

## Minutes of a meeting of the Department of Linguistics, March 6, 2009

Present: Susana Béjar, Jack Chambers, Elizabeth Cowper, Elan Dresher (Chair), Daniel Hall, Simona Herdan, Monica Irimia, Alana Johns (minutes), Yoonjung Kang, Naomi Nagy, Ana Pérez-Leroux.

Regrets from Keren Rice, Ron Smyth, Sali Tagliamonte.

### 1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2009, have been posted on the Chair's Page: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~dresher/grad/>. Thanks to Keren for doing the minutes.

There was a typo in Sali Tagliamonte's name to be corrected.

The minutes were approved.

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

#### 2.1 Staff award to Mary Hsu

As announced last week, Mary Hsu is the winner of this year's Dean's Student Life Award. The award committee writes that they were very impressed with Mary's work over the years as Graduate Administrator. Thanks to everyone who wrote on her behalf and our congratulations to Mary for this well merited and overdue award. The award will be presented at a ceremony later in the spring.

Clapping.

#### 2.2. Psycholinguist search

Discussions with the Dean's office are still ongoing, and we still hope to make an offer shortly.

#### 2.3. Space

At the end of Reading Week the departmental response to the latest plan to move us to Sidney Smith Hall was submitted to Adrienne De Francesco, Assistant Dean and Director of the Office of Infrastructure Planning in the Faculty of Arts and Science. Elan is meeting with her next week and we will see what her reaction is.

#### 2.4. UTSC position in Language and Culture

It was reported last time that the Department of Humanities at UTSC had a search for a new position in Language and Culture, and the person who is hired could conceivably have a graduate appointment in our department. No decision has been announced yet.

#### 2.5. Cognitive Science program update

Discussions continue on how to restructure the Cognitive Science program. Some members of the Linguistics Cognitive Science Committee, now consisting of Susana Béjar, Bob Binnick, Simona Herdan, Chandan Narayan, Ana Pérez-Leroux, Ron Smyth, and Elan Dresher, met to consider what sort of program we would like to see, and we proposed some principles to the four departmental steering committee. (Ana was traveling during this time but will be part of future meetings.) Our ideas were generally well received, and it

was decided that the cognitive scientists of each department should meet and try to formulate some more specific proposals.

### 2.5. WIT application

It was reported last time that the department submitted a proposal to the Writing Instruction for Teaching Assistants (WIT) Project. Our application was successful, and Elaine and Elan will be meeting with Margaret Proctor, Coordinator of Writing Support, to discuss how we will implement this program. We will soon be advertising for a graduate student to fill the job of LWTA.

### 2.6. Presentation by VP Research.

Funding to research councils is going down but Paul Young, the VP Research, pointed out that targeted areas are getting money and UofT is not getting its share of this kind of money. Elizabeth says UofT has not got enough of the money for Centres of Excellence. We should look out for opportunities in these areas.

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

### 3.1. Exams and Final Grades

Final exams are due at the Faculty Office on March 13.

Grades for courses without final exams are due on Friday April 24 and grades for courses with exams are due 7 working days after the exam. This term there is no difference in deadlines for paper or electronic submission, but the assumption is that everyone in the department submits electronically.

Bill will be sending out the forms for electronic submission and also the paper forms that contain the summary sheets. The summary sheets must be submitted on paper, even when the marks are submitted electronically. Please submit both at the same time — the electronic grades are not uploaded to ROSI until the summary sheets are received.

### 3.2. Summer Courses

Ads have been posted to CUPE 1 for instructors for most of the Summer courses. Simona Herdan and Chandan Narayan will be teaching Semantics and Acquisition, respectively. Ads will be posted soon for Summer TA positions.

### 3.3. Academic Offences

OSAI, the Office of Student Academic Integrity, has asked that we review the procedures for academic offences (see attached photocopy of p.11 from the Academic Integrity Handbook). In particular OSAI would like a report of offences for assignments worth less than 10% even those these can be resolved at the department level. Other points they wish to emphasize:

\* Instructors are not authorized to assign a penalty for an offence, regardless of the weight of the assignment or the admission by the student of an offence.

\* All cases of Academic Misconduct must be sent forward by the instructor to the Department Chair or Associate Chair.

\* All allegations for assignments worth more than 10% must be submitted to OSAI (via the

Department Chair) for resolution, regardless of the student's admission to an offence (unless the department chair or instructor decides there is no offence).

#### 3.4. Academic Year Changes – Waitlist

Waitlists will be turned off the first day of classes starting next fall. A & S will be overfilling classes, based on the normal drop rate in the first weeks of classes; they hope classes will drop down to their proper sizes by the end of the first week. This is all to speed up class choice because of the 12 week schedule. Classes start Wednesday Sept. 8; the last day to enroll is Sept. 15, and the last day of 'exceptional enrolment' (goldenrod period) is Sept. 22. The approach seems to be 'no hope' – assume the classes you have the first day of class are the ones you are getting.

#### 3.5. New Breadth Requirement Proposal

Please see the separate document for the proposal.

Keren and Elaine think that many of the core linguistics courses (e.g. syntax, phonology, morphology) will fall in category v. with math. We don't see this as a problem, although Keren feels that the sciences may object. Nonetheless, categorization is up to the individual department. The administration seems very set on this going ahead, and is dealing mostly with issues of implementation now.

Categorization of all of courses is to be done over the 2009–10 year; the new breadth requirement will begin September 2010. It's hard to foresee what impact (if any) this will have on the department and our students. The current breadth requirement is 3 courses. Regardless of how they are categorized, we can predict that LIN 200, LIN 203 and LIN 204 will remain popular as breadth courses and there may be pressure to enlarge them or offer them more often.

The new proposal will be brought to Faculty Council for voting on April 6. Keren is our representative, so contact her (and cc Elaine) with your comments or concerns before then. On reviewing all the categories, the department decided to wait until the motion passes Faculty Council.

#### 4. Report of the Graduate Coordinator (Sali Tagliamonte, read by Elan Dresner)

##### 4.1. Admissions 2009-2010

The Admissions cycle is still in progress. Admissions decisions are made on an ongoing basis and we expect the process to take a few months.

#### 5. Reports of committees

##### 5.1 UTSC liaison (Yoonjung Kang)

Yoonjung thanks people who participated in the activities associated with the search at UTM.

##### 5.2 Guest Speakers Committee

David Adger will be visiting Toronto in May 2009 and has agreed to give a talk to the Dept. May 13 – details forthcoming.

Ana Perez-Leroux, Naomi Nagy and Alana Johns are planning small workshop on Heritage Languages for May 2009. Details soon.

A workshop on African linguistics will take place on Friday March 20 at Brennan Hall 203 with participants from the University of Toronto, York University, and the University at Buffalo.

5.3. Outreach (Elaine Gold)

Elaine participated in the Workshop for Gifted Students. March break is coming up and there will be other activities.

5.4. Research (Ana Pérez-Leroux)

SIGS has met for this semester. The results will soon be announced.

5.5. Undergraduate Students (SLUGS)

TULCon is coming up March 27–29, 2009.

There was a brief closed portion.