

**Department of Educational Studies  
Department Meeting Agenda and Minutes  
Sept 18, 2014**

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

*Regrets:* Lesley Andres, Jennifer Chan, Garnet Grosjean, Gabriella Maestrini, André Mazawi, Amy Metcalfe, Soong Hee Han, Tom Sork

*Students:* Autumn Knowlton, Miranda Huron, Angela Zhao

*Sessional Rep:* Deo Bishundayal

*Library Rep:* Jo-Anne Naslund, Paige Stewart

*Visiting Scholar:* Angela Atkinson-Duina, Sarah DesRoches, Romee Lee, Juliana Martinez, Germán Álvarez Mendiola

**Minutes of EDST Department Meeting September 18, 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. Introductions: new faculty, other faculty news, visiting scholars & post docs**

Ali welcomed the visiting scholars and post docs. Angela Atkinson-Duina, Sarah DesRoches, Romee Lee, Juliana Martinez, Germán Álvarez Mendiola introduced themselves and described their areas of interest. Soong Hee Han was unable to attend the meeting but Ali provided a brief introduction on his behalf.

Jude Walker, Sam Rocha and Fei Wang, the three new EDST faculty members, were introduced by Shauna Butterwick, Claudia Ruitenber and Michelle Stack respectively.

The remaining meeting participants introduced themselves.

## 5. Topics for Discussion/Decision

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

Ali expressed his gratitude to Pam for her assistance with his transition to the role of EDST department head. He also thanked everyone in the department for the warm welcome he received.

This year the executive committee plans on expanding student participation in governance. Additional participation will help students better understand how committees and governance works at both the department and university level. The committee also discussed the possibility of holding weekly brown bag seminars, which will be excellent opportunities for students to gain experience presenting research in front of others.

Ali also stressed the importance of turning the department a bustling environment. He recognized the difficulties of achieving this goal due to the faculty being split between two buildings. However, it is important in order to provide a welcoming environment to students.

### b. Graduate Advisor report (Claudia)

The 2014/2015 GAAs were reintroduced to the department for the benefit of those who were unable to witness the introductions at the student orientation held on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Graduate Council was restructured during the summer and now no longer includes all grad advisors. Details on this as well as on the new Faculty of Education reps can be found in the graduate advisor report.

Claudia volunteered to be a repository for reference letters in order to assist the Scholarship and Awards Committee. If anyone has reference letters they would like to submit to Claudia they can do so at their earliest convenience. These templates will be available to assist faculty members with the time-consuming task of writing reference letters.

### c. Operations Report (Shermila)

The honorarium policy was included with the department meeting package. Questions about the policy should be directed to Shermila.

The catering budget has nearly reached the maximum allotted amount. This is due to the retirement function held in May.

The computer line is currently over budget. However, as the department pays for purchases upfront and is reimbursed by the Faculty of Education, the total will shortly decrease.

### d. Student participation in departmental committees (Autumn)

Students responded positively to a survey on increased student participation. Autumn and Gabriella will be meeting with students to develop a process for appointing student reps for each program.

The idea of forming an association of EDST graduate students is also being considered. The faculty GSA will be used as a template for creating a similar organization within EDST. Further details will follow as the year progresses.

#### **6. DACR Meeting Report (Amy)**

Amy sent her regrets and this item will be discussed during the October department meeting.

#### **7. Required courses and program area concentration courses for MA and MEd students. How well is the present arrangement and set of courses working and are they serving students well? (Handel)**

Some students have commented that they are feeling restricted by the courses they have to take as part of their program requirements. When asked what courses they would have liked to take, many students created lists that were quite different to what is currently required.

##### *Discussion:*

A faculty member stated that every MA student has the MA open option, where students do not have a concentration and instead are able to take any course in which they are interested.

Another faculty member responded that many students do not like this option as they feel adrift when they do not belong to a specific program.

Other faculty members commented that the timing of required MA courses should be reconsidered as students often find the course work intimidating and many switch to the MEd program as a result.

##### *Action:*

It was recommended that Lesley Andres, chair of the MA committee, conduct student surveys this year to see what is and is not working in each program.

#### **8. Summer institute and noted scholar visits for 2015 (Ali)**

The Faculty of Education has requested that departments begin to think about the summer institute and noted scholar visits as soon as possible.

##### *Discussion:*

A faculty member mentioned that previous institutes have been program specific; for example HIED held a summer institute. It was suggested that the 2015 institute could focus on continuing professional development in order to tie into the collaborative ALE and EDAL course.

Other faculty members mentioned the importance of identifying areas of interest to students such as research methods. If a specific area is identified early enough it will be possible to organize the institute around the theme.

##### *Action:*

Faculty and reps will bring nominations to the next department meeting

## 9. Announcements

Ali congratulated Hartej on receiving the Killam Teaching Prize and Claudia on receiving a grant from the Spencer Foundation.

The UBC Learning Exchange is celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. They will be hosting an open house on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

NITEP's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will take place on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the First Nations Longhouse. All are welcome

BCTF will be sponsoring a conference on Aboriginal education. The conference will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Adjourned at 2:10 pm*