

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Department of Linguistics
November 18, 2011**

Present: Susana Béjar, Daniel Bild-Enkin, Jack Chambers, Elizabeth Cowper (graduate coordinator, minutes), Derek Denis, B. Elan Dresner (chair), Atiqa Hachimi, Chris Harvey, Alana Johns, Diane Massam, Alex Motut, Naomi Nagy, Keren Rice, Chris Spahr

Regrets: Cristina Cuervo, Elaine Gold, Daphna Heller, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Yoonjung Kang, Alexei Kochetov, Chandan Narayan, Ana Pérez-Leroux, Ron Smyth

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of October 28 were circulated and are posted on the Chair's Page: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresner/grad/>. Thanks to Elizabeth Cowper for doing the minutes. The minutes were approved.

2. Chair's report (Elan Dresner)

2.1. Faculty News

It has been announced that the Interim Chair from January 1 to June 30, 2012 will be Diane Massam.

2.2. NELS 42

NELS 42 was a great success, and we owe a tremendous debt to all those who did the work to get the conference, secure funding, make the arrangements, and run the conference:

NELS organizing committee:

Lead Organizers: Alex Motut (Chair), Joanna Chociej, Ailis Cournane, Derek Denis, Monica Irimia, Kenji Oda, Will Oxford

Marisa Brook, Richard Compton, Radu Craioveanu, Safieh Moghaddam, Christopher Spahr, Julia Su, Kate Wu

Faculty support: Susana Béjar, Elizabeth Cowper, Diane Massam, Michela Ippolito, Alexei Kochetov, Ana T. Pérez-Leroux, Keren Rice

Abstract review committee: Derek Denis, Ailis Cournane, Diane Massam, Keren Rice

Housing volunteers: Elaine Gold, Naomi Nagy, Nicholas Rolle, Christopher Spahr, Michelle St.-Amour

2.3 CPAD update

2.3.1 Workload policy update:

The latest draft (version 3.1) was submitted to Vice-Dean Stephen Rupp. We had made some changes regarding part-time lecturers. Vice-Dean Rupp is going through the various departmental policies. The advice we are receiving from him is changing on certain

points. He will provide feedback, after which there will likely be another round of revisions.

2.3.2 Labour relations:

Bargaining with CUPE3902 Unit 1 continues. The parties are still at the table. The union has scheduled a strike vote for Nov 22. Apparently no other steps have been taken towards organizing an actual strike.

2.3.3 There is an initiative to develop online courses at the undergraduate level. The University seems not entirely decided on what approach to take. There may be some pressure from the central administration to have online courses, but there is much ambivalence, at least in Arts and Science. People have raised questions about how to assure the quality of both content and delivery. Perhaps there is a niche for such courses. If there are members of the department who have a special interest in online courses, now might be a good time to bring ideas or proposals forward.

2.3.4 The University Art Centre lends art to departments for display. The Department of Psychology has some in its offices. The Director of the Art Centre, Niamh O’Laoghaire, is happy to come and meet with the department to talk about possibilities. A question was raised about insurance—who would be responsible for insuring the art? Money didn’t come up in the conversation at CPAD, but the issue would need to be clarified if we were to borrow any items from the collection.

2.3.5 The flat program fee seems to have had an effect on student enrolment behaviour. Students can enroll in a maximum of 6 FCE/year, but there is no limit on the number of courses that can be taken per semester. Students can thus enrol for 6 courses in the fall term, drop 3 or even 4 if they aren’t doing well, then enrol for 9 or 10 in the winter term. This is not necessarily a wise move. Arts & Science is now moving to have a per-semester maximum as well as a per-year maximum, working with the student associations.

2.4. **Next department meeting**

There was some discussion at the October meeting about rescheduling the December meeting because of several possible conflicts. Elan looked into the matter, and concluded that it would not be a good idea to change the date. The meeting will thus remain as originally scheduled, on Friday Dec. 9 at 2:10 p.m. We hope to have a presentation by Robert Gibbs, the Director of the Jackman Humanities Institute. Both the Dean of FAS and the Provost have indicated that they are happy to come to a department meeting if asked.

