

**Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting Agenda and Minutes
Oct 16, 2014**

Present: Ali Abdi, Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Mark Aquash, Jo-ann Archibald, Shauna Butterwick, David Coulter, Jason Ellis, Gerald Fallon, Blye Frank, Hartej Gill, Erika Hughes, Deirdre Kelly, Michael Marker, André Mazawi, Amy Metcalfe, Wendy Poole, Bathseba Opini, Sam Rocha, Claudia Ruitenberg, Shermila Salgadoe, Hongxia Shan, Michelle Stack, Jude Walker, Fei Wang, Handel Wright

Regrets: Jennifer Chan, Elaine Decker, Garnet Grosjean, Gabriella Maestrini

Students: John Chauhan, Miranda Huron, Sophie Ji, Autumn Knowlton, Tim Straka

Sessional Rep: Deo Bishundayal

Library Rep: Jo-Anne Naslund

Minutes of EDST Department Meeting October 16, 2014

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4. Topics for Discussion/Decision

a. Open conversation with the Dean

This year the Faculty of Education will only invite one noted scholar. This decision is primarily driven by financial reasons. As UBC is \$30 million in debt, the new president is planning reductions at both central and faculty levels. By only inviting one noted scholar, the faculty will be able to save a portion of its budget. A meeting will also be held later this year to revise the entire process for inviting noted scholars.

UBCO is a top priority for the new president. The president would like to see UBCO's national university ranking rise from 25th to 10th place. In order to improve its ranking, UBCO will undergo changes, including program evaluations and faculty reductions.

The president also plans on implementing spending cuts at UBC. The three main areas that will be affected are:

1. Hiring – there will be a hiring freeze for faculty and staff, exceptions may be permitted depending on circumstances
2. Communications – this department is overstaffed
3. Travel Accounts – stricter rules and regulations will be implemented

b. Head's report (Ali)

Talks are underway to establish a weekly brown bag lunch seminar. More details to come.

The Faculty of Education's Year of Research committee would like to publicize faculty projects. Those with information to share are asked to contact Ali.

The Faculty of Education released a report on program enrollment. Overall EDST is on par with the other education departments. However, questions of cost effectiveness were raised regarding courses that have less than 10 students enrolled.

Discussion:

Concerns were raised based on courses with low enrollment numbers. Several faculty members suggested creating electives that will appeal to students outside of the Faculty of Education in order to increase enrollment. Others suggested showcasing unique courses that already exist within EDST.

Action:

The department needs a plan to improve course enrollment. Further discussion is required.

c. Graduate Advisor report (Claudia)

GPAC outlined their terms of reference during their most recent meeting. The committee also decided to forgo monthly meetings in favour of conducting business over email.

Faculty of Education award applications are due on October 27th. Faculty members should encourage eligible students to apply.

d. Operations Report (Shermila)

The EDST-net listserv will be deleted in an effort to prevent subscribers from receiving duplicate messages. The faculty, student and adjunct listservs will remain. There are also ongoing talks to create a Connect site where students can access relevant information posted by a student administrator.

The department has purchased three emergency kits, with enough supplies in each for thirty people. Emergency kits for Ponderosa F will be purchased shortly, with LLED splitting the cost if the Dean's Office refuses.

5. DACR Meeting Report (Amy)

The DARC committee discussed additional reasons why the Faculty of Education is only sponsoring one noted scholar this year:

- It costs approximately \$60,000 to bring in one noted scholar and the remuneration costs for these scholars are not adequate

- As individual departments are responsible for the benefits for all post docs, many do not have enough left over in their budgets to bring in noted scholars

The Year of Research committee is creating a social media site where students can promote their own research. Interested students can contact Amy for more details.

6. Protocol for acknowledging Musqueam unceded territory

The act of acknowledging Musqueam unceded territory is based in indigenous tradition. It is customary for an individual invited to another's territory to acknowledge that they are a guest.

Discussion:

One faculty member expressed their dismay at how this acknowledgement has often become a token gesture at the start of an event. The faculty member asked what individuals can do to ensure the sincerity of the acknowledgment. Another faculty member asked how to make this acknowledge wherein the land is recognized as a subject rather than property.

Action:

Turn the acknowledgement into an educational opportunity. Connect it to social justice and engage students in a discussion. The Musqueam website <http://www.musqueam.bc.ca> has a wealth of information on the subject which professors can use as a tool in the classroom. Faculty members who would like to initiate service learning components with the Musqueam should contact Jo-ann.

7. Summer institute and noted scholar visitors for 2015 (Shauna)

Shauna has nominated Dr. Rajesh Tandon as the 2015 noted scholar. Dr. Tandon is the UNESCO Chair in community-based research and social responsibility in higher education. The Faculty of Education is still accepting nominations if anyone has any additional suggestions.

8. Announcements

Ali congratulated Sam Rocha, Jude Walker and Fei Wang on receiving Hampton Junior awards.

The first two critical dialogue sessions, led by Handel, were a success. The next one will feature Germán Álvarez-Mendiola who will discuss inequality in the Mexican education system. The date of this event will be announced shortly. Anyone with ideas for future critical dialogue sessions are asked to contact Michelle.

The Open Meeting with the Head and Grad Advisor will be held on October 28th. All students are welcome.

Adjourned at 2:30 pm