

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 2017 12:30 to 2:30 pm

Present: Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Natasha Boskic, Claudia Diaz, Jason Ellis, Gerald Fallon, Mona Gleason, Erin Graham, Garnet Grosjean, Erika Hughes, Michael Marker, Amy Metcalfe, Jo-Anne Naslund, Bathseba Opini, Carolina Palacios, Sam Rocha, Shermila Salgadoe, Alison Taylor, Jude Walker, Pierre Walter, Fei Wang, Taylor Webb, Handel Wright

Regrets: Vanessa Andreotti, Lesley Andres, Deirdre Kelly, André Mazawi

Agenda

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes (meeting of September 21, 2017)

The minutes were approved.

3. Canvas early adopters & transition plan (Natasha)

Migration to Canvas began in September and early adopters have provided positive feedback on the new system. More than 300 courses in the Faculty of Arts have migrated to Canvas and very few complaints have been received.

Many users find it easier to navigate and more intuitive than Connect. It is also a mobile friendly system. Courses shells are created with an automatic start and end date and instructors can include library course reserve information directly in the module. Navigation labels are also difficult to change, making it much easier for students to navigate the shells.

Canvas also has more efficient methods for grading assignments. Instructors can now access submitted assignments via the Canvas "speed grader" tool. This allows instructors to correct assignments online. Speech recognition functions are also included and can be used when marking assignments. Annotated versions of the assignments can also be downloaded as well.

All online courses will migrate to Canvas in January. Classroom instructors whose courses meet the early adopter criteria are also free to migrate their courses to Canvas. Instructors interested in using Canvas must first fill in a request form on the ETS website. The Canvas shell creation process is still not fully automatic. At the moment new modules on Canvas need to be manually created by ETS. The system will become fully automatic once migration is complete in September 2018.

Discussion:

One faculty member asked if grades submitted on Canvas will automatically appear on the Faculty Service Centre website. Natasha said IT is working on this, but they don't have a timeline as to when this feature will be available.

Another faculty member asked if students would receive training on how to use Canvas, or if this will be the responsibility of the instructor. Natasha said instructors will need to go to "Commons" on Canvas and insert the Canvas instructions into their course module. This will provide students with a comprehensive orientation on how to navigate the new site.

4. Topics for discussion/decision

a. Head's report (Ali)

EDST will be holding a symposium on May 10th entitled "*Jo-ann Archibald Q'um Q'um Xiiem and Indigenous Storywork as Methodology and Pedagogy*". This symposium will focus on Jo-ann's scholarly work throughout her academic career. Ali thanked Michael and Cash for their assistance in organizing this event.

Earlier this year Faculty Relations announced the new Collective Agreement includes a few small changes to the tenure and promotion timelines. Ali and the Dean' office have reviewed these changes and reassured faculty that the expectations and requirements for tenure and promotion remain the same. The main changes will affect the promotion timelines of those who are hired this year.

Handel has agreed to chair the department's Strategic Priorities Committee. The committee will formulate priorities based on the department's needs. These may or may not change when the Faculty of Education and the university publish their strategic plans. This committee will be comprised of the degree program chairs as well as the administration manager and a student representative. Anyone with suggestions should contact one of these individuals and they will present the information to the rest of the committee.

The Search Committee is reviewing applications for the Instructor and the Assistant Professor positions in EDAL. The committee, chaired by Pierre, is currently creating long lists for both positions. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

b. Graduate advisor report (Alison)

This year the Scholarship Committee is putting forward 14 doctoral applications for SSHRC. Alison suggested the committee could give a few comments to unsuccessful applicants, rather than placing onus on the supervisor. However, this is a matter the department should discuss at a later date.

UBC Student Services has in depth information on the Early Alert System, such as what to do when concerned about the wellbeing of a student. The department will ask someone from counseling to speak more on this topic at a future department meeting.

In September the university held a symposium entitled "Reimagining the PhD – 2017". The department should follow-up with a form on the public scholars initiative. This initiative

could be financially viable for the department and academically beneficial to EDST's doctoral students.

c. Operations report (Shermila)

The revenue generated for 2016-17 MEd off-campus cohorts was included in Shermila's operations report. NSE6 was the only cohort not to generate revenue, as there were less than 15 students enrolled.

d. Sessional report (Erin)

Erin said sessionals in the Faculty of Education are overworked and underpaid. As per the changes in the Collective Agreement sessionals did receive a small pay increase this month. However, Faculty of Education sessionals still earn less than the other sessionals on campus.

