

## **Minutes of a meeting of the Department of Linguistics, Friday December 5, 2008**

*Present:* Susana Bejar, Jack Chambers, Amar Dhillon, Elan Dresher (in chair), Elaine Gold, Simona Herdan, Alana Johns, Alexei Kochetov, Noami Nagy, Ana-Teresa Perez-Leroux, Keren Rice, Sali Tagliamonte, Dylan Uscher.

*Regrets:* Elizabeth Cowper, Cristina Cuervo, Daniel Currie Hall, Monica Irimia, Yoonjung Kang, Ron Smyth

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of October 31, 2008 were circulated and are posted at <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresher/grad/>. Thank you to Keren for doing the minutes. The minutes were approved with one revision; Jack sent his regrets for the October 31 meeting. The minutes have been revised accordingly.

### **2. Report from the Chair (Elan)**

#### **2.1 Economic update**

The current economic situation is difficult, as the university is losing value on its endowment and other funds. At this point the department is carrying on more or less as usual, but it must be ready to absorb cuts if that becomes necessary.

#### **2.2 Psycholinguist search**

The search for a psycholinguist is underway. There are a large number of applicants with some very good candidates. The committee has met once and will meet again in the near future. Linguistics is one of the few departments in the Faculty of Arts and Science that is searching this year.

#### **2.3 Mary Hsu's father**

Mary Hsu's father passed away in Hong Kong last week. Our deepest sympathies to Mary and her family.

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

Linguistics participates with Philosophy, Psychology, and Computer Science in the Cognitive Science program, situated in University College. University College can no longer fund the program, putting its continuation in doubt. The program is successful in terms of numbers and quality of students, but all courses are taught by sessional instructors. More involvement from departments is required for the program to survive. The following were agreed upon:

- Linguistics wants Cognitive Science to continue
- Linguistics can be more involved in the program if it were structured to allow for this
- the new psycholinguist will be able to contribute to the program

If there is a proposal for a revised program, it will be discussed in the department. There will be a steering committee, with departmental representation. Ana would be willing to be more involved with the program.

## 2.5 Party

The SLUGS/department party follows the meeting.

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

### 3.1 December exams

Exams were submitted in a timely manner. Final grades should be submitted electronically to Bill, with the summary sheets from the paper report forms submitted at the same time. Marks submitted electronically are due by January 5 for review.

### 3.2 Enrolment in S courses

LIN333H1S, Morphological Patterns, has been cancelled since only five students enrolled. A higher enrolment is anticipated for 2009-2010.

Enrolments as of November 3

		Cap	Enrol	Wait
JLP315H1S	Language Acquisition	175	162	
LIN200H1S	Intro Language	022	011	
LIN200H1S	Intro Language	203	180	
LIN204H1S	English Grammar	225	225	087
LIN229H1S	Sound Patterns	100	080	
LIN241H1S	Intro Semantics	100	100	023
LIN306H1S	Language Diversity	045	045	004
LIN322H1S	Phonological Theory	035	035	006
LIN351H1S	Socioling Patterns	100	063	
LIN423H1S	Phonetic Analysis	015	011	
LIN432H1S	Adv Morphology	015	008	
LIN451H1S	Urban Dialectology	020	015	
LIN479H1S	Current Issues	024	023	
LIN481H1S	Analysis & Argumentation	015	012	

### 3.3 Curriculum Committee

The Curriculum Committee is considering a prerequisite change:

LIN351 Sociolinguistics Patterns. Add I FCE at the 200+ level in linguistics  
The Committee would like to change JAL328 Writing Systems, as well, but this course has 1/3 of the students with the Anthropology (ANT100Y) prerequisite.

The Committee has begun a review of programs as part of Curriculum Renewal. This involves reviewing the levels of all courses. Some questions being considered:

level of LIN201H. Canadian English

level of LIN458H. Revitalizing Languages

Should LIN 205 East Asian languages and English be retained? Could it be more general (e.g., English World Wide)? How does this intersect with courses in the English Department?

These topics should be discussed at a meeting, and SLUGS input will be sought.

### 3.4 flaut

Thank you to Naomi Nagy for a successful flaut talk on ‘Writing a sociogrammar of Faetar.’ The next talk will be January 22, 2009 by Yoonjung (topic: Western borrowing in Korean). Elan will give the spring reunion talk in May (topic: The grammar of music).

### 3.5 High School outreach

Several members of the department are participating in an outreach day on languages for high school students on December 11.

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

### 4.1 Graduate Professional skills Development Program

A Graduate Professional Skills Development Program, responding to the need for universities to provide graduate students with skills beyond their discipline (communication, teaching, planning, time management, ethics, team work, leadership) will begin in May 2009. Students who complete 15 hours of course offerings in 3 of r areas will receive an institutional ‘seal of approval’ on their transcript.

### 4.2 Self-reported grades

Some units are experimenting with ‘self reported’ grades, with grades checked against a transcript only if an applicant is recommended for admission. Online graduate admissions applications will replace paper/pdf, and units are encouraged to develop electronic file assessment and management strategies.

### 4.3 Forum

Forum students have completed their second presentations, and all is going well.

### 4.4 MA Advisor training

There will be a training session for MA advisors on December 12, 1:30-3:30, BL 312.

## 5. Guest speakers (Alana)

The committee will work on a manual of committee work next term, and plan for the fall.

## 6. Research Committee (Ana)

The SIG/CRC awards will be announced soon.

## 7. Website (Alexei)

The Committee has done some revisions and is working on others.

There was discussion of the type of information that should be posted about individual faculty members, with considerable discussion about an ‘intermediate’ page. The Committee will come up with a proposal.

## 8. SLUGS (Amar)

TULCon will take place March 27-29. Faculty will be asked to participate in reading abstracts and some one will be asked to give a plenary.

The SLUGS website has been updated.

**9. Other business**

9.1 Strike vote

CUPE 3902, Unit 1 is having a strike vote.

9.2 WebCal

There are some problems with WebCal, with different bookings available on different views.

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**CLOSED PORTION**

There was a brief closed portion.