

Minutes of a Meeting of the Department of Linguistics, October 29, 2010

Present: Susana Bejar, Elizabeth Cowper (minutes), Derek Denis, Elan Dresher (chair), Elaine Gold (undergraduate coordinator), Daphna Heller, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Yoonjung Kang, Alexei Kochetov, Diane Massam, Alex Motut, Naomi Nagy, Ana Pérez-Leroux, Sali Tagliamonte (graduate coordinator).

Regrets: Jack Chambers, Atiqa Hashimi, Alana Johns, Keren Rice

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2010, 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. Chair's report (Elan Dresher)

2.1. FAS Academic Plan

There will be no School of Languages and Literatures as proposed in the original Academic Plan. The language departments are "designing their own future."

The Plan proposes the creation of courses called "Big Ideas". FAS is collecting ideas for these courses. Linguistics could potentially contribute to this initiative. There will be a call for proposals.

There has been a FIPPA request to release the FAS budget as it pertains to the Academic Plan. It was being released on October 29.

2.2. Graduate Collaborative Program in Jewish Studies

The Graduate Collaborative Program in Jewish Studies program has expressed an interest in making connections with Linguistics. Students would apply to our department and would of course have to meet the regular admissions requirements of our programs. If their area of linguistics intersects with Jewish Studies, they could select the Jewish Studies collaborative program as an option. The additional requirements of the Jewish Studies collaborative program are summarized on a separate sheet (to be posted).

There was full discussion of whether the Department should proceed with this. It was noted that collaborative program requirements could also count, where appropriate, towards the requirements of the student's Linguistics program. It was also noted that some M.A. students with less background (e.g. those who still needed to take Analysis & Argumentation and/or Field Methods) might not have enough flexibility in their course selection to do the Collaborative M.A., but that students with strong background should be able to do it. There was a consensus that we should proceed.

2.3. Possible exchange with Harbin

Professor Laifa Li, a visiting scholar from China, has said that his home university, the Harbin Institute of Technology, is interested in setting up some sort of collaboration between our department and their School of Foreign Languages. The Harbin Institute of Technology is a prestigious university, one of the top universities in China. The School of Foreign Languages offers an MA in Foreign Linguistics and Applied Linguistics. Professor Li suggests that we could consider various types of collaborations, including

exchange visits by faculty members for research and/or teaching, or various kinds of exchanges involving undergraduate or graduate students.

There was discussion of various aspects of the question. It was concluded that it is premature to contemplate a formal arrangement at this point, and that it would make sense to carry on with ad hoc arrangements, to keep the door open and see what develops. If there are students at Harbin who want to spend a term or a year here, there are already structures in place to permit that. It was suggested that Professor Li be invited to give a talk while he is here.

2.4. Committees

The department committee assignments for this year are almost complete. The full list will be posted on Chair's page as soon as it is ready.

There was discussion of the general topic of outreach and Alumni Relations, and the division of roles between the blog and the Departmental Newsletter. Elaine's outreach work is important and successful. We need to do a better job on graduate alumni relations. Other departments have lists of graduate alumni on their websites. A student could be paid to hunt down information about graduate alumni. Diane offered to supervise.

The blog serves an important purpose internally. The newsletter is more promotional and periodic, and concentrates on memorable items. It was emphasized that the Newsletter wouldn't need to be produced in hard copy — electronic distribution in .pdf format would make more sense. The Newsletter requires that someone take on the reportorial task of collecting information and writing it up. Alumni have said they like receiving a newsletter. The last newsletter was summer 2008, it's time for a new one — we should aim to have it done in December, in time for the new year. It was suggested that the format could be simpler than it has been, so the task of making it isn't so onerous.

Elaine and Diane will be the Alumni Committee, and will discuss possible ways to do a newsletter. Perhaps some of the members of the Blog committee could help.

2.5. Meet the neighbours floor party with Psychology

This event has been rescheduled for Thursday Nov.11, from 3–5. Elaine will be posting flyers & ordering food.

3. Report of the Undergraduate Coordinator

3.1. Arts & Science C&C (Communication and Consultation) meeting Sept 28

At this meeting Elaine raised concerns (yet again) about the time-consuming, paper-wasting process of prerequisite checks. The Faculty will be moving to paperless prerequisite checks sometime in the future. We might not be able to prevent students enrolling in inappropriate courses, but instructors should be able to do checks online as students enrol. The department is pushing to have the system automatically notify students that have enrolled without the proper prerequisites or in excluded courses.

Arts & Science is also moving to online grade reporting, so that instructors could upload directly from BlackBoard or from their own excel sheets. The chair or undergraduate coordinator would still check the grades before sending them on. Statistics will show immediately both in terms of the marks spread and in comparison with previous spreads

of the same course over the last few years.

3.2. Enrolment for winter term

- Enrolment is going well. As usual, LIN200 is popular with 30 on the waiting list.
- The cap on LIN204 English Grammar was raised to the room size of 278 and it was overfilled to 289. Even after that, the course still has 157 on the waiting list. There was some discussion of the function of the course. UTM's version of the course is effectively an ESL course, while the St. George version is more linguistic. UTM will be adding an advanced English grammar course.

