

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting MINUTES
Thursday, February 21, 2019 12:30 to 2:45 pm

Present: Mona Gleason (chair), Garnet Grosjean, Ebru Öztürk, Mary Kostandy, Michael Marker, Kapil Regmi, Shermila Salgadoe, Daniel Jordan, Tom Sork, Alison Taylor, Jonathan Turcotte-Summers, Taylor Webb, Jason Ellis, Carolina Palacios, Zuzana Jackuliakova, Vanessa Andreotti, Sharon Stein, Cash Ahenakew, Amy Metcalfe, Claudia Ruitenber, Frank Bruckel, Alliance Babunga, Wendy Poole, Gerald Fallon

Regrets: Fei Wang, André Mazawi, Wendy Trass, Sam Rocha, Jude Walker, Petra Mikulan, Leslie Roman, Jennifer Chan

Absent: Michelle Stack, Pierre Walter, Rob Vanwynserghe, Bathseba Opini

Announcement before agenda

The Department head has been thinking about how broader efforts to decolonize our practices and consciousness can perhaps provide some framework for conversations around our self-study.

There are two things in particular regarding the hope around decolonization: (1) whether and how we acknowledge and develop our shared responsibilities for our students, for our programs and for each other. (2) Whether and how we can build stronger sense of trust across our relationships within this colonized space. Head is looking forward to self-study discussion happening next week.

1. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with one addition; we will add an update on DACR by Vanessa Andreotti to Announcements. Wendy Trass will not be joining us today, so please read her report.

2. Approval of minutes (meeting of January 17, 2019)

The minutes were approved.

3. Topics for discussion/decision

a. Head's report (Mona)

Mona welcomed and introduced a new addition to our staff- Alliance Babunga, who replaced Sophia Choi during her maternity leave. Alliance will stay with us until next summer.

Mona reminded few very important things: (1) Our March department meeting is happening one week earlier on March 14th. (2) Faculty members who have not submitted their Summary of Activities forms can do so by noon on Monday, February 25th. (3) Our Research day is happening on April 12th and Mona encouraged everyone to attend and participate.

Handbook of important roles

Mona prepared a handbook that contains a description of service roles in our department and outlined what each role consists of. There are also included two guiding principles that capture how service roles

are thought about in our department. Mona presented the draft document to GPACC and received some great feedback, which we included in the final document.

One of the many benefits of this kind of document is that it makes us reflect on the existing roles: What do they consist of, what we need to do less of, what might we need to do more of or differently. Mona asked if there were any questions and if she had support to add this document to our website as a description of what we do.

Discussion

There was a question regarding the concept of mentoring new chairs for larger committees. How does it work with two-year service terms? It is more of a procedural logistic question. How does we make sure that this person has some experience with the committee? Mona thinks that there is a level of exhaustion with service roles and lot of people are not interested in them. However, it is necessary to have some assistance with some of these roles, so it would be good to rationalize how we move into these roles and to see them as a career building.

Another question was regarding the term “academic leadership”, which was used in several paragraphs. It might need more clarity, where is academic leadership understood more formally. Do we have too much of it or not enough of it? The importance of this is, that here we have one graduate advisor for nine programs as oppose to other departments where they have program directors. These two terms do not signal the same thing, so we might want to have more conversation how to interpret this role. Mona agreed to remove the provision of “academic leadership” as it was not intended to be interpreted as a formal duty of those undertaking the roles.

Mona agreed that it might be beneficial to have deeper conversations with our current graduate advisor to think about how it would look like to have program director or chair of graduate studies. This role would be responsible for certain things and then Graduate advisor would be responsible for different things. The role of the graduate advisor is huge, so it might be a time for us to rethink this. Mona can certainly change the wording in the document.

Mona asked for show of hands of those support this draft document. The majority of department members present agreed to support the document. Mona suggest the document be considered as a “living document” that we can discuss, revisit and revise as needed.

b. Graduate advisor report (Alison)

Admissions

Alison mentioned several highlights. We completed our admissions for MA and PhD and we are sending the offer letters to 10 MA and 7 PhD students. Regarding the MA funding, we are able to offer \$4,700 to each incoming MA student. For PhD students, we are required to offer \$18,000 per year for 4 years to all PhD students. This process is more complicated than in the past. This year, we decided not to factor in TAships due to administrative and equity reasons. Other program admissions are ongoing.

