

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Department of Linguistics  
September 24, 2011**

**Present:** B. Elan Dresher (chair), Elaine Gold (undergraduate coordinator), Elizabeth Cowper (graduate coordinator, minutes), Daniel Bild-Enkin, Jack Chambers, Cristina Cuervo, Derek Denis, Emily Dunbar, Atiqa Hachimi, Daphna Heller, Michela Ippolito, Diane Massam, Naomi Nagy, Chandan Narayan, Keren Rice

**Regrets:** Susana Béjar, Alana Johns, Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Yoonjung Kang, Alexei Kochetov, Ana-Teresa Perez-Léroux, Ron Smyth

**1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of April 29, 2011 were circulated and are posted on the Chair's Page: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresher/grad/>. Thanks to Elizabeth Cowper for doing the minutes. The minutes were approved.

**2. Chair's report (Elan Dresher)**

**2.1. General remarks**

Elan welcomed everyone to the first Department Meeting of 2011–2012. This is a busy time of year, with new classes, TA-ships starting up, opening reception, TA training, the mentorship workshop, LGCU meeting, orientation events, and others. Thanks to all who were involved in getting the term started. Elaine Gold, the Undergraduate Coordinator, did an enormous amount of work organizing the TA-ships and instructorships, as well as the Mentorship Meetings, in which Keren Rice was also involved. Thanks to Elizabeth Cowper, our Graduate Coordinator, for organizing our Opening Reception, as well as the people who helped her with this (Julia Su, Chris Spahr, Maria Kyriakaki, Daniel Bild-Enkin, Emily Dunbar, Mary Hsu). It made for a great start to the year. Also, special thanks to Mary Hsu and Jill Given-King for all of their work to get the year started, and to Sarah Clarke for her excellent work in the office over the summer. The admin staff have a lot to do at this time of year, especially this year, so everyone is reminded to show them extra consideration and some patience.

Everyone should be careful about security, especially in the first few weeks of classes when thefts are especially common.

**2.2. Faculty news**

We are happy to welcome back from leave Christina Cuervo and Keren Rice. Susana Béjar is with us this year at St. George. We wish a productive year to Yoonjung Kang and Alexei Kochetov, and a productive semester to Sali Tagliamonte, who are on research leave. Elizabeth Johnson in Psychology at UTM has been cross-appointed to our graduate faculty. She has a wonderful lab to do experiments in infant language and we look forward to working more closely with her.

Congratulations to Yoonjung kang on being awarded tenure at UTSC. This is great news for Linguistics at UTSC, and for our Graduate department.

### **2.3. Staff news**

This is our first opportunity to formally welcome Jill Given-King, our new Graduate Administrator and Departmental Assistant. Jill has experience with various departments at U of T, and in fact had worked in the same office she has now when it was occupied by Economics. This is a new position in our office, the result of a reorganization recommended by the Faculty's HR department so as to better balance the flow of work in the office. As a result of this reorganization the position held by Bill Forrest regrettably came to an end, and he chose to retire. Elan expressed his thanks to Bill for his many years of service to the department. His technical assistance was particularly appreciated by members of the department. For IT and other technical support we now rely on CHASS.

### **2.4. Workload Policy update**

Recall that we are required to put in place a departmental Workload Policy. To this end Elan started a faculty wiki to which a number of faculty have posted helpful comments and revisions, and asked for nominations to the department's Workload Policy Committee. Not having received sufficient nominations, he will now invite some specific faculty members. Over the summer Elan was appointed to a FAS Workload Committee, as a result of which Linguistics is now considered a leader in this process, a department that other departments can consult in drafting their Workload policies. It is thus a matter of some urgency that we get a draft policy ready in the next two weeks.

### **2.5. Greater cooperation with Speech-Language Pathology**

A number of things have converged to create excellent opportunities for us to cooperate more widely with SLP in a number of areas. This is an excellent development, especially in light of the distance that used to exist between LIN and SLP.