Discussion:

A few people mentioned how over the past year the department spent a tremendous amount of time trying to improve the financial situation for sessionals. Sessional salaries are a Faculty Association matter and the department doesn't have the authority to change this. The department tried to stretch its authority this year by paying each sessional an honorarium for their unpaid labour. This action resulted in 3 separate meetings with the associate dean over whether or not EDST had the authority to do this. Eventually the Faculty agreed that EDST could issue an honorarium on a one-off occurrence. EDST paid a one-time honorarium of \$10k to the sessionals who taught for EDST. The funding of this source was the Innovation fund in the department.

Another faculty member asked about the teaching differences between sessionals in the Faculty of Education and those in other Faculties. A full time teaching load for sessionals in the Faculty of Education is 5 courses, whereas it is 3 courses in the Faculty of Arts. However, class sizes in the Faculty of Arts are much larger than those in the Faculty of Education.

The admin manager reminded everyone that EDST is the only department in the Faculty with a sessional representative and that the representative is provided an honorarium of \$500 at the end of the year.

One person asked for clarification on comments the dean made last month about possible changes to the 12-month lecturer workload. Ali clarified the dean's remarks, stating that changes to the 12-month lecturer workloads can only be made at the Faculty of Education level. Just as in the case of budgetary decisions, the department does not have the authority to make these changes on its own.

e. GAA report (Claudia)

The GAAs are using several different channels to communicate with students. They are also holding several events over the coming months where students will have the opportunity to share their research.

Ali thanked the GAAs for their wonderful work organizing the student workshops and events this year. He asked faculty, if time permits, to attend these workshops as a show of support for the students.

5. **Discussion of PhD minimum funding requirements (Alison)**

GPACC has decided to wait until this year's round of admissions are complete before revisiting the part time PhD option. In the meantime, a survey will be distributed to this year's applicants asking if they would have been interested in a part time option if this opportunity was available.

The PhD minimum funding requirements state that all incoming PhD students must receive \$18,000 per year for a four year period. This can include GRA, GAA, foreign government and external scholarship funding sources. This year the department will need to have discussions with supervisors about any personal funding options they can provide to incoming students (grants, etc.). Everyone should note that given the unreliable nature of research funding, this cannot be counted as a stable form of funding for incoming students.

If EDST implements a part time PhD option, these students would be exempt from minimum funding requirements. However, these students would still be eligible to receiving funding from their supervisors. This leaves an option open for part time students to be at least partially funded. Ali reminded the department that all eligible faculty members will still be able to supervise students, regardless of if they have a grant or not.

Discussion:

One faculty member asked if the funding information included in the student offer letters would be reviewed by the university's legal office beforehand. Alison confirmed that yes, the offer letter language is suggested in the Minimum Funding Handbook from G+PS.

GPACC members suggested that minimum funding and part time options are issues that need to be discussed by the Strategic Priorities Committee. The department needs to determine how it is positioned in terms of the other graduate programs at the university.

A few faculty members pointed out that in previous years some applicants with foreign government funding were not admitted into the PhD program. These applicants did not meet the entry requirements and so could not be admitted. This is something the department will need to keep in mind when reviewing files. Applicants with their own funding should not be automatically admitted. They must meet the program's general entry requirements first.

When this policy is implemented half of the usual number of applicants will probably be admitted. This will impact the entire department, not only those involved with the PhD program. A few people suggested EDST could collaborate with other departments to create a joint doctoral seminar program and increase the PhD intake. Others reported how a few departments have decided to increase their MA intake in response to the PhD minimum funding requirements.

Ali suggested that the departmental meeting in March should be devoted entirely to the topic of PhD part time and minimum funding. Faculty are welcome to share any thoughts they may have with GPACC in the meantime.

6. **Announcements**

Jo-Anne Naslund is retiring from the Faculty of Education library in December. Wendy Trass will replace Jo-Anne as the library liaison for EDST.

Garnet announced that the EdD program is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Eighty-four students have graduated from the program since it first began. This number does not include the 8 indigenous students who have also graduated from the program. The EDST EdD program is available to all students in the Faculty of Education. This is one of the reasons why the university's latest EdD program proposal was denied by the government. However, as the program is housed in EDST, the department is responsible for all teaching and student supervision.

Sam has been working with the Philosophy Department and others to draft a proposal of philosophy as a teachable subject. This proposal was submitted to the Ministry of Education on October 6th and 8 of the 12 board members are in favour of approving it. Sam will provide more information as it becomes available.

Ali announced he will be stepping down from his role as Department Head in August 2018. This is one year earlier than his initial term date. Ali will still remain with the Department of Educational Studies, assuming the role of professor. The Department Head position will be advertised internally within the university shortly.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm