MINUTES
Department Council Committee Meeting
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL POLICY STUDIES
September 15, 2017, 10:00-12:00 pm, 7-152 Education North


Regrets: M. Elfert, H. Kanuka, M. McKay, L. Shultz, P. Timanson

1. Approval of Agenda dated September 15, 2017
   R. Sockbeson requested to add a discussion to the agenda regarding EDU 211 under New Business.

   Motion: It was moved by J. Sousa, seconded by B. Stelmach, that the Agenda be approved.
   CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes dated April 21, 2017
   C. Weber-Pillwax raised that some wording was incorrectly transcribed under the motion raised for New Business – Summary of April 13, 2017 Racist Graffiti Meeting. A correction was proposed as follows:

   Moved that the department develop one or more policies to be forwarded to the Faculty of Education and University Central Administration, and University Governance and Senate, regarding the establishment of a safe, caring and protective work environment that directly and clearly acknowledges and addresses the heightened threats against specific members and groups of the University workforce and student body, particularly Indigenous women.

   Motion: It was moved by J. Sousa, seconded by B. Stelmach, that the revised April 21, 2017 minutes be approved.
   CARRIED

3. New Business
   R. Sockbeson raised concerns regarding the consistency of the syllabi and delivery of course materials across sections of EDU 211.

   Discussion on this occurred, with the following points being mentioned:
   - While many courses may benefit from a open structure, EDU 211 is a foundational course that requires consistency.
   - Many instructors change outlines year-to-year, with the intention of updating content and adapting to changes. Meeting course objectives should be the main goal of a section.

   L. Prochener suggested to include this discussion as a part of the undergraduate program renewal and approval process.

4. Guest, Dean Tupper, Faculty of Education
J. Tupper attended the meeting at 10:30 am. A general and open discussion was encouraged to facilitate introductions and to familiarize J. Tupper with the department.

5. **Library Report**
   T. Ball presented a report which had been distributed to Department Council prior to the meeting. The report summarized upcoming events and ongoing initiatives at the Library.

6. **Graduate Program Report and Notices**
   J. Sousa presented a report which had been distributed to Department Council prior to the meeting.

   **Motion:** It was moved by J. Sousa, seconded by K. Wells, that the name change of the Theoretical, Cultural and International Studies in Education Specialization in the Department of Educational Policy Studies, in the Faculty of Education, to: Social Justice and International Studies in Education Specialization.

   Discussion ensued, indicating that this was a timely change, and that a consensus had been reached after discussion with GAAC. Correspondence with external contacts provided positive anecdotal evidence, but little data on student placement post-grad under this title exists.

   Department Council voted on the above motion.  
   **CARRIED**

   **Motion:** It was moved by J. Sousa, seconded by I. Martyniak, that EDPS 501: Educational Leadership in First Nations Schools that was offered in Summer 2017 be retroactively approved.

   Discussion ensued with the following points being mentioned:
   - The course has already taken place to its completion. While the administrative process was not followed correctly, the intention of this motion is to legitimize the course on student transcripts.
   - The course will not be offered again, unless it should go through the correct approval process. This is a one-time approval for this offering of this course alone.
   - Should council decide to approve this, there is potential for precedent being set in not following correct procedures.
   - While the governance process was not followed, this approval does not delegitimize the content of the course. The course was offered in good faith.
   - Question: Should council instead offer credit to students who took this course, rather than approving the course?
   - This situation should reaffirm the role of GAAC in the governance structure of the department. There is a process in place and it should be abided by.
   - Discussion of the case at hand may be more appropriate than discussion regarding precedent setting.

   It was moved by J. da Costa, seconded by I. Martyniak that the motion be amended as follows:

   **Motion…** moved that EDPS 501: Educational Leadership in First Nations Schools that was offered in Summer 2017 be retroactively approved for that course offering only.

   Department Council voted on the motion to amend.  
   **CARRIED**

   Department Council voted on the above motion.  
   **CARRIED**
**Motion:** It was moved by J. Sousa, seconded by S. Carpenter that Department Council reaffirm that the Graduate Affairs Committee is empowered to make recommendations to Department Council regarding any new courses prior to their scheduling.

Discussion ensued with the following points being mentioned:
- This discussion is largely symbolic, given the nature of the previous motion.
- Question: Is there a policy that outlines this procedure?
- There has previously been a practice, which has not been followed.
- Discussion and reiteration of policies and practices is not bad for council, as processes are confirmed and reinforced.

An amendment was proposed by I. Martyniak, seconded by S. Carpenter, and accepted by J. Sousa that the motion be amended as follows:

Motion… moved that Department Council reaffirm that the Graduate Affairs Committee is empowered to make recommendations to Department Council regarding any new graduate courses prior to their scheduling.

Department Council voted on the above motion. **CARRIED**

7. **Undergraduate Program Report and Notices**  
   Presentation by S. Carr-Stewart tabled for next Department Council due to time constraints.

8. **Educational Policy Studies Graduate Students’ Association Report and Notices**  
   No Report

9. **Chair’s Report**  
   Presentation by L. Prochner tabled for next Department Council due to time constraints.

10. **Announcements**  
    None

Meeting adjourned 12:14 pm.

Next meeting  
October 20, 2017, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, 7-152 Education North