Undergraduate matters: There is a new initiative by the Provost to enable departments without undergraduate enrolments (such as Speech-Language Pathology) to offer undergraduate courses to students in other units. The Provost has made funds available to support this effort. Linguistics has been identified as the cognate department in which SLP faculty could teach. SLP has drafted proposals for three new undergraduate courses that will replace the one existing course (JLP474). One of these courses will focus on adult disorders, and another will focus on child disorders. There seems to be strong demand for courses of this kind; JLP474 is oversubscribed every time it is offered. Such new courses would be useful for our students, especially those who are interested in pursuing speech-language pathology.

It was asked how these courses will fit into our program. Will they simply increase the number of available elective courses? Elaine Gold noted that we need to increase our offerings at the third- and fourth-year level, to meet the needs of the new curriculum. These joint courses will be upper-year courses, and will help to meet this need.

It was asked whether any courses might be available to graduate students. It might be appropriate for one or more of them to also have a graduate number.

Graduate matters: Alexei Kochetov has been actively collaborating with at least two faculty in SLP. They have a lot of extremely useful equipment. It was suggested that we might think about a joint course at the graduate level; methods in speech research was suggested

as a possible topic. The instructor of JLS474, Susan Wagner, was invited to the beginning-of-term reception.

## 2.6 We're Number 11!

The worldwide QS ranking of universities and departments has put 14 departments from the U of T Faculty of Arts and Science in the top 30 worldwide. Linguistics ranks 11th in the world. It would be great to try to get into the top 10.

## 2.7 Committees

Committee assignments are still under construction. Wherever possible, people are asked to continue in their previous committees until the new assignments are finalized.

## 3. Report of the Undergraduate Coordinator

### 3.1. Summer Session Comments

The Summer session went very well. Thanks to all the summer instructors. It was the first time since the 1970s that we have offered LIN331H Syntactic Theory (taught by Kenji Oda). Five students completed the course, of eleven who started it. The third-year syntax and phonology courses are very challenging and really too intense for the summer; we will offer them exclusively in the fall and winter semesters from now on.

It was also the first time the university has offered intensive 3-week courses. Richard Compton taught LIN204H over a three-week period in June. There was some interest in the intensive LIN204, but much more in the regular one. It's not obvious that it makes sense to do it again. The intensity of the course is problematic for both the students and the instructor. As Richard pointed out, it is only possible to teach that course if one has taught it before, since there is essentially no preparation time during the session. It is also very difficult for the students to absorb so much information in such a short time.

Overall in the summer session there was strong enrolment, with some surprises. Enrolment in LIN228 Phonetics was somewhat lower than usual. Interest in LIN204 English Grammar and LIN203 English Words remains very strong; we could consider offering it in both the Fall and the Winter, as we have done in past years, if we wanted to.

In the summer of 2012 we will probably offer LIN351H Sociolinguistics, since it hasn't been offered in the summer session in a long time. We will also offer JLP374H Psycholinguistics and LIN232H Syntax.

Course enrolments, summer 2011:

Course	May	June 13 (drop date)
LIN100Y1Y Intr Gen Linguistics	59	51
LIN200H1F Intro Language	85 (31 TESL)	78 (27 TESL)
LIN203H1F English Words	131	118
LIN204H1F2 English Grammar	42	38
LIN204H1S English Grammar	190	180
LIN228H1F Phonetics	43	39
LIN229H1S Sound Patterns	22	19
LIN241H1F Intro to Semantics	28	25

Course	May	June 13 (drop date)
JLP315H1S Language Acquisition	35	41
LIN331H1F Syntactic Theory	11	5
LIN398H0F Ind Experiential Study Prjct	3	3
LIN495Y1Y Individual Projects	1	1
LIN497Y1Y Individual Projects	1	1

### 3.2. 2011-2012 Course Instructors & Mentors

The following instructors have been hired for the 2011-2012 session:

	Instructor	Mentor
LIN100Y1Y - F	Monica Irimia	Keren Rice
LIN200H1F	Bridget Jankowski	Elaine Gold
LIN200H1S	Susana Bejar	
LIN228H1F	Elham Rohany Rahbar	Elan Dresher
LIN458H1F	Marina Sherkina-Lieber	Alana Johns

Keren Rice and Elaine Gold led a mentoring workshop on September 8; there was full attendance of instructors and mentors and lively discussion.

### 3.3 Fall course enrollment

Enrolments as of Sept 12 (* = full)		Cap	Enrolled	Waiting list
JAL353H1S Conversational Structures	*	55	55	
JAL401H1F Field Linguistics	*	15	15	1
JLP315H1S Language Acquisition		180	147	
JLP374H1F Psych of Language	*	100	100	
JLP471H1S Adv Psycholinguistics		15	8	
JLS474H1F Disorders of Speech	*	40	40	7
LIN100Y1Y Intr Gen Linguistics - day	*	208	208	32
LIN100Y1Y Intr Gen Linguistics - evening	*	282	285	16
LIN200H1F Intro Language		55	46	
LIN200H1F Intro Language	*	217	217	44
LIN200H1S Intro Language		20	19	
LIN200H1S Intro Language	*	252	256	25
LIN201H1S Canadian English	*	50	52	4
LIN203H1F English Words	*	278	278	54
LIN204H1S English Grammar	*	278	285	79
LIN228H1F Phonetics	*	150	150	
LIN229H1S Sound Patterns		112	94	
LIN232H1F Syntactic Patterns		112	107	
LIN241H1S Intro to Semantics		112	97	
LIN299Y1Y Research Opportunity		9999	1	
LIN305H1S Quantitative Methods		24	22	
LIN306H1S Language Diversity	*	40	44	8
LIN322H1S Phonological Theory	*	35	40	4

<b>Enrolments as of Sept 12 (* = full)</b>		<b>Cap</b>	<b>Enrolled</b>	<b>Waiting list</b>
LIN323H1F Acoustic Phonetics	*	55	56	11
LIN331H1F Syntactic Theory	*	35	37	2
LIN333H1S Morphological Patterns		40	38	
LIN341H1F Semantic Theory		36	34	
LIN351H1S Sociolinguistic Patterns		87	63	
LIN362H1F Historical Linguistics	*	35	35	3
LIN409H1F Structure of a Language	*	15	15	4
LIN432H1S Advanced Morphology		15	9	
LIN451H1S Urban Dialectology		25	21	
LIN456H1S Language Variation		25	08	
LIN458H1F Revitalizing Language	*	25	25	4
LIN481H1S Analysis & Argumentation		15	5	
LIN495Y1Y Individual Projects		9999	2	

TAs and Graders have been hired and courses are underway.

The department was given money to increase the number of tutorials. LIN229, LIN232 and LIN241 were all given 4 tutorials instead of 3 so the tutorials can be smaller. LIN203 and LIN204 will have tutorials for the first time. We increased the number of hours for LIN100 TAs.

Also new is that LIN362 Historical is meeting for 3 hours per week not 2 (no money involved).

Acoustic phonetics enrolment has increased. Marshall Chasin has been teaching the course for 20 years, and has been an excellent friend and supporter of the department for many years.

There was a long discussion of the waiting list system. Many faculty would be happier if the system could prevent people from enrolling without prerequisites. Elaine will provide that feedback to the appropriate office.

### 3.4. Program of Study as of early September

There has been a drop in the number of students registered in Linguistics POSTs. This is also the first year for the revised major and specialist programs, but there has been no change in the minors. It's not known if this is related to any change in faculty-wide enrolment levels.

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	non-degree	<b>Total 11-12</b>	<b>Total 10-11</b>
MAJOR	8	95	70	49	1	<b>223</b>	<b>264</b>
MINOR	3	43	33	31		<b>110</b>	<b>135</b>
SPECIALIST	3	32	22	9		<b>66</b>	<b>60</b>
SP LIN & PHIL (old)			1	2		<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>464</b>

### **3.5 WIT**

Alex Motut was hired in June as the Lead Writing TA for another year. She has already met with the instructors and TAs involved with the fall WIT courses (LIN203, LIN200) and will be meeting with the winter instructors and TAs later in this semester.