Calendar changes

We sent out emails to students give us feedback regarding the changes they would like to see. We received some important feedback and we will incorporate some substantial changes to our calendar. We agreed

that if there are edits that constitute Cat 1 or Cat 2 curriculum changes, we should bring these to the next meeting since the process can take some time.

Self-study

At GPACC, we had a good discussion about templates for the Self Study. We were focusing mainly on template coming from Berkley process and there was a discussion about: what we want to achieve? Is this more of a task to be done or a process? Does this model fit our department? Is GPACC the best place for discussion? We think that even though GPACC does not represent undergraduate programs, it is a good starting point for certain parts of the discussion.

Discussion

Amy announced that the Graduate certificate in Higher Education is now approved by the Board of Governors and Alex is designing the website. The deadline for applications for September 2019 starts on May 15th. If student applies to Master in Higher Education after completing this certificate, they are eligible to transfer four credits from this certificate to Master program. This is a good way to try it out for people thinking about Master program. It is in official UBC calendar and people might approach you about it.

One department member mentioned very important aspect from GPACC meeting focused on template for our self-study. We should be very aware where these templates come from. Particularly American models have very different historical, cultural and economic sensibility that we must pay attention to. We cannot make a mistake of not understanding these differences and using template, which is inappropriate for us here.

Another department member asked if UBC provides us with any guidance or document for our self-study. Yes, we have a document from 2013 that provides some guidance. Self-studies are mandated by Senate and we are supposed to do them every 5 years. The Provost Office had a session with all the heads and advised us that they were working on new template for self-studies. It is unfortunate that we are in the year when they do not have it ready yet. After Mona talked to Provost Office, they provided the copy of the Berkley self-study, which they are taking into consideration. They reminded us several times, that this new self-study should be short document of 20-40 pages and it should focus on priorities and it should be forward looking. Mona is looking forward to our conversations during our Self-Study session on Wednesday.

c. Operations report (Shermila)

Shermila provided staff update. Regarding the Head Assistant's position, Shermila explained that it has been difficult to find the right candidate. We advertised for the forth time hoping to find some good candidates. Regarding the Graduate Student Support Assistant, we are pleased to announce that Alliance has decided to stay with EDST until Sophia returns from her maternity leave in summer 2020. Our Graduate Program Assistant's position has undergone a technological change and will be advertised soon.

Discussion

A department member asked a question regarding technological change. Shermila explained that we are changing a job description and we are adding different responsibilities so we can bring this position to the level of similar staff positions in the other departments. Mona added that we are hoping that by signaling

that this position is higher pay, we might attract the people with right skillset. The discussion which followed was not recorded as it involved HR and personnel issues that impact on employees' rights to privacy.

d. GAA report (Mary)

In last December, we opened the student survey to collect the issues that students are having, so we can better represent them. We gather a lot of feedback, which we will discuss further during the meeting with Mona, Alison and Student's reps.

4. Student issues (Mary)

During our survey there were two reappearing issues, which we would like to discuss with department members and maybe gather some ideas how to tackle them.

a. Support for students who aim to work in non-academic careers

There seems to be more support for students interested in doing research. Since UBC offered Master programs it would be great if they would support students with some experience in careers not related to research. Mary asked the department members if they had any ideas.

Discussion

Department member suggested we utilize our alumni base, because they heard that alumni would like to have the opportunity to connect with current students. Creating a student-alumni board/group might help both groups, because it looks like both students and alumni would appreciate more networking. This could provide also more employment opportunity for current students.

Mary said that this was one of the ideas they were thinking about as well. She encouraged everyone to suggest the alumni who would like to participate in such networking. Mary passed the paper to put down the names of the alumni.

Another department member suggested contacting the Career center and organizing a workshop. Mary said that they already contacted the Career center and they are planning on having a presentation in the middle of March and they also recommended workshop by Work BC.

Another department member suggested using the course EDST 561 (practicum) and that maybe we could advertise it more. Another member added that they used that course a lot. However, there is a lot of coordination required regarding the placement and faculty members might not have the best connections required for this. Therefore, maybe we should think about bringing in a person responsible for student placements.

Another department member suggested a cohort representative, who could stay in touch with both-graduates and students.

