

Minutes of a meeting of the Department of Linguistics, February 13, 2009

Present: Susana Béjar, Jack Chambers, Elizabeth Cowper, Elan Dresher, Daniel Hall, Simona Herdan, Maria Kyriakaki, Chandan Narayan, Naomi Nagy, Keren Rice, Sali Tagliamonte
Regrets from Cristina Cuervo, Elaine Gold, Yoonjung Kang, Ana Pérez-Leroux.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2008, have been 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 (Elan Dresher)

2.1. Psycholinguist search

We had visits by the short-listed candidates: Andrea Martin (Jan. 15–16), Daphna Heller (Jan. 29–30), and Mieko Ueno (Feb. 5–6). The candidates met with faculty, students, and university officials. Their talks were taped and the DVDs were available. The visits included a tour of the Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition, a facility filled with equipment for psychological/neurological experiments (eye trackers, ERP/EEG systems), and Linguistics will negotiate to be in the top category for use of the lab. The search committee received comments from many department members and friends. The committee made a recommendation which is now under discussion with the Dean's office. We hope to make an offer shortly. Thank you to everyone who participated in the visits and sent comments; special thanks to Mary for doing the main work in setting up the visits.

2.2. Space

Adrienne De Francesco, Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Infrastructure Planning in the Faculty of Arts and Science, has been told that the library wants linguistics out of our current space as soon as possible. She proposes a move to Sidney Smith Hall, to one end of the 4th floor and some scattered rooms on the ground floor. A Space Committee has been formed, consisting of the following members:

Faculty: Elizabeth Cowper, Elan Dresher, Elaine Gold, Alana Johns, Keren Rice, Sali Tagliamonte

Undergraduate: Amar Dhillon

Graduate students: Sarah Clarke, Liisa Duncan

Staff: William Forrest, Mary Hsu

On February 3 members of the committee toured the proposed space accompanied by Kovit Hasanee, the Senior Architectural Designer in Infrastructure Planning. The general consensus is that the proposed space is seriously inadequate, the major problems being:

- Segregation of faculty and graduate students four floors apart
- No lounge or common space for receptions, informal talks, varied uses
- No space for undergraduate students
- Not enough space for graduate students

In addition, there is a larger reduction in space from our current quarters than it initially appears since the hallways in the current space are well utilized, and equivalent space is not available in the Sidney Smith space.

Elan will send a response to the Assistant Dean.

2.3. UTSC position in Language and Culture

The Department of Humanities at UTSC had a search for a new position in Language and Culture. Whoever is hired will need to have a graduate appointment, and in this connection some members of our department met with two of the short-listed candidates, Shaylih Ryan Muehlmann and Alejandro Paz. The question for our department was whether these candidates would be suitable members of our graduate faculty. The search is near an end, but no decision has been announced yet.

2.4. Cognitive Science program update

Linguistics participates with Philosophy, Psychology, and Computer Science in the Cognitive Science program, situated in University College. UC has decided that they can no longer fund this program, and the Faculty of Arts and Science was prepared to let the program close down unless they saw evidence of greater departmental involvement in the program. It has been decided that the program will be relocated from UC to the Faculty of Arts and Science. The participating departments (Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy, and Psychology) have agreed to the following terms:

- The departments will assume responsibility for the Program and will share all costs and teaching duties.
- A new program structure will be finalized within the next few months.
- The departments will establish a governing structure for the program.
- The departments will develop a financial plan for the program.
- Subject to Faculty approval, the new program will be in place for 2010-2011.
- During the transition year (2009-2010), the departments will offer COG250Y (the entry level course).

Each department has been asked to present their vision of what the program should look like, and what their participation will consist of. Simona, Chandan, Ana, and Ron will participate in the planning, and Elaine will be involved as Undergraduate Coordinator once we get down to specifics, such as number and levels of courses. Anybody who is interested is welcome to participate in sketching our vision of what the program should look like.

2.5. WIT application

The department has submitted a proposal to the Writing Instruction for Teaching Assistants (WIT) Project. This is a project in which a TA is designated as the Lead Writing TA (LWTA) for the department. The LWTA receives training in how to teach writing skills to students and to train TAs to teach writing. The proposal is a revision of a proposal that was submitted last year. The revision was based on discussions with Suzanne Stevenson, Vice-Dean in charge of Curriculum Renewal, and Margaret Proctor, Coordinator of Writing Support. We designated LIN 200 as the main target of this project. If successful, we will all be putting more time into thinking about writing.

3. Report of the Undergraduate Coordinator (Elaine Gold; read by Elan Dresher)

3.1. Exams

The April-May exam schedule is available. Copies of exams are due at the Faculty Office on March 13.

A number of students will be writing deferred exams from the December exam period during Reading Week.

3.2. Enrolments as of January 12

<i>course</i>	<i>title</i>	<i>section</i>	<i>cap</i>	<i>enrol</i>	<i>wait</i>
JLP315H1S	Language Acquisition	LEC0101	175	175	04
LIN200H1S	Intro Language	LEC2001	22	16	
LIN200H1S	Intro Language	LEC5101	203	200	24
LIN204H1S	English Grammar	LEC0101	235	235	99
LIN229H1S	Sound Patterns	LEC0101	100	84	
LIN241H1S	Intro to Semantics	LEC5101	100	100	27
LIN306H1S	Language Diversity	LEC0101	45	45	9
LIN322H1S	Phonological Theory	LEC0101	35	35	3
LIN351H1S	Socioling Patterns	LEC0101	100	80	
LIN423H1S	Phonetic Analysis	LEC0101	15	13	
LIN432H1S	Adv Morphology	LEC0101	15	7	
LIN451H1S	Urban Dialectology	LEC0101	20	17	
LIN479H1S	Current Issues Ling	LEC0101	24	12	
LIN498H1S	Individual Projects	LEC0101	0	2	

Notes:

- raised cap of LIN204 from 225 to 235 to help meet demand
- cap on LIN200 (both sections) was 225, raised to 231 (maximum space in tutorials)
- LIN204, LIN200 and LIN241 will be offered in the summer, may help students who didn't get into the winter session

3.3. Curriculum Renewal

Linguistics must increase the number of required 4th year courses from .5 to 1 course for specialists and from zero to .5 for majors. All programs must meet competencies in: Critical and Creative Thinking, Communication, Information Literacy, Quantitative Reasoning, and Social and Ethical Responsibility. Changes may need to be made to ensure that these requirements are met in Quantitative Reasoning and Social and Ethical Responsibility in particular. The revised program changes must be submitted by Fall 2010. The Curriculum Committee will meet to discuss how to proceed. The Faculty is working on new breadth requirements for Arts and Science students.

3.4. 2009-2010 timetable

Elaine is working on the second revision of the timetable and will contact all faculty confirming course assignments and teaching times.

- 3.5. Majors and specialists event
There will be a departmental lunch for 4th year majors and specialists on Friday April 3.
- 3.6. Outreach
- a. flaut
Yoonjung Kang spoke on ‘English loanwords in Korean’ on January 22. The event was well attended. The next flaut talk will be held on May 28 at 70m, as part of Spring Reunion. Elan will present on ‘The grammar of music.’
- b. Gifted Students’ Workshop
Workshops for gifted students will be held on February 19. Thank you to the faculty who have volunteered to lead sessions.
- c. March break open house, March 19, 10-12 am
Volunteers (faculty and students) are needed to run the Linguistics booth.
4. Report of the Graduate Coordinator (Sali Tagliamonte)
- 4.1. Admissions
Review of applications for 2009-2010 has begun. Thank you to Bill and Caroline for their help. There are 29 applications for the Ph.D. program and 30 for the MA. Admissions decisions are being made on an ongoing basis and will likely take a few months.
- 4.2. Graduate Vital Statistics Report
There was a decline in PhD applications from 2005-06 to 2007-08, but the trend has reversed: 35 > 36 > 24 < 29. MA applications declined over 2007: 17 > 37 > 49 < 30. In the Canadian Graduate and Professional Students Survey CGPSS, 54.2% of graduate students in linguistics reported that their academic experience was very good; 20.8% said that their student life experience was very good, with 45.8% saying it was good.
- 4.3. The MA students have completed their third forum presentations.
5. Arts and Science Council (Keren Rice)
A proposal for five full courses as breadth requirements was discussed at the Council meeting; the overall response was negative.
Next year a certain number of students from waiting lists will be admitted to classes before classes begin with the hope that there will be fewer changes in the first week of classes.
6. Guest speakers (Alana Johns)
The Count/Mass workshop was very successful.
Upcoming: MOT Feb 27-Mar 1; African language workshop Mar 20; TulCon Mar 27-29.
7. Language reading exams (Elan Dresher)
A way is being sought to administer the French and German language reading exams that is equitable for the departments involved.

8. Research Committee
SIG results are out, and the spring competition has been announced.
9. Graduate students (Maria Kyriakaki)
The graduate students are considering purchasing a new small refrigerator.

There was brief closed portion.