### **3.6 Provost's Working Group on the Undergraduate Tutorial Experience**

Elaine attended a workshop to discuss the recommendations of this working group. They are mostly concerned about graduate experience as TA. They encourage all instructors to sit in on a tutorial and give feedback to the TA. They suggest making evaluation forms available to TAs before they start work so that they know some of the things they should be aiming for (this was incorporated into the TA training being given by Ailis Cournane on September 16). Overall, they encourage clear communication between instructors and TAs so that TAs are clear on what expected from them both in terms of content and pedagogical goals.

### **3.8 Proposal: Reactivate Space Committee**

Elaine proposed that the Space Committee be reactivated with a new mandate: to ensure that our space is improved as required, and maintained in good shape. Current needs are to deal with the clutter in the lounge, perhaps buy shelves for better storage around the sink/fridge area, and acquire, a new (folding!) bundle buggy. There have also been suggestions to hang conference posters in the hallway and put up some history of the department.

## **4. Report of the Graduate Coordinator**

### **4.1. Thanks**

Thanks to Mary Hsu and Jill Given-King for their invaluable help in all the administrative tasks required to run the Graduate Program. Jill took up her position in August, and is quickly becoming familiar with the many aspects of her job. Mary did a heroic job throughout the late spring and summer holding everything together and educating the new Graduate Coordinator, who is amazed at how much the job has changed in the past 20 years.

### **4.2. Incoming graduate students**

The new students were introduced and welcomed at the Department opening reception.

Ph.D.

This year there are 7 students beginning the Ph.D. program. Marisa Brook, Radu Craioveanu, Ross Godfrey, and Chris Spahr are continuing from our M.A. program. Yu-Leng Lin comes to us from Taiwan, where she did her Master's in the same department where our own Niina Zhang is a professor. Iryna Osadcha comes from Ukraine, and studied most recently at the University of Athens. Elodie Thomas comes from France, and did her M.Phil. at Trinity College Dublin.

In addition we have a visiting Ph.D. student from the University of Salerno: Maria Parascandolo, who is working on heritage Italian in Toronto.

M.A.

We have 7 new MA students. Erin Brassel, from U of T's French Linguistics program; Julianne Doner, from York; Erin Hall, who is returning to school after several years working as a speech-language pathologist; Samantha Kim, from Simon Fraser; Shannon Mooney, from NYU; Kyle Weishaar, from McMaster; and Tomohiro Yokoyama, from Waseda University in Japan.

### 4.3. Graduate degrees completed in the last year

PhD: 7

March 2011

- Rashid Al-Balushi
- Midori Hayashi

November 2011 Convocation

- Cathleen Waters
- Maria Kyriakaki
- Kyumin Kim
- Jaehee Bak
- Marina Sherkina-Lieber

Several more Ph.D. candidates are expected to defend before the end of the year. While it is wonderful that so many of our students are finishing, and finishing well, there is a small price to be paid. For every Ph.D. student who defends a thesis in Linguistics, we are expected to provide someone to chair a Ph.D. defense in another department. Any full member or member emeritus of the graduate faculty can chair an exam, and those who have done it report that it is frequently quite interesting and even enjoyable.

MA: 13

June 2011

- Pavle Levkovic
- Ewa Gambal

November 2011

- Andrei Anghelescu
- Elise Benallick
- Marisa Brook
- James Byrnes
- Erin Chen
- Radu Craioveanu
- Ross Godfrey
- Isobel Marr
- Maddie Shellgren
- Christopher Spahr
- Holly Young

#### **4.4. Enrollment and deadlines**

Enrolment in courses for the fall should now be completed. The SGS deadline for adding Y and F courses is September 26, but because any change requires approval in the department, students should ensure that their course selections are finalized and communicated to Elizabeth by September 23.

September 16 is the SGS deadline for submission of summer session grades and grades for courses where students were granted extensions. If the grade hasn't been turned in by then, an extension must be requested. Course extension request forms are available on the SGS website. First extensions can be approved within the department; second and subsequent extensions require approval of the Vice-Dean (Students) at SGS and are not always granted.

