Department Council Minutes
Department of Educational Policy Studies
February 14, 2020, 10:00 am-12:00 pm, 7-152 Education North


Minutes: G. Johnson

1. Call Meeting to Order and Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.

2. Dean Tupper attended the meeting and shared updates, initiatives and budget in her presentation to the department. Some of the highlights include:
   ● UofA will be hosting Congress 2021.
   ● There was a Holodomor display in the Coutts Library, and there will be a travelling mobile digital media exhibit in the fall.
   ● The Minister of Education has asked deans to review the curriculum panel recommendations and share information with undergraduate and graduate students regarding job skills and job readiness.
   ● There are 12 renewal working groups underway and there will be half day sessions at the end of term to begin planning recommendations.
   ● The Province will announce the budget on February 27, 2020 and a faculty town hall focusing on the faculty budget will be held in March.

3. Approval of Agenda dated February 14, 2020
   Motion: It was moved by B. Stelmach, seconded by N. Steinhauer, that the agenda be approved.
   CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes dated January 17, 2020
   Motion: It was moved by J. da Costa, seconded by A. Da Costa, that the minutes be approved.
   CARRIED

5. Business Arising
   J. Sousa was asked for clarification regarding the 2-3 page document required to be prepared by Specialization Coordinators. Referenced in the Minutes dated January 17, 2020, the dean asked chairs to explore the question “What do we do that sets us apart?”. The document will be used at a future meeting of the DAC.

6. Motion
   Move that EDPS 401 Multicultural and Anti-Racism Education become EDPS 4XX and a new EDPS elective for undergraduate students.
Motion: It was moved by A. Da Costa, seconded by N. Steinhauer. The EDPS 401 Course Outline was distributed at DC and will be emailed prior to the next meeting. A. Da Costa informed there are 39 students in the course, USRIs have positive reviews and the goal is to make it a permanent elective. A. Da Costa suggested that the item be tabled to the March meeting of DC. It was moved by S. Carpenter, seconded by D. Kapoor that the motion be tabled to the next meeting. **TABLED**

7. New Business
   A. Update on department’s role in administering EDU 211.
      • J. Sousa provided a document that listed the department’s role in administering EDU 211, including: Hiring of Sessionals and scheduling experientials.
      • Students have asked why EDU 211 sections have different assessments. The objectives across the section can vary. Each section has access to all supplementary readings.
      • The Faculty is dedicated to EDU 211 and hope the Faculty can think that this course is something different.
      • The prerequisite to EDU 211 is EDU 100, but there is a disconnect in flow of content. The Indigenous Working Group (1 of the 12 working groups) will still not address inter-departmental concerns. J. Sousa informed that he will be bringing these concerns to relevant meetings, including DAC and the program renewal committee.
   B. Specialization programs and teaching/course assignments will be discussed at the next DC meeting.

8. Information Items
   A. Library Report (presented by D. Feisst)
      • The budget cuts has impacted the library collections, but effort is being made to reduce the impact on the departments and faculty. No positions will be eliminated in the library.
      • Academics can continue to recommend purchases for collections to educlif@ualberta.ca
      • Effective February 13, 2020, there is no longer the Head of Coutts Library position. The Head of Faculty Engagement is Christine Brown.
   B. Undergraduate Studies Report (presented by N. Steinhauer)
      • UAAC discussed the Course Concern Notice on being reintroduced because there is a concern for students not attending classes are close to failing.
   C. EPSGSA Report (The report was not presented but was distributed with agenda package)

9. Chair’s Report (presented by J. Sousa, Acting Chair)
   • There are ongoing discussions with the budget in how funds are going to be distributed to the department. The commitment to graduate funding will continue.
   • Attended Chair’s School and there is an effort and trend to move to universal design rather than focusing on accommodation in adjusting courses to be more inclusive rather than modify.
   • Upcoming Awards Workshop presented by B. Stelmach, which is being organized with the EPSGSA
   • Two new bulletin boards for EPSGSA have been installed on walls at 7th Floor Ed North
   • Discussion of new guidelines, and reviewing the graduate program (e.g. reducing credits) in the graduate program are in progress at GAC.
   • Doctoral applications have been reviewed. Specializations are to submit their recommendations by February 27, 2020

Adjournment 12:06 pm