

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Department of Linguistics
December 9, 2011**

Present: Susana Béjar, Jack Chambers, Elizabeth Cowper (graduate coordinator, minutes), B. Elan Dresher (chair) Derek Denis, Elaine Gold (undergraduate coordinator), Daphna Heller, Michela Ippolito, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Naomi Nagy, Christopher Spahr

Regrets: Cristina Cuervo, Atiqa Hachimi, Alana Johns, Yoonjung Kang, Alexei Kochetov, Diane Massam, Keren Rice

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2011, were circulated and are posted on the Chair's Page: <http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresher/grad/>. Thanks to Elizabeth for doing the minutes. The minutes were approved.

2. Other business, part 1

Andreas Motsch (French), UTFA representative for German, French, and Linguistics was present at the meeting. He made an oral presentation on the current state of negotiations between UTFA and the University Administration, focussing on UTFA's proposal to make a larger number of issues (all terms and conditions) subject to the provisions of Article 6 of the Memorandum of Agreement. He also gave UTFA's perspective on the current deficit in the University's pension fund, and on the merits and shortcomings of certification as a labour union. He encouraged faculty to become engaged with the process, and offered to hold an information session if people were interested.

3. Chair's report

3.1. Department committees

An updated list of committees is posted on the Chair's page.

3.2. New Speech Language Pathology courses approved

The two new JLS courses, Child Language Disorders and Adult Language Disorders, have received approval from the Provost, meaning that SLP will receive special funding if the courses reach a certain enrolment. The courses had already been approved by FAS, so all approvals are now in place, and the new courses will go forward starting next year. As mentioned in previous meetings, SLP is enthusiastic about helping to develop a new undergraduate program that will prepare students for advanced study in SLP. The Curriculum Committee should work on this in the new year.

3.3. Curriculum Renewal Initiatives Fund (CRIF)

The department submitted a proposal to extend our "Corpora in the Classroom" initiative. Thanks to Naomi for taking charge of the application.

3.4. Next year

Planning for the next academic year (teaching assignments, course timetable, etc.) is underway.

3.5. Updates from CPAD

3.5.1 Workload Policy

FAS is about halfway through reviewing all the departmental workload policies. We will be receiving further revisions from Vice-Dean Rupp soon.

3.5.2 Labour Relations

CUPE 3902, Unit 1 held a strike vote, with 91% voting in favour of a strike mandate. The University administration has applied for conciliation. At any time during the conciliation period, either side can request a “no-board report,” 17 days after which the union can legally strike. If there is a strike, it will thus not happen before the beginning of January.

3.5.3 Advancement

On November 20 the University launched its latest fundraising campaign: “Boundless.” FAS will launch its own campaign on Wednesday, March 28, the day of the scholarship reception. A major focus of the FAS campaign is support for students. The FAS Advancement team is available for training sessions, and will come to departments and do workshops to help with departmental efforts.

4. Report of the Undergraduate Coordinator

4.1. C&C (Communication and Consultation) meeting

4.1.1. Teaching Evaluations

As mentioned at an earlier meeting, the university is moving to on-line course evaluations with certain set questions for all courses. Departments will be able to add a few questions for all courses within that department. In the early new year the University will provide a bank of questions to choose from. We are encouraged to set up a committee to consider teaching priorities and then look for questions to best evaluate those priorities. We can propose changes to questions in the bank, but these will have to be approved by the consultant and there will be limited time available for the consultant to test new questions. They are therefore strongly encouraging departments to use questions from the question bank. Since the responses to these questions will be available to students and administration and can be used for PTR and tenure purposes we are encouraged to think carefully about the questions used. Individual instructors will also be able to add questions specific to their course; only the instructors will see the responses to those questions.

It was decided that the Curriculum committee should deal with this matter.

There was some discussion of online evaluations. Experience elsewhere has shown that response rates are lower when evaluations are done online. Vice-Dean Stephenson says the response rates are already under 50%, and the University doesn't expect them to drop further. Daphna said that moving to online references will likely produce even more polarized results, as only students who are very happy or very unhappy with the course will bother to complete the evaluations. Susana reported that online evaluations were tried at UTSC. The response rate dropped by half, and free-form comments disappeared almost completely. The change to online evaluations is University-wide.