#### **4.5. Funding applications**

Fellowship deadlines for SSHRC and OGS are fast approaching. The departmental deadlines have been sent out by e-mail to all faculty and eligible students: October 14 for OGS, and November 11 for SSHRC (both Master's and Doctoral). It can take a while to get official transcripts and letters of reference, so applications should be well underway very soon. An information session will be held on Thursday, September 22, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in room SS2110. All eligible graduate students are expected to apply for OGS and SSHRC.

Note that both SSHRC and OGS have changed their procedures this year. Students are advised to check the SSHRC and OGS websites early so as not to be taken by surprise at the last minute.

#### **4.6. SGS Calendar and Graduate Handbook**

SGS has significantly reduced the number of hard copies of the SGS Calendar that are produced. The calendar is available online, in both html and pdf format, at [www.sgs.utoronto.ca/calendar](http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/calendar). The Calendar contains all the regulations and procedures that apply to graduate students; students and faculty are encouraged to consult it when questions arise. Now that it is online, it is searchable and thus much easier to use.

The departmental Graduate Handbook and the LGCU Survival Guide have been updated and posted on the departmental website. Hard copies were provided to all new M.A. and Ph.D. students, and a copy of each is posted in the graduate workroom. A limited number of hard copies are available from Elizabeth. Thanks to Alex Motut for lots of work on both documents, and to everyone who contributed information and helped check for errors. If any further errors are found, please let Elizabeth know.

#### **4.7. MA Forum**

Forum advisors have been assigned to our seven new MA students. This year there are four students planning to work on LVC topics, and three in syntax. E-mails went out to the students and their advisors just before the meeting.

#### **4.7. Senior Forum**

The Senior Forum (all students writing Generals Papers) will have its organizational meeting on September 20, at which it will be decided how many times to meet, and what the agenda for each meeting will be. Based on discussions at the Senior Forum Summer Meeting, held in July, it looks like there will be a combination of fairly unstructured progress reports and discussion, and more formal presentations of work in progress. Supervisors will be invited to participate where appropriate.

### **5. Reports of committees**

#### **5.1. Alumni & Newsletter (Diane Massam)**

A newsletter is underway. Writing has begun. Elaine and Elizabeth are writing undergrad and grad portions.

#### **5.3 A&S Representative (Elizabeth Cowper)**

The first meeting of FAS Council is scheduled for Monday October 3, 3-5 p.m., in the Council Chamber at Simcoe Hall.

#### **5.6 Cognitive Science Program (Daphna Heller)**

John Vervaeke has been hired as a lecturer by the Department of Psychology. This is very good news for the Cognitive Science program. He will continue to teach COG250. Refurbishment of the program continues. In future the Department of Linguistics may contribute a 4th-year course to the program.

#### **5.7 Equipment (Alexei Kochetov, Chris Harvey)**

Computers (Chris Harvey): It turns out that several of the computers in the workroom in the basement are not working. This is a matter for the equipment committee. Chris Harvey is looking into the matter. Elan is waiting for advice from the committee on how to proceed.

Recording equipment (Radu Craioveanu): A faculty member is required for this committee, since Alexei Kochetov is away for the year.

#### **5.11 Guest Speakers (Daphna Heller)**

Dorit Abusch and Mats Rooth will give talks on October 13 and 14.

NELS will take place November 11-13.

MOT will be held in Toronto this year, in February or March. The date will be set soon. Student members are needed for this committee.

#### **5.14 Outreach (Elaine Gold)**

##### **FLAUT**

Diane gave a wonderful talk on May 26 as part of Spring Reunion. About 25 guests came to hear 'Small Island, Big Language: The Story of Niue.' There were slides, music, coconuts and pineapple! No events are yet planned for this year - nothing will be scheduled before NELS. Anyone interested in doing a talk for the 2012 Spring Reunion should speak to Elaine.

### **Neighbours' party**

The faculty and graduate students were invited to a party hosted by the Psychology Department on June 14. F-Zero played and the Linguists showed the Psychologists how to party! It was suggested that we might have a party and invite the Geography department—they have generously offered us one of their rooms for research group meetings for the fall term.

