

## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Department of Linguistics, September 18, 2009**

*Present:* J. K. Chambers, Elizabeth Cowper, Cristina Cuervo, Derek Denis, Elan Dresher (Chair), Elaine Gold (Undergraduate Coordinator), Atiqa Hachimi, Daphna Heller, Michela Ippolito, Monica Irimia, Alana Johns (minutes), Yoonjung Kang, Alexei Kochetov, Maria Kyriakaki, Diane Massam, Naomi Nagy, Kenji Oda, Alejandro Paz, Sali Tagliamonte (Graduate Coordinator)

*Regrets:* Daniel Hall, Keren Rice

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of May 15, 2009, posted at <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresher/grad/> were approved. Thanks to Alana for doing the minutes.

### **2. Chair's Report (Elan)**

#### **2.1. General remarks**

Welcome to the first Department Meeting of 2009-2010. This is a busy time of year, and thanks to all who were involved in getting the term started. Elaine did an enormous amount of work organizing the TA-ships and instructorships, as well as the Mentorship Meetings, in which Keren was also involved. Thanks to Sali for organizing our Opening Reception, as well as the people who helped her with this. Also, special thanks to Mary, Caroline, and Bill for all of their work to get the year started. They have a lot to do at this time of year, especially this year; please show them extra consideration and some patience.

Everyone should be careful about security, especially in the first few weeks of classes. Please pay attention to the university guidelines on dealing with H1N1. We have a link from our department website, and there is also information on the Chair page. Instructors should be aware that there are different procedures in place for dealing with student absences from classes and exams than what we may be used to.

#### **2.2. Faculty news**

We are happy to welcome new faculty: Daphna Heller at St. George, and Alejandro Paz at UTSC. We also have a new post-doctoral fellow, Tobie Strauss from the Hebrew University, who works on Biblical Hebrew. We welcome back Atiqa Hachimi, Michela Ippolito, Alexei Kochetov, and Diane Massam from various leaves, and say goodbye for now to Elizabeth Cowper and Ana Pérez-Leroux, who are on leave, and to Ron Smyth, who has been seconded to UTFA, where he has a senior role. Congratulations to Jack Chambers for being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. There is a nice photo in the 2009 Arts & Science magazine of Sali with some graduate and undergraduate students. We are thinking of Hank and hope he is feeling better soon.

#### **2.3. Department relocation**

The department is definitely moving, this time for real. Our new home will be the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of Sidney Smith Hall, sharing the floor with Psychology. We also have labs and rooms on

the ground floor. Apparently this project has been given high priority in the Faculty and the pace has picked up considerably in the last few weeks. Our scheduled moving day is Monday December 14. Demolition of the existing 4<sup>th</sup> floor space is scheduled to start next week, after which they will begin construction. We have a web page accessible from my Chair's page devoted to the relocation. It has various maps, plans and documents pertaining to the move and the new space.

There will be a lot to do to prepare for the move during the semester. We are in the process of making design decisions. There was discussion about display cases. Kovit will be visiting each faculty member to discuss what they will be taking with them – which is likely to be less than what we have now in our offices. They are also talking with the graduate students. We have too many books for the new space.

Room booking for classes that took place in the department classroom have been booked. A meeting room in Sidney Smith has been booked from 9:30-1:30 every Friday next term.

#### **2.4. Cognitive Science program**

The undergraduate Cognitive Science program has been run by University College. Last year they withdrew their support from the program, and it was taken over by the four participating departments (Psychology, Philosophy, Linguistics, and Computer Science). This costs us money, but it has been the consensus in our department that the program is a good thing, and that we would like to strengthen our ties to cognitive scientists in other departments. During the spring our cognitive scientists met with the other cognitive scientists and came up with a revamped Cognitive Science (Arts) Major, and just yesterday we received a proposal for a new Cognitive Science (Science) Major. Our main representative on the committee was Ana; thanks to her for her work on this. She was joined by Daphna, who is now our main person on this committee. Thanks also to Susana Béjar, Simona Herdan, Michela Ippolito, Chandan Narayan, and Ron Smyth, all of whom were involved at some point in working out our contribution to this program. The programs will be posted, comments are welcome. Phonology is missing at the moment, some spoke in favour of adding it. The department voted in favour of the proposed programs.

#### **2.5. Department website**

There have been some additions to our departmental website. First, we are using Google calendars. There are three departmental calendars: Speakers and Conferences, utorling, and Equipment Reservations (this is new). Speakers and Conferences is accessible without login from our website under Quick Links: THIS MONTH'S EVENTS (which should be changed to CALENDAR). All public or semi-public events should be posted to that calendar. utorling is for reserving the classroom. Public events in the classroom should go on both calendars. If you are arranging an event please keep the Guest Speakers Committee in the loop so we don't have too many competing events.

Second, we have a new Directory of Languages and Linguistics at U of T. This is a useful resource, it's searchable and reasonably comprehensive and up-to-date. Thanks to Jordan

Dyment for a tremendous job of updating the database, and to Alejandro Lynch at CHASS for making the web interface.

Third, a number of people, including Liisa Duncan, Derek Denis, Richard Compton, and Naomi Nagy, have been proposing templates for a new department blog/newsletter which we hope will come to pass this semester. Those who are interested are invited to get involved with this project.

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

#### **3.1. New Instructors and Mentors**

Many faculty are taking off a full or half year: Elizabeth, Anna-Teresa, Chandan, Alana, and Ron. Graduate students (and graduated students) instructing courses are:

St. George Campus: Manami, Beth, Monica, Kyumin, Annick, Richard and Vedrun.

UTM: Julia, Bridget, and Anne.

UTSC: Milica, Monica, Maria, Richard, and Kenji.

Thank you to all faculty who have taken on the role of mentoring instructors: Elan, Keren, Diane, Alana, Ron and Elaine.

Keren and Elaine led two mentorship meetings for new instructors: one before classes began and one yesterday to continue the discussion on tests and exams. The feedback has been very positive; the instructors find these meetings helpful.

#### **3.2. TA & Graders**

All of the TA and Grader positions at the three campuses have been filled. Monica Irimia is the TA Trainer this year and has held a two hour training session.

#### **3.3. September Enrolment**

Fall enrolment is almost completed. Students have until Tuesday September 22 to get special permission to enrol in courses if space is available. There was a large demand for all of the Linguistics courses, especially the first and second year courses and there are very few spaces available. We can consider enlarging these courses slightly next year.

There was a new procedure for enrolment this year. Courses were 'over-filled' the day before classes began and the waiting list was turned. After that, new enrolment was not allowed until the course dipped down below the original cap. If a space became available, the first student to register got the space. Students were allowed to drop and add courses on ROSI on their own for one week (until Sept.15). Until Sept. 22 students can add or drop courses through their registrar's office, with signed permission from the course instructor or undergraduate coordinator. One problem that arose is that we had only allowed enough tutorial spaces for the course cap; when the course was overfilled, students could not enrol in tutorials. Elaine will bring this up at the next C & C meeting.

### 3.4. Program Information

#### *a. Breadth Requirement*

Every department must categorize its courses into 5 new categories. Half courses can only be assigned to one category; 2 categories can be assigned to full courses. Keren & Elaine did preliminary categorization which Elaine distributed in the summer and most faculty are happy with.

#### *b. On-Line Calendar*

The University is moving to a complete on-line calendar; they are still publishing a paper edition for now. They hope that this will make it easier for departments to make changes to their calendar entries.

#### *c. Credit/Noncredit Courses*

Last year was the first year for these courses and Arts and Science claims that the students like it. Students declare at the beginning of the course that they are taking the course as credit/non credit; after the commitment date, students cannot change their minds. A student can do it for 1 FCE (or 2 halves) during their degree. Students need 60% for credit (although just 50% to pass a regular course). They cannot switch if they realize they are doing poorly. The instructor does not know which students are taking the course for credit/non-credit rather than for a grade.

