

**Department of Educational Studies  
Department Meeting Agenda and Minutes  
October 15, 2015**

*Present:* Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Vanessa Andreotti, Lesley Andres, Jo-ann Archibald, Shauna Butterwick, Mark Edwards, Jason Ellis, Mona Gleason, Erin Graham, Deirdre Kelly, Sarah Lockman, Michael Marker, Amy Metcalfe, Bathseba Opini, Sam Rocha, Leslie Roman, Claudia Ruitenber, Shermila Salgadoe, Hongxia Shan, Michelle Stack, Alison Taylor, Rob VanWynsberghe, Pierre Walter, Fei Wang, Handel Wright

*Regrets:* Jennifer Chan, Elaine Decker, Gerald Fallon, Garnet Grosjean, Erika Hughes, André Mazawi, Wendy Poole, Tom Sork

*Student Reps:* Sarah McCabe, Sereana Patterson

*Sessional Rep:* Carolina Palacios

*Library Rep:* Jo-Anne Naslund

**Minutes of EDST Department Meeting October 15, 2015**

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes**

The minutes were approved

**3. Business arising from the minutes**

None

**4. Topics for Discussion/Decision**

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

Mary Bryson requested that work associated with new cohorts be temporarily halted until PDCE is finished its restructure. Ali will confirm if ongoing work around courses should be halted as well.

Ali is in the process of contacting the potential noted scholars recommended by faculty. He asked the faculty's permission to contact a few individuals that he

would like to see fill the noted scholar position. Everyone agreed with this idea. A few faculty members reported that they have also contacted individuals to see if they were interested in a nomination for this position. They will inform the department about the responses. Ali reiterated that the entire department will be involved in the final selection decision.

EDST has plans to host an international conference every year. The first conference, in May 2016, will focus on Paulo Freire. The organizers have decided that Portuguese and Spanish translations will be accommodated. Handel expressed interest in organizing the 2017 conference. The theme under consideration is cultural studies and education.

Ali thanked Shermila, Claudia and Amy for their work on the department self-study report. The Faculty of Education will submit the final report tomorrow. The external reviewers will be on campus from November 16-18<sup>th</sup>.

The Critical Dialogues and Graduate Students seminar series are taking place again this year. All are encouraged to attend.

#### **b. Graduate Advisor report (Claudia)**

Claudia asked faculty for suggestions on additional research methods courses to be taken in the summer. Four suggestions were passed on to OGPR and GCACC will meet to discuss the ideas.

Claudia informed everyone that the Faculty of Education stands out from other faculties in the number of negative external examiner reports it receives. In the year 2014/15 the faculty received seven of these reports. There have been discussions with G+PS on the reasoning behind these occurrences. Ultimately, advisors need to be familiar with who they nominate to fill this position.

##### *Discussion:*

One faculty member stated that it is the responsibility of the advisor to make sure the thesis is defensible before approaching external examiners. Another faculty member said that students have the right to go forward with examination, even against their committee's recommendation. Further questions should be directed to Claudia.

Notice of Motion - The composition of supervisory committees for master's theses and doctoral dissertations in EDST:

1. All supervisory committee membership must meet G+PS requirements.
2. Supervisory committees of doctoral students in the Department of Educational Studies (PhD and EdD) have a minimum of three members: either

one supervisor and a minimum of two members, or two co-supervisors and a minimum of one member. The supervisor or at least one of the co-supervisors should be a faculty member in EDST.

3. Supervisory committees of MA students in the Department of Educational Studies have a minimum of two members: either one supervisor and at least one member, or two co-supervisors (with possibly an additional member). The supervisor or at least one of the co-supervisors should be a faculty member in EDST.

4. Please note that examining committees for MA students should have a minimum of three members, including an examiner who has not been involved in the supervision of the thesis. This means that for MA supervisory committees with only two members, both of these members need to present for the thesis defense.

5. Associate Members of the Department of Educational Studies as defined by UBC Faculty Relations count as “faculty member in EDST” for the purposes of supervision.

6. Requirements 2 through 5 apply to all new supervisory committees formed, and changes to supervisory committees made, after October 15, 2015.

*The following motion was presented by Claudia and seconded by two faculty members.*

*Carried unanimously*

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

Shermila included her report as part of the meeting package and asked if anyone had questions. One faculty member asked about the type of books Better World Books would accept. Shermila confirmed that paperback books will be accepted as donations.

The move will take place at the end of December, possibly around the 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. Faculty need to have their belongings packed by mid-December. The move will be overseen by an external move coordinator.

### **5. PhD Student Survey (Handel)**

Handel asked the two student representatives on the PhD management committee (Ashley Pullman and Neila Miled) to survey the PhD students on their EDST experiences. They produced a report which Handel circulated as part of the meeting package.

One issue the report highlighted was the order in which the PhD courses are taught. The report discussed how students found EDST 602 useful and would prefer to have it taught in the first year of study. Ideally, the course order would be as follows:

#### Winter Term 1

- 601A
- 602

#### Winter Term 2

- 601B

Many students also reported frustration at the lack of information on funding. Front end loading funding information would be beneficial for students. Students also wanted the department to create more TA positions so students could have more opportunities to gain teaching experience.

#### *Discussion*

One faculty member stated that the department doesn't control the TA positions. However, introducing job shadowing would allow PhD students to gain teaching experience. Another faculty member suggested reviewing the priorities presented in the PhD report in order to determine which areas require further discussion. Other faculty members recommended that supervisors be pro-active in advising their students about funding opportunities.

#### **6. PDCE – Summer Institutes (Mark Edwards and Sarah Lockman)**

PDCE is a service unit within the Faculty of Education. The unit works with MED cohorts, graduate certificates, summer institutes, etc. Summer institutes are innovative spaces that are quite flexible in terms of scheduling. The institutes are also quite flexible in terms of credit options. PDCE would like to meet with anyone who is planning a summer institute this year, preferably by November 2015. PDCE offers assistance for institute marketing, particularly for programs targeting national and international audiences. In terms of local marketing, PDCE often travels to school districts and conferences in order to promote the institutes in person.

#### **7. UBC-SNDT Collaborative Program (Michelle)**

SNDT is a women's university in Mumbai, which several members of the Faculty of Education have visited. EDAL was approached by the Faculty to set up a cohort with SNDT. Michelle recently traveled to India to begin this setup. As the meetings progressed, it became clear that the program would be based on the EdD model. This will allow the program to be department wide and attract students from numerous educational backgrounds.

SNDT is currently under pressure to announce they're going to have a collaborative (rather than a joint) program with UBC. UBC will offer four courses as contribution. These courses will be conducted in English and students attending UBC will be eligible to take them as well. There are ongoing discussions to arrange database access for the SNDT students, thereby ensuring that they have the same access as their UBC counterparts. Michelle met with many faculty members in India who were willing to contribute to this program. Anyone at UBC who is interested in participating is asked to contact Michelle.

## **8. Library report (Jo-Ann Naslund)**

The collections budget is experiencing a 30% decrease. In response, the library has developed the following system to ensure library materials remain up-to-date and relevant to the Faculty of Education:

- focus on the purchase of multidisciplinary e-book packages
- negotiate with library vendors to have 20 month packages for materials
- ensure usage is the core concern when purchasing new material

Jo-Ann informed everyone that the library will only purchase new material that has been recommended by faculty members.

## **9. Announcements**

Congratulations were given to the following individuals:

- Mona Gleason for winning a Spencer Foundation grant
- Amy Metcalfe for being awarded a Hampton grant
- Ali Abdi on the publication of his newest book

## **10. Adjournment**

*Adjourned at 2:20pm*