### **Fall Campus Day Saturday October 29 2011 10 am-4 pm**

Elaine is looking for faculty volunteers to help with Fall Campus Day. Volunteers usually come for a 2 or 3-hour slot. Speak to Elaine if you are interested – you get lunch and a t-shirt! Daniel Bild-Enkin and Emily Dunbar volunteered, and said that other senior undergraduates would also be interested.

### **5.16 Research Groups**

Contact people for this year are not yet finalized.

LVC: Marisa Brook.

Phonology/Phonetics: TBA

Psycholinguistics: Daphna Heller

Syntax/Semantics: TBA (Alex Motut until announced otherwise).

### **5.16 TWPL**

Submissions have just closed for the next volume.

TWPL had a work-study student over the summer, and two work-study students have begun work for the fall term.

### **5.17 Website/Blog/Newsletter (Naomi Nagy)**

Contributions are not coming in. Something is not working. Some contributions have gone astray. We need a smaller number of committee members, responsible for soliciting postings. Maybe we need a clearer notion of what should go on the blog. Routine milestones? Some places have a paid webmaster. Maybe a work-study student? The department website needs work. Many pages do not get updated as required (visiting speakers, etc.) This requires coordination with the calendar and blog. Someone has to feel responsible to do that. Elan will see if there is money to have a paid RA/webmaster/blogger/calendar maintainer.

### **5.18 NELS**

Derek Denis reported on behalf of Alex Motut.

- The SSHRC grant application was successful. We were awarded \$12,015, everything that was requested, and the application received top marks in all areas. The feedback we received was “Overall, one of the best proposals submitted. Congratulations!”
- Abstract selection is finished, and the finalized program should be posted very soon. Thanks to Keren Rice, Diane Massam, Derek Denis, and Ailis Cournane. There were 320 abstracts submitted, and 60 accepted for either talks or posters. The poster session increased the acceptance rate slightly. The acceptance rate for talks was 14%.
- From Friday afternoon onward, the meetings will be in the Bahen Centre. Rooms at Victoria College are being finalized for Friday morning.

- The success of the SSHRC grant application means that along with funds from Registration and from the LGCU, NELS now has a balanced budget.
- Online registration is being set up, and should be up and running by the last week of September.
- Thanks go to the NELS Committee: Alex Motut (chair), Marisa Brook, Johanna Chociej, Richard Compton, Ailis Cournane, Radu Craioveanu, Derek Denis, Monica Irimia, Kenji Oda, Will Oxford, Chris Spahr, Julia Su. The SSHRC application was prepared by Ailis, Alex, Derek, Kenji, Monica, and Will.

### **5.19 Faculty Workload**

As mentioned in the Chair's report, it is urgent that we have both a Workload committee and a policy. Elan will be in touch with individual faculty members about serving on the committee.

### **6. LGCU**

Derek Denis reported that the welcome tour & lunch took place on September 9, and was well attended. The LGCU will be meeting on September 29 to set up committees for 2011-12.

There was a meeting on September 12 to plan the annual Welcome Workshop, which will take place on Friday, October 21. It is timed to take place after the research group meetings, from 2 to 7 p.m. Faculty are asked to attend if at all possible.

### **7. SLUGS**

Daniel Bild-Enkin and Emily Dunbar reported.

- The first SLUGS Social will take place Tuesday September 20, at 5 p.m. in the lounge.
- The executive is working on the agenda for the coming year. One event will be a movie night, featuring "The Linguists," with a talk afterwards by a faculty member. Another idea is to plan some joint events with Psychology, or with the Cognitive Science program.
- TULCon is being planned for this year, to take place at the beginning of March.
- SLUGS are always looking for academic talks aimed at undergraduates. It was suggested that individual faculty members be approached about presenting on specific dates. The full membership of this year's executive will be sent to Elan and Elizabeth.

### **8. Other business**

There was no other business.

### **9. Closed portion**

Please see the closed portion of the minutes.

### **10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.