

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting Agenda and Minutes
January 15, 2015

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

Regrets: Jennifer Chan, Autumn Knowlton, Bathseba Opini, Leslie Roman, Tom Sork

Students: Jessica Egbert, Mary Kostandy, Gabriella Maestrini, Neila Miled

Sessional Rep: Deo Bishundayal

Minutes of EDST Department Meeting January 15, 2015

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes were approved.

3. Business arising from the minutes

Nothing to report.

4. Pon Commons Classrooms (Tracy and Natasha)

Tracy and Natasha presented details on the classrooms that will be available in the new Pon Commons building. There will be three classrooms that seat forty as well as five seminar rooms which will seat twenty five. The classrooms will have movable furniture, designed for students to work in pods. Each room will also contain a white board.

One of the classrooms will be equipped with six projector screens for web and video conferencing. Tracy and Natasha urged faculty to start thinking of different ways they can incorporate this technology into their teaching. Workshops will be offered to provide interested faculty with instructions on how to use the room's technology.

5. Topics for Discussion/Decision

a. Head's report (Ali)

Ali welcomed associate professor Alison Taylor, the newest edition to EDST.

Provost David Farrar presented the consolidated financial statements of UBC for 2013/2014 during the last senate meeting. He stated that forty-two percent of the students in the Faculty of Education are graduate students, a percentage that is expensive and difficult to sustain. He surmised that in the future the Faculty of Education should have fewer PhD students and more cohort MEd and BEd's. This statement was not presented as policy but was stated in a matter-of-fact manner. On April 9th, Claudia and Beth Haverkamp will lead a faculty wide conversation on this issue.

This year's department retreat will be held in April on Musqueam land. Jo-ann is working with the Musqueam to organize and facilitate the event. The specific date has yet to be confirmed. The terms of reference will be checked to ensure that students can attend (historically students have taken part in the retreat).

The brown bag lunch seminars will now be known as the EDST graduate student presentation series. The first presentation will take place on January 26th from 3:00-4:00 pm, with Autumn Knowlton presenting.

b. Graduate Advisor report (Claudia)

This year there have been twenty-three EdD applications and forty-six PhD applications. These numbers are on par with last year. However, it should be noted that the number of PhD applications for the past two years is much higher than previous years.

Claudia noted that the question of whether or not we want to use some of the GSI funding for PhD and MA recruitment incentives will be discussed during the February department meeting.

The graduate student travel policy will be revisited in April 2015. This will allow the department to examine the financial impact of this policy over one fiscal year.

c. Student governance update (Gabriella)

Nothing to report.

6. Dadaab Fundraiser (Vanessa)

Vanessa suggested that the department needs to have a serious conversation about the Dadaab. EDST needs to be wary that the fundraising is not presented as a self-congratulatory exercise or uses benevolence as an exit strategy for local issues of injustice.

Another faculty member agreed and suggested EDST think carefully about its international engagement in Africa and elsewhere, so its projects coincide with the ideals of the department.

Action:

The theme of the next faculty-wide conversation will be internationalization. It will take place on January 29th and will provide EDST faculty a larger forum to express their concerns on fundraising initiatives. A faculty member suggested that the department's concerns be raised as a collective issue to show solidarity. EDST can suggest alternatives, such as having an institute for African scholars.

The first international conference that EDST holds could focus on the issues raised during this discussion.

7. Unpaid Sessional Work (Deo)

Deo first raised the issue of unpaid sessional work in the fall of 2013. Sessionals have seen an increase in the number of teaching hours, which has led to an increase in their unpaid workload. This workload, including such tasks as writing reference letters for students, has become routinized. Sessionals want the department to address this issue, particularly as the courses they teach are part of the programs that generate revenue for the faculty.

Discussion:

Some faculty members pointed out how the sessional contracts only stipulate teaching duties while the additional, non-paid services are implied. It is unfair as tenured faculty contracts address these additional services and provide payment. Another faculty member suggested that as this matter comes under the Collective Agreement, tenured faculty must work closely with sessionals during bargaining in order to address this equity issue.

Action:

EDST faculty supported the idea of making a recommendation to find a way to budget for the unpaid sessional work.

Several faculty members suggested creating a new budget line called sessional services within program budgets. This will also help strengthen the sessionals' case during the next Collective Agreement bargaining session.

Ali will have a meeting with Deo, Mark Edwards and Pam Ratner within the next few months to revisit this issue.

8. Ed.D Teaching and Supervision (Deirdre and David)

EdD will host a lunchtime event for EDST faculty. Those with previous experience in EdD are invited to join Deirdre and David to discuss what makes the program so distinctive. Current and former EdD students are also invited to participate in this discussion. The aim of this event is to encourage interested faculty members to participate in the EdD program in a teaching or supervisory capacity.

This talk is currently scheduled for January 29th however the date may change due to the number of other events taking place that day.

9. Announcements

January 22nd – “Coyote’s Keyboard: Writing from Place, Writing about Place”

Dr. Tracy Friedel, Dr. Michael Marker

12:00-1:00pm, First Nations Longhouse

January 26th – “Sharing Relational Stories about Engagement between Indigenous Communities and Universities: Critical Conversations through a World Café”

2:00-4:00pm, First Nations Longhouse

January 29th – “Indigenous Research Issues and Opportunities: What have we learned? Panel Discussion”

Dr. Cash Ahenakew, Dr. Cynthia Nicol, Dr. Amy Parent

12:30-2:00pm, Scarfe 310

February 5th – “Mental Illness in the News Media”

Dr. Robert Whitley

4:30-6:00pm, Pon G Lounge

February 23rd – “Forts, Aboriginal-Canadian Relations, and Ethical Relationality”

Dr. Dwayne Donald

5:00pm, Green College

10. Adjournment

Adjourned at 2:10 pm