2.5 **End-of-Term Party**

The annual end-of-term party, co-sponsored with SLUGS, will take place on Friday December 2. We hope to have holiday music by F-Zero, and everyone is invited to participate if they want to.

3. Report of the Undergraduate Coordinator (Elan Dresher on behalf of Elaine Gold)

3.1. New Courses

Proposals for two new JLS courses for next year, JLS472H1 Child Language Disorders and JLS473H1 Adult Language Disorders, were approved at the Science Curriculum committee of Arts & Science. We are still waiting to hear whether Speech Language Pathology will receive Provostial funding for these courses.

3.2. NML Courses

Several NML (Near and Middle Eastern Languages) courses are being taught by linguists, and the department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations has asked to have these courses somehow included in our listings. They can be added to the list of approved courses for the one FCE that can be taken outside our department by students in the Linguistics Specialist program.

NML 315H The Structure of Arabic Language (Abdel-Khalig Ali)

NML 457H Introduction to Comparative Semitics (Robert Holmstedt)

NML 463H Structural Development of Iranian Languages (Azita Taleghani)

3.3. Winter Courses

Since Diane Massam will be Interim Chair as of January 2012, she will not be able to teach LIN100. An ad has been posted to CUPE 3 for a LIN100 instructor .

3.4. Summer Courses

Proposals have been submitted to FAS for next summer's courses as described in our last meeting.

3.5. December Exams

Exams were due a week ago—instructors who haven't yet done so are asked to submit them as soon as possible.

4. Report of the Graduate Coordinator (Elizabeth Cowper)

4.1. NELS

Congratulations to the graduate students for an extremely successful NELS42, which took place last weekend. There were lots of comments from attendees about how well the conference was organized and how good the papers were. The organizing committee, and all the volunteers, should be very proud of this achievement.

4.2. Milestones

Since the September meeting, Elham Rohany Rahbar and Monica Irimia have successfully defended their doctoral theses: congratulations! Tanya Slavin will be defending on Friday November 25, and Bettina Spreng on Monday December 5. This

brings the total number of thesis defenses for the 2011 calendar year to nine. And it looks as though 2012 may be equally busy.

4.3. Admissions

Lots of inquiries are coming in about admissions. 25 MA applications and 14 PhD applications have been started in the online system, but the deadline is not until January 15, so this means very little. Applications will be reviewed online this year, as was done last year.

4.4. MA Forum Report

The Forum is partway through the third set of presentations. The schedule for term 2 will be sent to MA students and MA supervisors within the next couple of weeks.

4.5. MA Advisors meeting

The MA Advisors Meeting will be held soon. I will be in touch with this year's group of supervisors about scheduling.

4.6. Senior Forum Report

The Senior Forum has met twice this term for 2 hours each time. At each meeting students reported informally on their progress, and received advice and encouragement from me and their fellow forum members. There will be meetings on November 29 and December 6, at which students will make more structured presentations in preparation for defending their papers.

4.7. Fellowships

OGS applications have been forwarded to SGS. The SSHRC process is underway.

4.8. Miscellany

The keypad on room 571 has been replaced, and has a new code. The code has been sent to Derek, Kenji, and Matt for distribution to those who need it. We expect to receive the manual for the other keypads soon, and will change the code for those rooms as well.

5. Reports of committees

5.1. Admissions & Scholarships

The committee will be struck soon, in preparation for the coming round of admissions.

5.2. Alumni (Diane Massam)

The next issue of the newsletter is in preparation.

5.3. Campus Liaison - UTSC (Atiqa Hachimi)

At the last Humanities Department meeting, it was announced that Linguistics will remain in the Department of Humanities for the time being. Discussions are ongoing

between Linguistics and the linguists in French to form an alliance to keep Linguistics thriving at UTSC. Atiqah noted that she is not actually a member of Linguistics at UTSC, though she is a member of the graduate department. At UTSC, she is in Women and Gender Studies.

5.4. Equipment & Computers (Chris Harvey)

Chris Harvey has conducted a survey of the computers in the computer room on the ground floor. Two of them seem to be unusable; there are notes tacked to the monitors saying the machines are out of order. It could be that reinstalling the operating system might solve the problem. If there are hardware problems then the computers will need repair or replacement. An e-mail has been sent out to the department asking people to back up any data, so that the committee can proceed to try reinstalling the operating systems. People were also asked to let the committee know how much use the computers are getting. It would be good to have a clear sense of the demand for the machines before deciding how much work and/or money to put into repairing or replacing them.

