

Department of Educational Studies
Department Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 20th 2020 12:30 to 2:25 pm

Present: C. Ahenakew, V. Andreotti, L. Andres, A. Babunga, M. Edwards, J. Ellis, M. Gleason (Chair), D. Kelly, H. Gill, G. Grosjean, A. Mazawi, B. Opini, C. Palacios, K. Regmi, C. Ruitenberg, S. Salgadoe, T. Sork, S. Stein, J. Walker, P. Walter, T. Wisniewski R. Yotam, G. Neha

Regrets: J. Chan, S. Rocha, A. Taylor, W. Traas, R. Vanwynsberghe, H. Wright

Absent: A. Addy, W. Poole, M. Stack, F. Wang, L. Zhang

On leave: G. Fallon, A. Metcalfe, L. Roman, T. Webb

NOTE: January 2020 department meeting was cancelled due to harsh weather conditions. The University was also closed. In lieu of January minutes, the Head's Report was uploaded.

Announcement before agenda

The Department head acknowledged our presence on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.

- 1. Approval of agenda** – agenda approved.
- 2. Approval of minutes (December 2019)** – minutes approved.
- 3. Presentation on Conflict of Interest (COI) - Michael Jud, COI Manager, UBC**

Michael presented Policy SC3, *Conflicts of Interest and Conflict of Commitment*, formerly known as Policy 97 to the Department. He encouraged faculty to refer to Policy SC3 as the primary resource for definition of key terms, obligations to disclose and manage COIs, responsibilities of Deans and Department Heads, COI disclosures pathways and procedures, and the COI Committee. This disclosure process applies to both faculty and staff. Negative or bad press, retracted studies, impact on ability to get research funding are some of the challenges the university may face in light of any conflicts. The top five issues to watch out for include remembering to declare related parties, relationships with industry, consulting and entrepreneurship, conflict of commitment and use of UBC resources for non-university purposes. Being as transparent as possible is highly encouraged and any gifts more than \$500.00CAD it should be disclosed on annual COI reports. The presentation slides will be distributed to faculty. Please Contact Michael Jud at micahel.jud@ubc.ca if you have any questions in regards to Conflict of Interest.

- 4. Admissions Update: Pierre Walter (Chair of PhD Committee) and Michelle Stack (MA Committee) and Deidre Kelly (EdD Committee).**

The PhD committee: Pierre (Chair) The Committee received 47 complete applications, after deliberations a short list of 11 applicants was reached. André and Pierre met with Shermila, and confirmed that there is enough funding for up to 7 applicants only. The offer letters will be sent out early next week.

EdD Committee: Deirdre (Chair) The committee received 30 complete applications, 14 of which have been recommended for admissions. Ideal cohort size is 12.

5. Search Committee Update: Handel Wright and Michael Marker (Co-Chairs for position in Indigenous Education and Advancement).

We received 14 total applications. The committee met on January 17th 2020 to review the pool of applicants and reached a long-list of 6 candidates. Requests for letters of reference was sent out with February 17th 2020 as the deadline. The committee is meeting on Feb 25th to reach a shorter list of 3 candidates. Once this short-list has been reached, both the approval of the Head and Associate Dean will be required prior to organizing candidate interviews.

6. Topics for discussion/decision

a. Head's report (Mona)

Self-Study: Completed and submitted to the Dean's office. Updates on the External Review process will be shared once more information is provided by the DNSO.

Summary of Activities: These were due on Feb 19th 2020, including a cover sheet that was to be completed with each SoA. In consultation with HAC committee, more details have been added to the Merit Process document in order to have transparency about how the process unfolds, and to align the process with the Collective Agreement as well as with the tenure and promotion processes across Faculty of Education (FoE).

Dean's Task Force on Race, Indigeneity and Social Justice: An invitation was extended to department Heads and Directors to meet on Feb 5th 2020. At the meeting, ideas were floated about bringing Departments more explicitly into the process of moving equity goals forward as a collective. This is a major opportunity for EDST to partner with the Task Force given our ongoing conversations around equity. Mona will continue to participate and will share updates on how EDST can do its part to fulfilling the Task Force's priorities and mandate.

Matching Funds: At the Feb 6th 2020 Heads and Directors meeting with the Dean and Associate Dean, issues of concerns were addressed. This included the need to clarify how requests for matching funds for research projects, such as SSHRCC Partnership Grants, are made by faculty at the Department level. Since FoE does not provide any matching funds for research projects, Departments are often inundated with requests. These requests need to be carefully considered in light of our budget constraints and equity across requests. Mona will work towards developing a better process and some guidelines for matching funds requests from EDST faculty.

