Educational Studies Department  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, December 6, 2013  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Education Annex 308


Absent: Ed Janak (absent with apology)

Guests: Jeff Miller

John opened the meeting at 10:05am.

I. Welcome & Approval of Agenda
Jeasik asked if the visiting scholars could have a few minutes at the end of the meeting to share their progress reports. John also asked to add Dean’s Search Update and Spring Meetings. Kevin moved approval of the agenda as amended. Aurora seconded. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Minutes
Angela moved approval of the November 22, 2013, meeting minutes. Aurora seconded. Motion carried.

III. Overview of Canvas – Outreach
Jeff Miller from Outreach provided an overview of Canvas (WyoCourses), the new learning management system (LMS). Starting in the 2014 Summer semester, eCollege will be completely phased out and there will only be Canvas, but faculty can begin using Canvas right now. Faculty can email any Canvas questions to wyocourses@uwyo.edu, and IT will route questions to the appropriate staff. The link to access Canvas is www.wyocourses.uwyo.edu, and you can login with your UW credentials. As soon as courses are loaded onto Banner, a shell will be created in Canvas within a few minutes. Content from eCollege is not automatically copied over to Canvas; faculty can either do this manually or they can submit a request form to ask that it be migrated. There will be training/workshops on January 6 and 7 (information about these can be found on the WyoCourses information page). Angela and Tammy Mielke are our Canvas mentors within the College, and they would be happy to help anyone get started and answer any questions.

Allen asked about LiveText. Canvas and LiveText have some similar aspects, but LiveText is a bit clunkier. However, LiveText provides great data. We are requiring that students pay for LiveText; do we want to use both? Jeff wondered if LiveText and Canvas could talk to one another, which might alleviate this problem. John asked Allen if he would be willing to be the point person to start this discussion. Allen will bring this to the next Task Force meeting. John will also be meeting with Terry and Leslie about LiveText in the context of EDST 2450 and may ask Allen to join in this as well.

IV. December Birthdays…. John, Kyoungho, and Sanghan
January Birthday…. Kevin

V. Dean’s Search Update – John Kambutu
John reported that at the last Leadership Council meeting, Michael told them that the Dean’s search has been delayed. Old Main is trying to figure out how to proceed, either with the Presidential search or with the Deans searches first.

Audrey asked if we really need to employ a search company. The College of Arts and Sciences did really well with their Dean search, and they didn’t have a search company. Search companies are very expensive. She will be bringing this to Michael and urged anyone that also has a feeling about it to send feedback to Michael.

VI. Wyoming School-University Partnership.... Newsletter
(http://www.uwyo.edu/wsup/_files/docs/newsletters/partnership/december%202013/december-newsletter-2013-final.pdf), etc. – Audrey Kleinsasser

Beth Wiley did a phenomenal job with the Wyoming School-University Partnership newsletter. It has been sent out to the faculty list serve, and hard copies are also sent out. Audrey asked that if anyone wants hard copies to let them know.

Audrey also passed out a call for manuscripts from the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER) for publication in their online journal and urged faculty to consider submitting. The editor has recently changed, and in about a year, they will begin talking about a change in focus to scholarship of teaching and learning. There is a NNER Summer Symposium in Seattle in July for which the Partnership budgets five sponsorships (applicants must cover lodging and travel). She also brought up the possibility of holding this Summer Symposium in Laramie in the future.

John would like to amplify our collaboration with the Partnership. Audrey has some great insight that could benefit our work. He encouraged faculty to submit their work to the Summer Symposium and the NNER journal.

VII. Department Head Report – John Kambutu

A. Spring 2014 Sub. Permits for EDST 3000

John reported that there have been delays in the processing of substitute teaching permits; they are taking about 16 weeks to receive. For some students, they will not have them ready for EDST 3000 in the Spring. As a result, the Office of Teacher Education is granting a one-time waiver to students who can provide documentation that they have applied for their sub permits. Then, at the beginning of the semester, faculty will need to fill out a form, which Terry has created, to track students to make sure they receive their sub permits.

All sections of EDST 3000 are full, with two students waitlisted. We may need to add another section. Two sections of EDST 2480 are also full; another section may also be needed.

Kevin asked what would happen if students get denied their sub permits. Allen asked what would happen if they don’t receive their sub permits by the time the practicum starts. John said they are trying to figure out who required sub permits in the first place; it wasn’t the College. If it comes to the point of practicums starting, they’ll decide what to do then.

B. Spring 2014 Denver Practicum for EDST 2480

For the EDST 2480 Denver practicum, John has requested that instructors set aside three possible days that students would be able to go to Denver. They will still only go for one day, but in case of bad weather, there will be backup dates. Students pay a fee for the practicum, so we need to honor that. Also, John asked that we help Kevin market the EDST 3000 section with a Denver practicum, especially in EDST 2480. The Dean’s Office has set aside money for it, and the course has been cancelled a few times, so we haven’t been able to use it.
Aurora asked if there has been any discussion regarding the effect of the Denver practicum on future teachers. She has found that some students are turned off by the experience and is wondering if going only once may not be accomplishing its purpose. Alissa added that she has had great discussions emerge from the trip, but then in their reflective papers, many students show that they don’t want to teach in urban schools. They acknowledge diversity, but decide teaching in an urban setting is not for them. However, Kevin added that these discussions might not occur at all without the Denver practicum. Jenna wondered if it is possible to set up a 2480 section with a Denver practicum. Students in this section would go on to also take 3000 Denver, thus making the experience more meaningful.