4.1.2. Limits on Students' Term Course Loads

Students are currently limited to taking 6 FCEs in one year (September–April) but there are no separate limits on how many courses they can take per semester. FAS is considering setting a limit of 6 per semester (rather than, e.g., 2 in the fall and 10 in the winter).

4.1.3. E-marks

The new e-marks system is ready to use for the December grades. This system, already in use at UTM, should be fairly straightforward to use. Elaine will be away after Dec. 10, and Elan will be handling approval of grades submitted between Dec. 10 and Dec. 21.

4.1.4. POST Open House

FAS is proposing that there be some sort of open house in each department at the end of March to help first-year students choose their Program of Study. Once the details are finalized Elaine will be asking SLUGS for assistance at our “booth” (probably a table in the lounge for a couple of hours). This will no longer happen in conjunction with the March Break open house, with all departments in a centralized location.

4.2. Winter Courses

Dr. Maria Kyriakaki has been hired to teach LIN100 in the winter, replacing Diane Massam, who will be Interim Chair.

Winter instructors should do prerequisite checks soon to remove students without the appropriate preparation. Course syllabi should ideally be posted before the December break, with a copy to Elaine by e-mail. Faculty are asked to fill out contact-hour forms for TAs and Graders for the winter term, and to send Mary all information concerning final exams for winter courses.

Daphna suggested that it should be possible to schedule final exams a year in advance, based on current courses, with later revisions as required.

Enrolments for winter 2012 courses are listed below. There are long waiting lists for LIN200 and LIN204. There are also waiting lists for LIN201, LIN306 and LIN322. Of some concern is LIN322, as this is a required course for specialists in Linguistics.

Course	Title	Cap	Dec.7 enrol	Dec. 7 wait
JLP315H1	Lang Acquisition	180	180	1
JLP471H1	Adv Psycholing	15	13	0
LIN100Y1	Intr Gen Ling	208	176	0
LIN100Y1	Intr Gen Ling	282	234	0
LIN200H1	Intro Language	20	20	2
LIN200H1	Intro Language	252	252	114
LIN201H1	Canadian English	50	50	12
LIN204H1	English Grammar	278	278	175
LIN229H1	Sound Patterns	112	94	0
LIN241H1	Intro to Semantics	112	99	0
LIN241H1	Intro to Semantics	28	28	0
LIN241H1	Intro to Semantics	28	26	0
LIN241H1	Intro to Semantics	28	14	0

Course	Title	Cap	Dec.7 enrol	Dec. 7 wait
LIN305H1	Quantit Methods	24	24	0
LIN306H1	Lang Diversity	40	41	14
LIN322H1	Phonologic Theory	35	37	7
LIN333H1	Morphol Patterns	40	40	0
LIN351H1	Socioling Patterns	87	68	0
LIN432H1	Adv Morphology	15	11	0
LIN451H1	Urban Dialecty	25	18	0
LIN456H1	Lang Variation	25	12	0
LIN481H1	Analysis & Arg	15	3	0

4.3. Study Languages Conference

This annual conference for high school students took place December 8. It provides a good opportunity to introduce linguistics to high school students. Thanks to those who led workshops this year (Elaine Gold, Derek Denis, Ailis Cournane).

4.4. December Exams

Exams start December 12. Grades are due a week after the exam. Grades are to be submitted electronically and Elan will approve the marks distributions. It is no longer necessary to print out and fill in the summary distribution form. Those who have questions about submitting grades on the new system should speak to Mary.

4.5. Holiday Party

We had an extremely successful holiday party on December 2. Thanks to SLUGs for wonderful food, the graduate students for the cheese and decorations, the department for the drinks and especially to Elan and all of F-Zero for the largest and liveliest band ever! Possibly the best singing ever too – thanks to all!

5. Other business, part 2

Guest: Professor Robert Gibbs, Director of the Jackman Humanities Institute.