#### *d. Curriculum Renewal*

We have one year to review all of our programs and make changes to make sure they meet the new university guidelines. We will need a committee that is willing to carefully think through our minor, major and specialist programs. We are already being contacted by other departments that are revising their programs. For example, English has asked whether the combined specialist be treated as a double major; Slavic has asked if they can specify certain Linguistics courses as required for their major, and whether their students can receive priority in access to those courses. Volunteers?

### 3.5. Blackboard

We had a Blackboard workshop with Lena Kushnir and Kenneth Barry in our department on May 27. There was very helpful information on the new Grade Centre and on creating groups. Nine faculty and grad students attended.

Elaine has a binder with easy instructions for Blackboard – anyone can borrow it. If you have any problems, email Lena ( not RCAT) or call her at 946-5408. They will help you with any teaching technology problems, not just Blackboard, and are willing to do emergency help – show up at their office room 560 Sid Smith.

One helpful hint about categories in the grade centre – they must all be weighted the same. We are advised not to use letter grades, but the new grade centre now has default equivalents to U of T standards. For ‘weighting column’ you can now easily remove the lowest assignment. However, there still seem to be problems with Blackboard's Grade Centre. Monica had calculation problems this summer.

### 3.6. Awards

#### i. *The McNab Scholarship in Linguistics*

Value: \$800

Eligibility: Third year student with an A average

Conditions: “An outstanding student who is enrolled in a major or specialist programme in Linguistics, or in a combined specialization including Linguistics, who enrolls in fourth year. Financial need will be a consideration only if academic qualifications are equal.”

Winner: *Harmony Law*

#### ii. *The Jack Chambers Undergraduate Scholarship in Linguistics*

Value: \$1568.

Conditions: “To be awarded to an undergraduate student in the Department of Linguistics on the basis of financial need. Academic merit may also be considered.”

Winner: *Hwoi Seok Jung*

#### iii. *The Henry Rogers Undergraduate Fund*

Value: \$188.

Conditions: “To be awarded to an undergraduate student in the Department of Linguistics on the basis of financial need and academic merit.”

Winner: *Itamar Manoff*

### 3.7. flaut

Jack gave a very successful talk on May 28! About 30 people came: some from the flaut list, some from linguist-1, some from the Spring Reunion mailing (who were fine with the change in speaker and topic). Thank you Jack for filling in on short notice for Elan. Someone mentioned how happy she was to be a ‘friend of linguistics’. I think these accessible talks are very popular and important for outreach.

Now we need 3 volunteers for the talks for the coming year!! Let Elaine know if you are interested.

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

### 4.1. Thanks

Thanks to *Mary Hsu*, the Financial Officer, and *Caroline Edwards*, the Graduate Administrator, for their invaluable help in all the administrative tasks required of the Graduate Program. Given the size of our graduate program this year it continues to be imperative to let the Administration know we need this level of support in the Department.

### 4.2. Students

1. The new students were introduced at the Department opening reception.
- a. Ph.D.: This year we have 8 students beginning the Ph.D. program. Continuing from the MA program are *LeAnn Brown*, *Joanna Chociej*, *Derek Denis*, *Elizabeth DiGiacomo*,

*Mercedeh Mohaghegh* and *Alexandra Motut*. 2 students are from away: *Julie Goncharov* (Laval) and *Will Oxford* (MUN).

- b. M.A.: We have 12 MA students. Seven are from our own undergraduate program: Elizabeth Erhardt, Isaac Gould, Pavle Levkovic, Jason McCrimmon, Nicholas Rolle, Jim Smith, and Dylan Uscher. From away: *Ewa Gambal* (UArizona), *Meghan Hollett* (MUN), *Greg Madan* (USC), *Alexander Obal* (Northwestern), and *Shinjung Park* (Chung-Ang University, South Korea).

## 2. Graduations since last year

- a. Students who finished the PhD since January are: *Sarah Mackenzie*, *Manami Hirayama*, and *Chiara Frigeni*. Congratulations to them!

