

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Department of Linguistics, March 26, 2010**

*Present:* Jack Chambers, Elan Dresher, Derek Denis, Elaine Gold, Daniel Currie Hall, Daphna Heller, Yoonjung Kang, Alexei Kochetov, Ana Pérez-Leroux, Diane Massam, Naomi Nagy, Keren Rice, Sali Tagliamonte

*Regrets:* Bob Binnick, Elizabeth Cowper, Cristina Cuervo, Michela Ippolito, Alejandro Paz

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of January 15, 2010, were circulated and are posted on the Chair's Page: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresher/grad/>. Thanks to Keren for doing the minutes. The minutes were approved.

### **2. Chair's report**

#### **2.1. Relocation**

Many of the issues mentioned at the last meeting have been, or are being, resolved. There are two major shortcomings of the new space: 1) missing 1 full-sized faculty office, and 2) missing a meeting room big enough for department meetings, thesis proposals, etc. Elan will write to the Dean about these things.

#### **2.2. FAS new Academic plan**

According to the Dean the new faculty academic plan and response to the plans submitted by the departments will be announced in May. Major budget decisions will depend on this plan. In the meantime, we continue with the current annual cuts to our budget. We are managing, but money is very tight.

#### **2.3. UTM job search**

UTM Department of Language Studies has hired Arsalan Kahnemuyipour to the position in Theoretical Linguistics. Arsalan will have a graduate appointment to our department.

#### **2.4. SSHRC new architecture**

There was agreement to send a response to SSHRC about the proposed new program architecture. The major recommendation is that, for the research development grants, either there be disciplinary committees or external reviews be sought if the committees are to be interdisciplinary (as now proposed; it is proposed that linguistics be together with education, psychology, and social work).

#### **2.5. CRIF and WIT applications**

Our Curriculum Renewal Initiatives Fund (CRIF) proposal "Corpora in the Classroom" was approved for full funding. The committee noted that it is an excellent proposal for supporting experiential learning and small group activities for undergraduates, and a creative way to involve students in work on real research projects and real-world data. Congratulations and thanks to Sali and all those who worked on this proposal.

Our Writing Instruction for TA's (WIT) renewal application was successful, and was applauded by the Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning as an excellent application. Thanks to Elaine for her work on this renewal, as well as for instituting and managing the WIT program this year.

## **2.6. Hank Rogers**

Professor Emeritus Hank Rogers died on February 2, 2010. The Department expressed its condolences to Hank's husband, Dennis Helm, Hank's two sons, and the rest of his family. Elan thanks our former Chair, Peter Reich, and Adjunct Professor Marshall Chasin for taking the lead in setting up the Henry Rogers Memorial Scholarship. It is easy to donate on-line, and the scholarship has already accumulated a substantial sum of money. In a recent letter to the Dean of FAS thanking him for his donation, Dennis wrote that "Hank loved his work at the university. He was proud to be part of the Department of Linguistics and he would be very pleased by the scholarship." A memorial resolution was read out at Arts and Science Council. Thank you to Jack for preparing the eloquent resolution, and to Alana for reading it at the Council.

## **2.7. Printing costs connected with UTSC and UTM**

There is some concern about the printing costs being incurred by UTSC and UTM instructors who are printing tests and so on in the department. Elaine will check with the instructors to get an estimate of how much printing is being done; if it is substantial, then the departments at UTSC and UTM will be contacted to discuss arrangements about reimbursements.

## **3. Report of the Undergraduate Coordinator (Elaine Gold)**

### **3.1 March Break Open House**

March Break Open House for high school students was held March 18 for Humanities and Social Sciences. Helpers were Daphna, Liz, Mercedes and Elaine.

### **3.2 Blackboard**

Blackboard will be shut May 1-3.

### **3.3 Timetable**

The first draft of the 2010-2011 timetable has been submitted, and instructors informed of their teaching schedules. Several changes will be made in order to incorporate a two-hour period over lunch each week, on Thursdays in the fall and Tuesdays in the winter. This time slot can be used for special lectures, thesis proposals, meetings etc.

### **3.4 Summer 2010**

The summer course schedule is posted. Instructorships will be finalized in the next week. The deadline for TA and grader applications is April 5.

### 3.5 WIT

The Writing Initiatives Project (WIT) focussed on LIN200 this year, with secondary focus on LIN203 and LIN204. The renewal was accepted, with an increase from \$16,478 to \$18,000. The application for the Lead Writing TA will be posted soon, with graining in June. Thank you to Catherine Macdonald who did an outstanding job as Lead Writing TA this year, and to all of the instructors who worked with her - Beth, Kyumin, Ulyana, Monica and Elaine.

### 3.6 Grades

Instructors have been informed about the new grade guidelines: “In larger 100- and 200-series courses, A's might reasonably vary from 15-35% of the marks, and F's should not generally exceed 10% In 300- and 400-series courses, A's might reasonably be expected to be more numerous and F's fewer.”

Your number of F's might be higher if a large number of students miss the final exam; many of these would likely change into passing grades once the students write the deferred exam.

The new policy will likely have little effect on the grades of upper level courses; it gives a bit more leeway in the large 1st and 2nd year courses. The faculty isn't defining “large,” but suggests that it means over 40. One goal is to make graduating students more competitive in top programs – the Faculty believes that our grades are lower than other top universities.

Final grades must still be reviewed in the department, and changes in the range can be requested and the department can ask for a change in the range if it is inappropriate to the level of the class. The Faculty will provide an annual retrospective review of all marks in the unit, in context of data for the previous 5 years.

