

**Department of Educational Studies**  
**Department Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 15, 2018 12:30 to 2:30 pm**

*Present:* Ali A. Abdi (chair), Cash Ahenakew, Lesley Andres, Mona Gleason, Erin Graham, Garnet Grosjean, Erika Hughes, Deirdre Kelly, Mary Kostandy, Michael Marker, André Mazawi, Carolina Palacios, Wendy Poole, Sam Rocha, Leslie Roman, Shermila Salgadoe, Michelle Stack, Alison Taylor, Jude Walker, Pierre Walter, Handel Wright

*Regrets:* Vanessa Andreotti, Jason Ellis, Gerald Fallon, Amy Metcalfe, Bathseba Opini, Tom Sork, Wendy Trass, Fei Wang, Taylor Webb

**1. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes (meeting of February 15, 2018)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Topics for discussion/decision**

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

EDST Retreat

The retreat planning is moving well. The morning session will be outward looking and will include an overview of the work carried out at the Learning Exchange. There will also be a community panel and follow-up discussion period. The four speakers for this session have yet to be confirmed. They will most likely be former students who are now working with community organizations.

The retreat's afternoon session will be inward looking, with a focus on social justice and community. Another group of students will be invited to attend and present on the various ways they incorporate community and cultural studies into their work. This will create thought pieces to lead the afternoon's discussions.

Please contact Alison or Handel if you have any suggestions for this year's retreat.

Summer Noted Scholar

Dr. Faried Esack, the 2018 Summer Noted Scholar, has signed his contract. He will be teaching EDST 565F (971) - A Contemporary Global Muslim Engagement with Theology and Social Transformation. This course will run in Summer Term 2B (July 3-20<sup>th</sup>). Please encourage your students to register early as there are limited spots available. Dr. Esack will also deliver a faculty-wide seminar during his visit, date to be determined.

Dr. Esack will be traveling to UBC from the University of Johannesburg. The reimbursement price for international plane tickets is usually \$1,200. Dr. Esack was required to pay over \$2,000 for his ticket due to the distance he is traveling. Ali and the Head's Advisory Committee have decided to use some of the money set aside for visiting scholars to augment Dr. Esack's plane ticket.

Please set aside time to meet with Dr. Esack during his visit. He will be using PCOH 3069 as his office.

### EDST Symposium

This year's symposium will take place on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the First Nations Longhouse. The planning committee considered a few different venues before deciding that the Longhouse was best suited for recognizing the achievements of Dr. Jo-ann Archibald.

### Sustainability Cohort

The new undergraduate sustainability education cohort has been approved. Congratulations to Rob VanWynsberghe and his team for their successful work in establishing it. The department's TEAC representative said the proposal for this cohort was very strong and its creation bodes well for the department.

### Hiring Updates

The job advertisement for an Assistant Professor in Higher Education was published at the start of this month. Applications have already been submitted.

Yesterday the Dean announced the cancellation of the Teacher Education Instructor search. Unspecified budgetary issues were given as the reason for the cancellation. This position will be re-advertised in the fall. Ali will meet with the Dean next week to learn more on this abrupt cancellation. He will report back to the department once he has more information.

The DSPC convened last month and recommended a candidate for the Limited Term Assistant Professor position in Educational Administration and Leadership. Ali submitted the DSPC's recommendation to the Dean's Office. They expressed concerns over the choice and met with Ali to discuss the matter in greater detail. Ali brought this information back to the department and a hiring decision has yet to be made.

### *Discussion:*

One faculty member asked for clarification on the Teacher Education Instructor position. Is this a new position or a conversion position? Ali confirmed this is a conversion. It will convert one of the department's 12-month lecturer positions into a tenure-track instructor position.

Some faculty members said it seemed odd that the budget was not mentioned when the Dean and Associate Dean spoke to the department about hiring in January. Others agreed, pointing out that much was made about social justice and equity during that discussion. They asked Ali to mention this when he speaks with them next week. Ali agreed to do so as he is also concerned

about this turn of events. The Dean did not mention potential budgetary issues when the position was approved and Ali would like to know why they are being cited now.

**b. Graduate advisor report (Alison)**

Faculty are reminded that EDST Student Research Day is coming up in a few weeks. This year's event will include several presentations, group panels and a film. Alison thanked the GAAs for orchestrating this event. Faculty members planning to attend are asked to RSVP by March 31<sup>st</sup> for catering purposes. The GAAs will also be contacting faculty members to ask if they are interested in chairing panels.

This year the department is making offers of admission to 8 PhD, including 2 Indigenous, applicants. One of the Indigenous applicants has already declined so there will most likely be 7 incoming PhD students in September. Sixty-five applications were received, on which 44 were complete and evaluated. A longlist of 16 applicants was created and the committee will continue to move down the list as offers of admission are declined. So far 3 offers, including 1 Indigenous, have been accepted. There will also be 10 offers made to MA applicants and 14, including 2 Indigenous, offers to EdD.

Faculty are reminded to review the program application forms on eVision. Edits to these forms can be made now that application deadlines have passed. Changes cannot be made once the applications reopen in August.

Sandy has provided a table on the number of applications received by the department in 2017 and 2018. This table was included in the meeting package. Faculty should note these numbers are not completely representative as they include both complete and incomplete applications.

Student progress report forms will be distributed in May. EdD and PhD students will have different forms to complete. Students are required to fill out these forms and send a copy to their supervisor. Occasionally, students forget to complete these forms. For this reason supervisors are asked keep track of the number of forms they expect to receive and follow up on any that are not submitted.

*Discussion:*

One faculty member mentioned that the MEd enrollment numbers were discussed at the last GPACC meeting. The SCPE program received 72 applications, most of which were complete. These applications were reviewed and the majority were admissible. Unfortunately, the program does not have the infrastructure to admit 72 new students. The department needs to have a conversation on how to face this type of enrollment challenge, as the capacity of one program affects the entire department.

Another person commented how eVision allows faculty to do everything online without talking to each other. Programs members should try having more face-to-face meetings.

**c. Sessional report (Erin)**

Erin has met with sessional instructors throughout the Faculty of Education over the past year. Many said the structure of the university is indifferent or hostile to sessionals and reappointment often relies heavily on student evaluation results. Others said they are micromanaged by program advisors.

Erin originally submitted a written report for this month's department meeting package. It was not included, as it was deemed by DNSO to contain too much about Erin's ongoing situation with the university. Erin did not go into detail but did say she is involved in an issue with DNSO pertaining to her rehiring. She will continue to serve as sessional representative until June and will also invite sessionals to attend the EDST retreat in April.

*Discussion:*

Faculty members thanked Erin for mentioning issues that could be discussed at the retreat. Issues such as sessionals' hesitations to raise certain topics in the classroom for fear of retribution, will coincide with the retreat's theme of social justice. It will also be important to talk about the divide between tenured and untenured faculty.

One faculty member asked Erin if she would be willing to email her original sessional report to everyone. Another faculty member urged caution, saying that action could work against Erin.

A faculty member asked who has the final say on hiring decisions. Ali said it is the Dean who has the final say on all hiring. Ali then said he would not comment any more on this particular issue as it is still ongoing. A faculty member said they were sad that members of the EDST community are finding themselves in this predicament. Even if the Dean is the final authority, we are not a military organization where orders must be obeyed without question. Others said this case raises larger questions around department identity, social justice and responsibility to sessionals. These are topics that could be discussed at the retreat.

Someone asked if peer reviews were carried out for sessionals. Erin said sessionals in other departments have not received peer reviews even though the Collective Agreement states it is a requirement for new sessionals. Shermila said EDST conducts teaching observations for all new sessionals.

**d. GAA report (Mary)**

Research Day will take place on Friday, April 6<sup>th</sup> and the day's full program will be shared with everyone shortly. Please attend if your schedule permits.

EDST will be holding a Public Scholar Initiative information session on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-1:30pm. This will be a joint session with LLED and all students in the Faculty of Education are welcome. This will also be an opportunity for students to receive feedback on their draft applications. Please encourage your students to attend.

**4. EdD update (Deirdre)**

EdD held their first annual Writing Retreat this term. The retreat was open to all students and there were 28 attendees in total, including 9 PhD and 3 MA students. Seven EDST faculty members also attended. The retreat included a keynote speech and workshops, which some students attended remotely. The annual EdD Institute is usually held in October so it was nice to have an event in March to bring program participants together.

The EdD program received a small TLEF grant which will be used to create high quality and professional looking online modules for students.

#### *Discussion*

One faculty member asked if these online modules will be restricted to EdD students or if they will be available to everyone. EdD is working on a way to make them widely available while ensuring that there is adequate protection for the academic work. It might be necessary for interested parties to use their CWL to access the modules. Details to follow.

#### 5. **Strategic priorities update (Handel)**

The Strategic Priorities Committee completed their work this month and have included their final report in the meeting package. Handel thanked the committee members for their work. The final report is a thought-piece which the department may or may not choose to use going forward. It includes a list of several priorities as well as the committee's responses to questions posed by the Faculty of Education's Strategic Planning Committee. The university and the Faculty of Education are almost finished their strategic plans as well. These plans include pushes on representation and identity. The department may want to wait and combine parts of these plans with EDST's report.

The Strategic Priorities Committee drafted the report by identifying a few themes and fleshing them out with concrete ideas. The idea of community came up over and over again, as well as social justice and what we do as a department.

The final EDST report will be shared with the incoming head. Additional thoughts and input are welcome. Please contact Handel if you have anything else to add.

#### *Discussion:*

One person was alarmed at the suggestion of larger TEO lectures in the Academic and Financial Support section of the report. This action will remove teaching opportunities for sessionals. Can the department come up with an alternative that will allow TAs to be hired in sessional-led classes? Committee members replied that the information in the report should be read as suggestions rather than directives. Others pointed out that the department has already had preliminary discussions on this particular issue and some faculty members have expressed interest in teaching larger lecturers.

One faculty members said the "creating community" priority will result in uncomfortable discussions. If the department begins to address this topic it needs to make sure it follows through. Issues such as who are we as a community and how can we create community in this building will need to be resolved with actionable solutions. A few people mentioned that these issues, in part, will be discussed at the department retreat. Others rejected this idea completely,

saying they do not have expectations of building community at this point in time. Faculty should destroy the myth that we are here as a community and redeem ourselves by the things that distract us. Another person said perhaps some people do not want to create a community within the department. Many faculty members have commitments to communities outside of EDST and invest their lives in these instead.

A few people said that in terms of the “equity and social justice” priority, this point is complex and the department needs to be patient in order to have a constructive conversation.

## 6. **Announcements**

Congratulations were given to the following faculty members and students:

- Deirdre Kelly on receiving TLEF funding
- Rob Vanwynsberghe on receiving TLEF funding
- Gabriella Maestrini on receiving a MITACS funding award

Ali has volunteered to serve on the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee for the Faculty of Education. If anyone has anything they would like to report please let Ali know.

Gerald is serving as the faculty representative for Congress 2019, which will be held at UBC. He will provide more information on the planning process during the May department meeting.

The next Critical Dialogues Seminar will take place on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm in PCOH 2012. The seminar is entitled “Community-University Engagement: Chasms, Chiasms, Binaries and Leaps of Faith” and will be presented by Alison Taylor and Stephanie Glick.

*Adjourned at 1:59pm*