ETS Update: Educational Technology Support (ETS) staff will reach out to all faculty who are not using Canvas. ETS is willing to spend dedicated time with EDST faculty who have any questions or concerns about Canvas including, but not limited to, putting courses on line or simply develop online modules, etc., as part of their face to face courses. If you would like to take advantage of their expertise, please let me Mona know.

EDST Retreat: In light of having just completed our Self Study process and with the External Review under way, in consultation with HAC Committee, there will no retreat this year. Upon the completion of the External Reviews, we will then resume for a productive retreat.

Upcoming changes: The new Collective Agreement (CA) between the Faculty Association and the University is soon to be ratified. There are important changes in the new CA that are integral for you to familiarize yourself

with at <https://www.facultyassociation.ubc.ca/bargaining/tentative-agreementinformation-ratification/>. One new change will be titles of Educational Leadership faculty to “Assistant Professor of Teaching” (from Instructor) and to “Associate Professor of Teaching” (from Senior Instructor) as of July 1, 2020.

Support for International Students: FOE is piloting a 6 month long program in support of international students in our Faculty. The **Cultural Diversity Support Office for international students** is now open and coordinated by Dr. Aloysuis Anyichie (ECPS). The main three goals of this is to 1) identify the challenges facing international grad students; 2) develop and implement strategies for support; 3) initiate activities to create a supportive and welcoming environment in the Faculty.

b. Deputy Head’s report (Lesley)

Summer courses: The lack of graduate level course offerings in summer 2020 was raised with Program Coordinators at the February 6, 2020 GPACC meeting. Coordinators will discuss with program area faculty the possibility of moving courses to Summer Term 1 and Summer Term 2, 2020. To date, no courses have been moved.

EDST 565 and 508 courses: The draft revision of the March 12, 2009 policy of offering 565 and 508 courses was discussed at HAC on February 13, 2020. Based on feedback from HAC members, the policy will be refined and presented at the March meeting of GPACC.

PhD Review Committee: The committee members Lesley Andres, Chair; Sam Rocha, Claudia Ruitenberg, Jude Walker, Fei Wang, committee members; Lena Ignatovich, student representative) met to define the terms of reference and specify a plan of action for this committee. The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2020.

c. Graduate advisor report (André)

Admissions to Graduate Thesis-bound Programs: The PhD, EdD, and the MA Committees completed the adjudication of their respective applications for the September 2020 start. 38 applicants in all three programs were deemed “admissible” and have been recommended. At the time of writing, efforts are being made to finalize funding packages for those PhD and MA applicants who were recommended for admissions. A final report on admissions will be distributed in the next department meeting.

PhD and MA Students Funding: On January 28th 2020, a meeting was held to discuss possible directions that would allow EDST to offer a more robust, and sustainable funding package to PhD and MA students. The political economy of funding packages and finances was first reviewed and examined. The main concern is to manage departmental funds in ways that allow a cascade cycle to fund incoming students and ongoing students over a period of four year. Beyond the 3 4YF (4-Year Funding) usually received from G+PS, pooled liquid resources are distributed at 70% for the PhD and 30% for the MA. Funding needs to take into consideration resources needed to fulfill commitments to PhD students not just those incoming in their first year, but also continuing students in their 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year. Many questions were raised and require a continued discussion. For instance, how many applicants could be admitted to the PhD and MA in a way that maximizes the support offered by funding packages? Should EDST cap the number of admitted students to offer more robust, and competitive, funding packages? André advises that such discussions should be undertaken in conjunction with the Ad Hoc PhD Review Committee chaired by Lesley Andres.

EDST 590 for MEd Students: Student Representatives on GPACC have emphasized the importance of MEd students the opportunity to undertake a Graduating Paper (EDST 590). Student report great difficulties in finding

supervisors to undertake a 590 as part of their program of study. GPACC reaffirms the inalienable right of MEd students to undertake a graduating project as part of an EDST 590, provided those interested students have a confirmed faculty member who would serve as their supervisor. It was agreed that a special Information Session on EDST 590 will be organized in collaboration between the Graduate Advisor and the GAA Team. The aim of this session will be to review the different options for a 590 and the different conditions under which it can be undertaken – definitive information will be disseminated as soon as the details have been finalized.