3.3. Summer 2011 Courses

The deadline for our proposal for summer courses is November 5th. The curriculum committee will be meeting on November 1 to decide which courses we will offer.

3.4. TBB199 (previously known as HUM199)

There were more volunteers than required to teach TBB199. Naomi, Michela, Jack and Diane will be offering TBB199 courses in 2011-12. Elaine will be submitting the proposals on Nov. 4.

3.5. Curriculum Committee

As mentioned above the curriculum committee will meet on November 1 to discuss summer courses. Other issues to consider this year are the hours per week for each course. We have increased 3 courses currently at 2 hours to 3 hours per week for next year (LIN203, LIN204, and LIN362), and the committee will discuss the other courses that currently meet for 2 hours per week. The committee will also be considering suggestions for changing prerequisites or levels of other courses. JLP374 prerequisites have been tightened up. The question has been raised whether Language Revitalization is appropriately placed at the 400 level. Please contact Elaine with any concerns that the curriculum committee should address.

3.6 Curriculum Renewal & Calendar changes update

The revised major and specialist programs have been submitted to the Faculty Office for the 2011-12 calendar and the final draft of the Curriculum Renewal submission is being prepared.

3.7 December Exams

Instructors with December exams are reminded that exams are due on November 11.

4. Report of the Graduate Coordinator

4.1. Fellowships.

The OGS applications have been compiled and submitted. The departmental deadline for SSHRC and CGS applications (Master's and Doctoral) is November 15.

4.2. MA Forum

The schedule for 2nd presentations has been circulated. Could all MA Advisors please let the Graduate Coordinator know of any time constraints for next term. The Winter Term schedule will be set up soon.

- 4.5. The Senior Forum will meet on Thursday, November 18, 9:30-12 and Thursday, November 25, 9:30-12 in BA 2179 (Bahen Centre). Supervisors are welcome to attend.

5. Reports of committees

5.1. Faculty of Arts and Science Council (Elizabeth Cowper)

Council met October 4; minutes of the meeting are available online at:

<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/faculty-governance/arts-science-council>

There was much discussion of the Academic Plan. Council will meet again November 1, and again the main agenda item is the Academic Plan.

5.2. Cognitive Science Liaison (Daphna Heller)

Last year, the proposed undergraduate program was submitted to the Faculty Curriculum Committee. It was approved, contingent on the core course, COG 250, being taught by regular faculty as of 2011. The course is currently taught by a sessional instructor in Psychology. The Cognitive Science Committee has not met since April. There is cause for concern that the program is not moving forward as planned.

5.3 Guest Speakers (Daphna Heller)

Student members weren't chosen in time for last visiting talk, but the committee is now in place. The student members of the committee felt that they (at least some of them) were overworked. There was discussion of whether the committee should have to be responsible for all events at which refreshments are served.

Some departments have a separate social committee. It was decided (in the absence of any graduate students) to see whether more people could be added to the visiting speaker committee, so that it could be explicitly constituted as a social committee. The question of fairly dividing the workload among committee members also needs to be addressed. Daphna will follow up with the graduate students.

The next visiting speaker is scheduled for January 2011. More information will be sent out at a later date.

There will be a CRC-sponsored workshop on experimental phonology on March 18, 2011. Elizabeth Johnson will be one of the speakers..

5.4 Library Liaison (Keren Rice)

There have been no further developments on the electronic journal access problem.

5.5 Fall Campus Day (Elaine Gold)

Fall Campus Day, on Saturday October 23, was very successful – thank you to Elizabeth Cowper, Elise Benallick, Michelle Stella, Chris Spahr and Isobel Marr. The enthusiasm of the new MAs is greatly appreciated. Elaine will send out the book prize to the winner of our phonetics quiz. In future years, it would be good to make sure there are some student volunteers who have U of T undergraduate linguistics background.

There have been no FLAUT events this fall.

5.6 Website (Elan Dresher)

There needs to be better integration among various elements: blog, speakers, events, calendar, etc. Not all information is consistent, or posted where it needs to be. CHASS

can provide help with this. There was a suggestion to embed the Events calendar into the home page. Elan will follow up.

6. LGCU (Derek Denis and Alex Motut)

- There was an LGCU Welcome Workshop October 29 at Woodsworth College.
- U of T will host NELS in 2011. The students need to strike a committee headed by a Faculty member in order to organize the conference. There should be at least 10 graduate students on the committee. Michela Ippolito, who is on maternity leave right now, spearheaded the idea of hosting the meeting. Susana Bejar and Diane Massam volunteered to be on the committee. The faculty suggested that the students look into SSHRC funding and alternative means to acquire funds to support the conference.

7. SLUGS

No report

8. Other business

There was a query about the implementation of UTFA arbitration award. The across-the-board increases for 09-10 will be in the November pay. The across-the-board and PTR increases for 2010-11 will be in the January pay. More information can be found at the UTFA website: <www.utfa.org>.

9. Closed portion

Please see the closed portion of the minutes.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m..