Professor Gibbs made an oral presentation about the JHI and its programs. Salient points were:

- The JHI is funded by an endowment from Hal Jackman, but most of the money has not yet been received. New opportunities will arise.
- The JHI is still in its infancy, decisions still to be made on where and what to build.
- Its mandate is to do what can't be done within existing departments and units. Cross-disciplinary initiatives are the main priority. There is involvement not only from FAS, but also from OISE, and the faculties of Law, Music, Information, and Architecture.
- Linguistics is by definition part of the JHI constituency. The theme for 2013-14 is a natural fit for LIN.
- It's important to see/show how LIN relates to humanities disciplines. He noted also that not only LIN has some challenges in this regard – Philosophy has as well. Elan reminded the department of our very successful Jackman Lecture Series a few years ago, connecting LIN with poetry, music, etc.

Programs:

- 12-month and 6-month faculty fellowships, Mellon postdoctoral fellowships, graduate and undergraduate fellowships.
- Jackman program for the Arts, where Arts is to be construed as “Arts and Letters”.
- Funding for working groups involving graduate students and faculty from at least three different units. \$2500–\$3000 for a year. Groups don’t all have to be in humanities (e.g. LIN, Cognitive Science, and a language department would work fine.) Also, groups don’t all have to be from U of T. Intercampus is good too, but be careful not to construe the discipline too narrowly.
- Connaught summer institute program - \$50,000 per year for up to 3 years.
- In future years, there may be a shift in focus from themes to teams, but this decision has not been made and not all members of the Advisory Board are persuaded of its merits.
- People should consult the JHI website for more information and deadlines:
<http://www.humanities.utoronto.ca/>

6. Report of the Graduate Coordinator

6.1 Marks submission for graduate courses

Jill has distributed marks lists for graduate courses. Faculty are asked to submit marks as soon as possible, and in no case later than Friday, January 6. If this presents a problem, please let Elizabeth know.

6.2 SDFs and Extensions

There are several students with SDFs pending, based on extensions granted in September. These must be cleared before the January deadline as well. If more time is required, another coursework extension must be requested, and must be approved by SGS. Note that second and third coursework extensions are not routinely granted and require strong justification, and support from both the relevant instructor/supervisor and the department. This applies to ordinary courses and also to generals papers.

If the work is not complete, and a new extension is not granted, then, “In all cases of incomplete course work, *the graduate unit should submit whatever grade has been earned; blanks, NGA, or INC notations should not be accepted.* For more information on the guidelines for the correct use of INC, please review Vice-Dean Berry Smith’s memo dated March 18, 2009 which is posted on the SGS website at <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/adminsupport/memos/0809/006.htm>”

6.3 Update on student progress

Bettina Spreng successfully defended her Ph.D. thesis on Monday December 5. The number of bound volumes in the “cabinet of honour” in the departmental library is growing; soon the current shelf will be full.

7. Reports of committees

7.1. Admissions & Scholarships

The committee has been struck, and includes Elizabeth Cowper (chair), Michela Ippolito, Keren Rice, and Sali Tagliamonte

7.2 A&S Representative (MI)

The major topic of discussion at the last FAS Council was the proposed closure of programs in South Asian. The motion was not approved.

7.3 Cognitive Science Program (DH)

The Cognitive Science committee met on December 9. In future, we are committed to offering, on a rotating basis with other departments, a 4th-year “capstone” course in Cognitive Science. The exact format of the course is yet to be determined. One possibility being discussed is that it would be team-taught by professors from two of the departments in any given year.

7.4 Research(MI)

No information has yet been received about SIG funding for this year.

7.5 Space

Elizabeth Cowper agreed to chair the committee. Other members are Elaine Gold, Matt Gardner ex officio, and Ailis Cournane.

7.6 TWPL

There was an editing workshop on November 19. Much was accomplished; a new volume of TWPL is underway.

7.7 Faculty Workload

The committee continues to work on the policy. The latest version has been sent to Vice-Dean Rupp for more feedback.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.