Elan asked that committee send a recommendation to the chair, answering the following questions: 1. Is it a good idea to pay a graduate student to fix/maintain these computers? 2. Are funds or other resources required, or can the committee members deal with whatever problems currently exist? 3. Can one of the computers be made available to Arsalan Kahnemuyipour for editorial work for the Canadian Journal of Linguistics?

It was noted that the results of the 2009 survey about computers are on the chair's page.

5.5. Curriculum

No report. It was noted that the curriculum committee was charged with working on a possible pre-speech pathology program.

5.6. Ethics (Naomi Nagy)

UTSC is now setting up its own committee to approve human-participant protocols for undergraduate courses in Linguistics, so our departmental committee won't have to deal with the UTSC protocols in future.

5.7. Space (Elan Drescher)

Derek Denis reported Matt Gardner (LGCU Space Cowboy) is interested in serving on the committee. It was noted that this committee is in charge of maintaining/enhancing our current space, not of trying to secure more space.

5.8. Outreach (Elaine Gold)

5.8.1. Fall Campus Day Saturday October 29

This was a very successful day—thanks are due to the volunteers (listed in the minutes of the October meeting). A book has been sent to the winner of the phonetics quiz.

5.8.2. flaut

Marshall Chasin gave a talk at 7 p.m. on Wednesday November 2, on “Different Hearing Aids for Different Languages.” This talk was jointly presented with SLUGS. Marshall was also presented with a gift recognizing his generosity in supporting both the department (for 20 years) and the flaut program. We had very good attendance—the lounge was full! Elaine is looking for speakers for next semester and for Spring Reunion on May 31 (after the CLA). Anyone interested is asked to let Elaine know.

A question was raised as to whether we could somehow set up an internship/RAship to work with Marshall (following up on his point that Audiology needs more Linguistics). Is there a structure in which one could do that? Elizabeth Cowper will check SGS policy on internships, then follow up with Naomi Nagy and Marshall.

5.8.3. Canadian Language Museum Update

The working title of the museum’s inaugural exhibit is: “Canadian English: From Eh to Zed.” It will open on March 23, 2012 in Wilson Lounge in New College.

5.9. TWPL (Alex Motut)

There will be an editing workshop Saturday Nov 19, all day. This should make the process go more quickly.

5.10. Website/Blog/Newsletter (Naomi Nagy)

Diane submitted an item about the recent convocation. It has been posted.

Naomi has written to the committee about organizational issues. No response has been received as yet. It was decided that Chris Harvey should be interim student co-chair of the committee until such time as a co-chair is named by the committee.

Naomi will write to the department to see whether anyone took pictures at the recent flaut talk.

6. NELS (Alex Motut)

Some paperwork remains, such as submitting receipts for reimbursement and making a report to SSHRC about the conference grant. Plans are afoot for a volunteers’ dinner or lunch. Naomi Nagy noted that the organizing committee for the upcoming NWAIVE conference to be held in Toronto will benefit from the NELS committee’s experience.

7. LGCU (Derek Denis)

Thanks to Elizabeth Cowper for getting the new keypad finally installed and programmed.

Matt Hunt Gardner requests a small amount of money (estimated less than \$100) to get copies made of all desk keys. For most desks, there is only one copy of the key. It makes sense to have a spare set. Elan asked for a written request, with copy to Mary Hsu.

There was asbestos work happening in the department on a weekend when graduate students were in the department getting ready for the NELS conference. It was a surprise that the work was going on, and it made it difficult to do the NELS work. The students asked that information about upcoming asbestos work and other disruptions be forwarded to aid in planning.

Room 571 has been extremely cold lately. Jill has been informed, and will submit a request that the temperature be adjusted.

8. SLUGS (Daniel Bild-Enkin)

There will be a showing of the movie “The Linguists” on Tuesday November 29 with talks by Keren Rice and Alana Johns.

A board-game night is being arranged.

The TULCon organizing committee will meet in December.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.