We are moving towards complete electronic submission of grades, but currently still need to fill out the paper summary form.

### 3.7 Flaut

We had our first Flaut talk in the new lounge on March 18. Keren spoke on ‘Dene Soundscapes’. The next event is on May 27 at 7 pm, as part of Spring Reunion. Elan will be speaking on “Dating the Bible: Can Linguistics Help?”.

### 3.8 Breadth categories

The Faculty continues to recategorize all of our courses to #2 *Thought, Belief, and Behaviour*. We submitted several of our socio and HUM199 courses as #3 *Society and Its Institution*, but the Faculty has recategorized them all to #2. Elaine has questioned this, but so far in vain.

### 3.9 Timetable notes for 2010-2011

Classes start the Monday after Labour Day.

Instructors still have no control over enrolment; only ROSI does.

There may be a temporary surge with over-enrolment (it dissipated this year).

They might want to order more textbooks than the absolute minimum.

There is no Wacky Wednesday to make up for Thanksgiving Monday. The November Break occurs on a Monday & Tuesday. We have “Optional Wednesday” in December for

those whose Monday class was cancelled for Thanksgiving. In January we start on Jan 10 rather than immediately after New Year's. Reading Week is normal. The last Friday of classes in the second term is cancelled (April 8).

#### **4. Report of the Graduate Coordinator (Sali)**

##### **4.1 Admissions**

The Admissions Committee has met and offers have been made. See also the closed portion.

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

##### **5.1 UTSC (Yoonjung Kang)**

Humanities at UTSC is being restructured, with English and Philosophy becoming their own departments.

##### **5.2 Curriculum Renewal**

The Curriculum Committee (Sali, Elan, Elaine, Daphna, Nik Rolle) met to discuss curriculum renewal for next year's submission. The minor program does not require any changes. The major and specialist programs each need minor adjustments to the level of courses required, without changing the overall number required. All majors require a 4<sup>th</sup> year half course. This should not put a large burden on 4<sup>th</sup> year courses. Looking at the last few years, 46/60 (77%) took at least 0.5 courses at the 400 level, and many took more. All specialist programs must include 4 FCEs at the 300+ level and 1 FCE at the 400 level. We have to increase our requirements at the 300+ level by 0.5 FCE to meet these requirements. We don't expect that this will put a large increased burden on 3<sup>rd</sup> year courses.

Courses must show competencies in learning (critical and creative thinking, communication, information literacy, quantitative reasoning, social and ethical responsibility). The department agreed that to satisfy the quantitative reasoning competence, students will be required to take one of JLP 315H (Language Acquisition), JLP 374H (Psychology of Language), or LIN 351H (Sociolinguistic Patterns). The social and ethical responsibility will be satisfied by asking instructors to include a lecture on language endangerment and language revitalization in LIN 100Y, and through parts of other courses (e.g., sociolinguistics, field methods, language revitalization). No new course offering is proposed at the moment.

The Faculty is looking to reduce the number of joint programs. It was agreed that linguistics would support the elimination of the Joint Specialists in Linguistics and Languages and the Joint Specialist in Linguistics and Computing. Students are encouraged to do double majors instead.

##### **5.3 Guest Speakers (Diane Massam)**

The term was busy with talks by Marc Richards, Michael Barrie, Arsalan Kahnemuyi-pour, Mutsumi Imai, and a Spanish and Portuguese hosted talk by Juana Liceras. Our Halbert Exchange Post-doctoral Fellow, Tobie Strauss, presented a lecture on her

research. The final talk of the term will take place in late April, to be given by Robin Shoaps, a Visiting Faculty Fellow at the Centre for Ethics, from the University of Chicago (Anthropology). In addition, the SLUGS hosted a very successful TULCon on March 5–7.

ACAL (Annual Conference on African Linguistics) will be held on May 6, 7, 8, co-sponsored by the University of Toronto and York University.

The end of year department party will be held Thursday April 1, 4-6 pm, in the lounge.

The committee worked hard this year – thanks to Alana Johns (first term), and Sofia Kanibolotskaia for the great posters, Joanna Chociej for all the emailing, Safieh Moghaddam and Elizabeth Erhardt for all the shopping and food preparation, and Sarah Clark, Shinjung Park and Catherine Macdonald for their work on the committee.

#### **5.4 Language Reading exams (Sali Tagliamonte)**

The Spanish language exam was given recently, French will be given soon. These are new reading exams, designed by Cristina Cuervo.

#### **5.5 Outreach**

As in the report of the undergraduate coordinator, Flaut and the high school March break day were both successful events.

#### **5.6 PTR (Diane Massam)**

The PTR review committee (Diane, Michela, Ron) met. The PTR form will be revised, with minor changes (e.g., member of generals paper committee, second reader on forum). There is debate in the committee about whether other areas should be changed (e.g., include a measure of value of journal).

The committee recommends that there be a workshop, especially for new faculty, about how PTR is evaluated, held sometime in the fall.

#### **5.7 Research (SIG) (Michela, presented by Elan)**

The SIG competition took place and the funds were awarded. Priority was given to requests for research funds and travel for research. Reimbursement for travel was capped at 80% of the request for expensive travel.

#### **5.8 TWPL (Derek Denis)**

The TWPL committee is meeting following the department meeting. Alex Motut is taking over as coordinator of TWPL.

#### **6. Graduate students (LGCU) (Derek)**

The problems with graduate student space that were noted in the minutes of the previous meeting have been addressed.

#### **7. SLUGS**

No report

- 8. Other business**  
There was no other business.
- 9. Closed portion**
- 10. Adjournment**  
The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.