The purpose of the 2480 Denver practicum was to set students up for the 3000 Denver practicum, but this hasn’t been happening because 3000 Denver has been cancelled. John’s recommendation is that those who teach 2480 meet and have this discussion to figure out how to have the Denver practicum be meaningful.

C. Personal websites on EDST webpage

Previously, we have listed all research together on one page of the website and provided a link on each of the faculty webpages. A few have posted their recent research directly on their webpages. John asked what the EDST members thought; how we should display our research? Should we choose to publish in our individual webpages, could this approach eventually become either an instrument of pride for published faculty or shame and/or motivation to faculty who may not have published recently? We should be aware of, and be sensitive to all potential viewpoints regarding this matter. It was agreed to maintain the research page and link the faculty webpages to it, but also make it a personal choice if faculty would like to also post their work on their personal webpages.

D. Fall 2013 Course Evaluations

John asked that we encourage our students to participate in course evaluations. EDST usually has one of the highest student completion rates; keep it up! Michael may have prizes for those who have the most students who complete evaluations.

E. Other

- Shepard Symposium – April 2-6
- Holiday Tree Decorating – December 16
- Spring Meeting Dates

John reminded EDST members that Stephanie sent out possible dates for Spring semester department meetings and to provide feedback.

- Friday, January 17 – 9am-11am (T&P Packet Review)
- Friday, February 21 – 9am-11am
- Friday, March 14 – 9am-11am
- Friday, April 11 – 9am-11am
- Friday, May 2 – 10am-1pm

Terry wanted to point out that March 14 is the Friday before Spring Break, in case anyone has a conflict. Next time, we’ll make sure not to have a meeting right before Spring Break.

- Social Justice Minor – Angela Jaime

Angela distributed working drafts of syllabi for EDST 4050 and 4500 through email prior to the meeting. She will be turning them in today to be included in the next ACTE meeting. John asked to take a look and provide feedback to Angela before the meeting.
External Grants – Liz Simpson, Angela Jaime, Allen Trent, and Terry Burant

A draft grant proposal for a Specialized Teaching & Learning Center for Underserved Students, as well as information from the Foundation Resource Center (FRC), was distributed to the EDST members. The next step would be to shape this proposal to pursue funding, first targeting sources within the state. Liz has met with Katrina in FRC, and the FRC Project Concept Form is a great place to start. The draft proposal has already hit on much of what’s on the form. January 18 is the faculty grant and aid deadline. John mentioned that Audrey believes there may be some money coming from Old Main, and she would like to see it used for something college-wide. Angela will be meeting with Audrey next week to pick her brain. John also suggested thinking about a budget for the Teaching & Learning Center. Liz agreed; feedback on budget would be especially helpful. John also suggested looking to the Wyoming Humanities Council for potential grant funding. Please send any feedback on the proposal to Angela and Allen.

VIII. Visiting Scholars Progress Reports

Kyoungho Lee and Sanghan Kim shared their progress reports for the Fall semester and their plans for Spring semester. Kevin suggested the possibility of also sharing their research sometime next semester.

IX. Neuroscience and Classroom Practice: An Invitation – Terry Burant

Terry presented a PowerPoint and invited EDST members to consider incorporating modules from the free, web-based course Neuroscience and the Classroom: Making Connections. The course focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning and is very thoughtful and research-oriented. Dr. Mary Helen Immordino-Yang, who spoke at the 2013 Ellbogen Symposium, was a key developer of this course. While Dr. Immordino-Yang was in Laramie, she also taped three segments which are available on DVD in the Dean’s Office and soon will also be on YouTube. Course cohorts then broke off, explored the resources, and discussed. Kevin asked that those who use these resources in class to please provide feedback on how they worked at future meetings. This seems to be a powerful way to contextualize this information, by using videos and not just text. In the future, John suggested looking into sequencing courses.

X. Important Dates

- Dec. 9-12 – Finals week
- Dec. 11 – Holiday reception ... faculty, staff, retired faculty, 4:30-6:00pm, Hilton Garden Inn
- Dec. 19 – Final grades due.
- Dec. 20 – T&P packets due in EDST office
- Jan. 2 – Decision day for spring course cancellation
- Jan. 13 – Classes begin
- Jan. 17 – 1st year reappointment packets due in the Dean’s Office
- Jan. 29 – Partnership Governing Board Meeting – WEN
- Jan. 31 – CoEd department graduate scholarship application deadline
- Jan. 31 – 1st year reappointment packets due in Academic Affairs

XI. Adjournment

Allen moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeasik seconded. Adjourned at 1:10pm.

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Stephanie Ksionzyk
Office Associate