Research Day, April 14th 2020: A poster was disseminated across the Department and FoE. The deadline for the submission of proposals has been extended to February 28th. Faculty members are encouraged to introduce their classes to the forthcoming research Day and consider facilitating their students' participation by submitting paper, poster, and/or panel proposals, on research they are currently engaged in. Research Day is a great opportunity not just to exhibit the range of EDST research. It also opens spaces for all participants to be exposed to new contents, themes, and bodies of knowledge. Collaborations among faculty and students, and among EDST students and students and faculty from other units and institutions are strongly encouraged.

Scholarship Committee report: The chair, Jennifer Chan, submitted the report on Feb 4th 2020 and

- G+PS announced the results for the university-level adjudication of SSHRC doctoral competition. EDST forwarded 10 files, out of which the top 8 are forwarded to the national level.
- The Scholarship Committee just completed adjudicating for the CGSM (Canada Graduate Scholarship Masters) program. We received 6 applications, all of which were forwarded to G+PS (top 2 were allocated spots i.e. funded if eligibility requirements are met; and the other 4 were quota spots i.e. adjudicated at the university level).
- The Scholarship Committee is currently working on its Terms of Reference document and expects to submit to GPACC by end of February.

Policy on Process to Guide EDST's Engagement with Off-Campus MEd Programs: This policy will allow for more equity in workload and engagement. André will make revisions to the document to reflect the concerns and questions raised at the meeting. These included PDCE's involvement and role to the process, student and community representation – provisions 6 and 11 of the process addresses these two concerns. The purpose is not to dictate but to streamline in order to ensure faculty have support. *(1 abstained vote to the revisions)*

Policy on Procedures Governing Program Change Requests into the EDST PhD: This policy provides guidance on how various program change requests should be handled in a way that is consistent with university policies and with the principles and procedures approved within EDST. This will clarify the growing students request in regards to changing programs. Many assumed this was an automatic procedure, which is incorrect. This is not an automatic degree transfer process and there is nothing affirmatively approving the process. This policy will help streamline future program change requests from students, by considering them as new application submissions. It is also integral to take note that requests for admission into the PhD Program from other programs may be denied solely due to the lack of available funding. One faculty would like to see a more robust discussion in relation to Indigenous candidates, which will be done a. One faculty proposed revision to make the context on pages 3 to 5 of the document *(All in favor of policy, with recommended revisions – the revised policy will be distributed in March's department meeting).*

d. Operations report (Shermila)

Please see the operation and innovation budget report included in the meeting package.

e. GAA report (Yotam)

Research Day: This will happen on Tuesday, April 14th 2020 and the deadline to submit proposals is February 28th.

Writing Group: This will take place on February 25th with Michelle Stack as our guest speaker. The GAAs are looking for a speaker for March session. If interested, please send an email to edst.gaa@ubc.ca

The GAAs ask faculty to help by encouraging students to participate in these events. Especially, GAA asks that faculty talk to students and inform them of the great opportunity that is Research Day, encouraging them to come and share their work with the department.

f. TEAC report (Sam/Jude/Jason)

The TEO holds town halls for BEd. Students, teacher candidates. One of the issues that came from this was that some of the BEd. students are receiving grades in the Teacher Education program. This is causing some consternation as all courses in the program, with exception of a few elections, are graded as Pass or Fail. Therefore, it is strongly recommended to use Pass/Fail grading system if teaching in the Teacher Ed. program

7. Announcements

EdD Writing Retreat: Deirdre Kelly extended an invite to EdD Writing Retreat schedule to take place on **March 20th** 2020 in the Multipurpose Room, PCOH 2012 from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Claudia Ruitenbergh will attend as the Keynote Speaker.

Dr. Michalinos Zembylas visit to UBC: Sharon Stein will host Dr. Zembylas visit to UBC. On Monday, March 30th, Dr. Zembylas will give a lecture on “Against the Psychologization of *Resilience*: Towards an Onto-Political Theorization of the Concept and its Implications for Higher Education” in PCOH Ballroom from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Save this date in your calendar.

Registration is open and you can register at <https://edst.educ.ubc.ca/mar-30-2020/>

Dr. Zembylas will hold a seminar for graduate students on Tuesday, March 31st from 1:00pm to 4:00pm in PCOH 2012 on “Affect and the Rise of Populism: Lessons for Democratic Education”. Students are encouraged to attend and can register at <https://edst.educ.ubc.ca/mar-31-2020/>

8. Forum Discussion

None.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:25p.m.

Next Meeting: March 19, 2020.