It was also suggested, that since we have Research day, maybe we could have a Career day.

b. Fostering child-friendly and animal-friendly workspaces

Mary inquired about the background history, because people used to be able to bring pets to work. Mary asked if they could bring it now. It used to be allowed, but then faculty member had an allergy. A faculty

member mentioned an SPPG publication on public health and that they drafted a very nice policy regarding the animals at work. In general, animals are not supposed to be in social places; they are on leash; there should be an announcement on the doors with picture of dog, so people can choose to come in. Head said we could revisit this.

Same question was raised regarding spaces for children. Mona mentioned one issue that is coming up regularly. During our faculty events, we received inquiries if faculty members could bring their family members to faculty events. Mona explained that since we are limited with room capacity and we are providing catering, it is unfortunately not always possible. There is also a difference between department providing childcare space and if students are allowed to bring a child to the building. Mona added that there is also the issue of liability should children be left without adequate supervision. A department member suggested that there could be some kind of liability statement, that everyone is allow to come but department can't assume liability for anything that might happen to the child. If child or animal is well behaved and is not disruptive then it is not an issue, but we should reserve the right/protocol/guideline to ask this person to leave with child or animal if they become disruptive. Another department member questioned the effectiveness of such a protocol. Another department member added that children have their human rights too and we can't exclude them from public spaces, because university is a public space open for everyone. We should try to be also more welcoming and open. The classroom is more restricted with certain rules.

Announcements

Mary thanked Sam for his editing workshop, which was recorded and will be distributed. Tom is having his workshop next week and within few hours of announcement, they already received inquiries about recording this presentation. Friday Seminars Series are proving to be very popular. It is a great space to try new ideas and it is good to see the mix of students and faculty members.

Research day is happening on April 12 and everyone is encouraged not only to come but also to present. Mary asked department members to share with students, because they have received very few applications to present and they are hoping for more by the end of the month.

5. Announcements

a. Update on Dean's advisory committee on research

Vanessa mentioned that the deadline for Connections Grant is May 1. However, if you would like to apply, you need to be ready with a plan for 30% match funding. The deadline for match funding is in April, so please do not forget to apply ahead of time. The Faculty RISS can give you up to \$10 000.

Faculty of Education created a special committee FEDAC- Faculty of Education research committee, which encourages us to receive more awards. Vanessa's role changed from being a department representative to the equity, diversity and inclusion person, where she can help faculties to navigate their equity aspirations.

There is an online consultation on creating Canadian research and development classification open until March 22 that is about research classification in Canada. This brought up some important discussions in DACR that have to do with a changing research culture in Canada. This conversation has some very important implications for our self-study and makes us think how we are presenting ourselves to the rest

of the world. There are three different streams created through this consultation that are already in place. We need to understand what is going on and where the funding opportunities are.

Discussion

A department member asked if the Department has a representation now at FEDAC, since Vanessa's role changed. Vanessa would welcome another person to help with departmental representation, but since there is a planned change of leadership in the Associate Dean of Research's office, we should wait for it.

A department member mentioned the importance of focusing on the connection between societal impact and scholarly impact. Can we fuse them together in the way that it makes sense for the kind of work we do in our department? Vanessa responded that this conversation already exists in the discussion regarding research clusters at UBC. They talked about what it is that we are doing, that is paid by society that will have an impact on society.

A department member asked what does it mean for people working in disciplines? It is one of the strengths of this department. Our department has a lot of people working within very distinct fields and disciplines and we influence these disciplines, because they change and transform by the things we bring. This is both scholarly and potentially social impact. The question is how we respond.

b. Awards/Distinctions?

Vanessa and Leslie Roman both applied for the Congress subventions and they received the funding. Vanessa provided copies of her submission and everyone is welcome to participate in the event.

Mona mentioned that our students are very successful as well as their supervisors. Amy received Killam research award, Sharon received an Honorable mention dissertation award for her dissertation, Shan received SSHRCC Partnership grant. Congratulations!

Cash invited everyone to attend the Symposium *Practices of Indigenous and decolonial health, existential wealth, and wellbeing*, which is happening on March 1-2.

7. Department Forum Discussion

Head reminded everyone that our self-study forum happening on February 27th and she is looking forward to all discussions.

Mona also thanked Shermila for her great work in the middle of all the changes in the department and Shermila thanked her staff.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm.