shermila and Alison have put together a 4-year plan, which is based on admitting 3 students plus 4YFs. This means the department will be able to admit a total of 6 students, not including those who receive Aboriginal funding. We do not need a lot of money right now but some funding, including 4YFs, can be carried over for future years. GPACC also has some funding allocated from the Innovation Fund.

Admitting fewer PhD students will also change the number of professors required to supervise. The department should also start looking at workloads in terms of supervision.

The PhD Admissions Committee is meeting to rank applicants this week. We need to be sure that department can deliver on the promises made in the offer letters.

Offering a part-time option for PhD students was also discussed at the GPACC meeting. We should wait to see what we think about admitting 6 students this year before reopening the discussion.

There is an increase in the number of applications received this year. Currently EDST does not have a department-wide enrollment management system in place. Individual programs manage their own admissions. We need to have a department-wide discussion on how best to move forward. For instance, questions such as "Are we able to staff these courses?" and "Do we need to put on more sections?" need to be addressed. It may be helpful to look at how many students applied last year, where the applicants were from and how many were admitted. This will help ensure EDST can handle the number of students admitted in each program area.

### **c. Operations report (Shermila)**

Shermila included the financial statements in the February meeting package. No one had any questions.

### **d. GAA report (Mary)**

The GAAs will be holding the following events this month:

- February 26<sup>th</sup> – Academic Writing Workshop, hosted by Sam Rocha
- February 28<sup>th</sup> – Research Sharing with Stephanie Glick

The deadline for Research Day submissions is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your students to submit proposals. Collaborative submissions between faculty and students are more than welcome. If you are on campus on April 6<sup>th</sup> please try to attend at least one of the day's events, the students will appreciate it.

## **4. HIED advertisement (Lesley and Amy)**

Amy and Lesley are pleased the department is able to advertise for a Tenure-track Assistant Professor in Higher Education. A draft of the job advertisement is included in the meeting package. Some of the language comes from a draft written several years ago. It also includes information from the High Impact Hiring (HIH) ad drafted in July. With this position we can support an emerging scholar and showcase a set of skills that will support a lot of different types of work in the department.

Once the advertisement is approved and posted, everyone is encouraged to bring copies with them to conferences. The ad should be distributed as widely as possible. Please keep track of where you bring the advertisement, as DNSO requires distribution information at the end of every job search. This information is needed for immigration purposes. Please report this information to André, the Search Committee chair.

Amy and Lesley will send the final draft to Ali and André by Monday. The advertisement will be posted for approximately 8 weeks. Ideally, interviews will be held late May or early June. Please be sure to attend the candidates' presentations. It is a statement on EDST that faculty are willing to participate in the interview process.

### *Discussion:*

Lesley and Amy would like to have a department wide discussion on the advertisement draft. This discussion is important as hiring a new department member affects everyone. This type of discussion used to happen in the past and should be brought back.

A few faculty members objected to including the QS World University Ranking in the ad. They said this fact is quite elitist and should be removed. The department agreed and this information will not be appear in the final draft.

Amy said she was upset with handling of this job ad. DNSO provided a template that Amy and Lesley were told to edit. They were not allowed to create an ad from scratch. The final version needs to be approved by DNSO and the Provost's Office before it is published.

Another faculty member took issue with placement of the job ad. They asked who funds the ad and where will it be published? Ali said the Faculty of Education pays for advertisements to appear in UA, CAUT, and CHE. The ad will also appear on the EDST website. A faculty member asked if this job could be advertised with University World News, in order to target audiences in Africa. Depending on the cost this may or may not be possible. Ali will look into this.

A faculty member asked if the department were to find an Indigenous scholar for this position, would it affect the HIH request for an Indigenous scholar. Ali said no, the HIED hire will not affect it as the department's HIH request was not granted. EDST still has a chance to receive a CRC scholar. If this does not happen the department will receive an open rank hire later this year.

Amy and Lesley were asked if requesting applicants to have a focus on student financial aid might limit those who apply. Some might not see themselves as fitting into this area. Amy said this is an area that should be included. It is an area that is talked about more internationally. Hiring a scholar with this background would be an asset for the department.

## 5. Announcements

Congratulations were given to the following faculty members and students:

- Hongxia Shan on receiving Killam Research Fellowship grant
- Alison Taylor on receiving TLEF funding
- Claudia Diaz on being award the Joseph Kaz Memorial scholarship

Handel will provide the department with a strategic priorities updates at the EDST meeting in March.

Faculty are asked to mark the following dates in their calendars:

- February 28<sup>th</sup> – Mona Gleason's Headship presentation to FoE
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Higher Education Research Group (HERG) seminar featuring Dr. Rebecca Cox and Ashenafi Alemu
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – EDST Retreat at the UBC Learning Exchange

*Adjourned at 2:00pm*