### 4.3. Enrolment and deadlines

- a. Enrolment in courses for the fall should now be completed. The SGS absolute final deadline for adding full year and fall courses is October 7, but because any change requires action in the department, and next week is a busy administrative week, students still contemplating adding more fall courses are urged to do so ASAP.
- b. September 18 (today) 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 today, extension requests must be made. Please use the extension forms (SGS website).
- c. October 2 is the final date for receipt of degree recommendations and submission of any required theses for master's degrees for Fall Convocation.

### 4.4 Fellowship applications

- a. Fellowship deadlines for SSHRC and OGS are fast approaching: October 7 for SSHRC, October 14 for OGS, November 4 for SSHRC (Masters). It may take a while to get transcripts and letters, so applications should be well underway by now. An information session was held this morning. All eligible graduate students are expected to apply for OGS.

### 4.5. Stuff Sali has been doing

- a. Over the summer we updated the graduate brochure and created an "Informal Guide" which can be browsed online or downloaded as a pdf. Thanks to *Alexandra Motut* for her excellent work in doing the editing and revising of this document. The guide can be accessed from the departmental graduate web page.
- b. This month MA Forum advisors are being assigned to our 12 MA students. The strategy is to balance the load across the faculty with no more than one student per faculty member while at the same time taking into account the students' research interests and the faculty's. Faculty are reminded that the role of the MA Advisor is not paramount. The students can and will seek guidance from any member of the faculty. We encourage this cross-fertilization of ideas and support.

- c. Mary Hsu and Sali had an Information Session on applying for graduate school in Linguistics this morning. It was attended by 12 students.

## **5. Reports of committees**

The new committees for 2009–2010 have not yet been organized, so it is proposed that until then we continue with the last year's committees.

### **5.1. Equipment committee (Computers)**

Thanks to Alex Motut and Derek Denis for what must be the greatest report ever issued by the Computer Committee. It's a survey of computer usage by graduate students, and includes some interesting recommendations. The new Computer Committee is urged to urge the department to act on the recommendations therein. It will be posted on the Chair's page.

### **5.2. Ethics (Keren)**

We are at the start of a new academic year, so it is a good time to remind you about the need for ethics protocols. If you are doing research that involves human participants in any way — the work could be linguistic consulting, interviews, questionnaires, experiments, etc. — keep in mind that you need ethics approval whether or not the work is grant funded. You could talk with Keren or members of the committee about what you need to get that approval. Some (basically consultant work) can be approved in the department; others must go to the research ethics board.

Note that this applies to graduate student research as well. It can take a little while to get the protocol approved, so this needs to be thought about in advance.

Ethics protocols for research in undergraduate courses are handled in the department. The forms are on the departmental forms page, so please use those. You should not have students do any research involving human participants without getting ethics approval. Again you can see Keren if you have any questions.

### **5.3. Guest speaker and Tri-Campus Atelier**

Kenji brought up the issue of hosting NELS. Members of the department are in favour of hosting the next NELS, as long as the financial situation is sorted out (which turns out to be very hard). Another concern is that Ana Teresa, Cristina, and Mihaela are organizing GALANA for September 2010, so that we might be too busy. It was agreed that we would continue to explore this possibility.

The Toronto-Tromsø phonology workshop will be held on Oct. 9–11.

### **5.4. Curriculum committee**

The committee will be very busy this year with Curriculum Renewal and there may be additional members added for this reason.

**5.5. Research groups**

Research groups meet Fridays every two weeks. The schedule will be posted on the department Calendar.

**6. Graduate students (LGCU)**

The first meeting is today . They will assign students to committees and let the department know soon. There is a LGCU student conference on Friday October 2, 2009.

**7. Undergraduate (SLUGS)**

No SLUGS representative today. Diane informed us that there is a new undergraduate Language club.

**8. Other business**

Daphna says ethics can be advertised for on Blackboard. The department is in favour but it is up to the instructor.

Diane says we have work study positions to advertise. We could do them together.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 3:27 p.m.