Educational Studies Department  
MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, May 8, 2015  
9:00 am – 11:30 am  
Education 117


Absent: Audrey Kleinsasser and Ed Janak (with apology)

John opened the meeting at 9:07 am.

I. Welcome & Approval of Agenda
Jeasik moved approval of the agenda. Angela seconded. Motion carried.

II. Approval of Minutes
Terry moved the approval of minutes from the March 13, 2015 meeting. Jenna seconded. Motion carried. John also clarified his comments at the March meeting regarding his exhaustion. A rumor had materialized that he was rethinking his work; however, as the minutes show, he had a tough semester mostly because of increased travels to Laramie to attend to faculty and dean search duties, but he had hoped to gain his focus back soon.

III. Announcements
• Department End of Year Lunch/Celebration postponed until Fall
• Happy Birthday!
  • July ... Allen
  • August ... Jeasik & Stephanie
• Kyounho Lee leaving at the end of May
  • On behalf of the Department, John thanked Dr. Lee. Because of the great work she has done, the Department will not shy away from having visiting scholars in the future. Dr. Lee thanked the Department, especially John and Jeasik. She has had such a great experience and will cherish the memories she has made.

IV. Department Head’s Report – John Kambutu
A. Thank you for a great semester!
  • It was a hectic year with the searches and being short-handed. John thanked Allison and Angela L. for supporting the department. He also thanked the faculty for stepping up. In addition, he thanked Stephanie, who won this year’s Staff Award for Outstanding Service to the College. Because of all of the hard work the faculty did, John reported that his job easy.
  • Angela congratulated John and Jeasik for their promotions to Full Professor!
  • Jeasik appreciated John’s leadership throughout the year. He also expressed his hope for more internal dialogue among the faculty in the future if we have multiple searches at the same time.
  • Terry suggested that, in case the department has multiple searches in the future, having a general ad that focuses on the department’s need rather than individual positions might be ideal. John mentioned that Audrey has made a similar view.
  • John pointed out that the diversity/ESL position didn’t fail but rather was unsuccessful. The Department extended the offer to a highly qualified candidate, but we weren’t able to compete with another institution.

B. T&P recommendations...move to academic calendar vs. annual
• John asked that the faculty read through the College T&P Committee Feedback that was distributed with the agenda. Most of the recommendations do not affect EDST faculty, but John pointed out that there was a proposal to move to an academic (Fall-Spring) instead of an annual (Spring-Fall) calendar for T&P.

C. Commencement
• Michael has requested faculty to attend this year’s commencement. Gowns are not required. Three trustees will be present.

D. Electronic signage... encouraged to use it
• There are now TVs set up in McWhinnie, Education, and Ed Annex which can be used as electronic signage. All faculty are encouraged to use them. Please contact Bret if you wish to use them.

E. EDST 3000... share mentor eval.
• Mentor teacher evaluations from EDST 3000 will now be provided to those who are going to start student teaching.
• Terry was recently struck by the thought that the students haven't had any notice of this. John will speak with Leslie about delaying the process and maybe starting next Fall, to let students and mentor teachers know that practicum data will be used in the process of residency placements. Angela also suggested revisiting the form to encourage more feedback. John suggested that the faculty teaching EDST 3000 meet with Leslie to voice these concerns.
• Also, after meeting with Albany School District #1 officials, Ed Studies will only have two sections of EDST 3000 per semester in Laramie.

F. Fall 2015 & Spring 2016 course schedules
• John distributed a highly tentative course schedule for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016. He asked faculty to let him know if they have any questions, concerns, or changes.
• Ed Studies received one graduate assistantship back.

G. Budget – Stephanie
• The Department will be spending out the Legislative account. Stephanie thanked the faculty for being great stewards of the funds. The department is in a great place with regards to the Revolving and Summer accounts. John encouraged faculty to bring any ideas to the department for funding consideration. Ideas that focus on the common good are especially encouraged.

H. At-Distance Chair ... Your experiences?
• John sent an email this morning asking faculty to provide feedback and about possible succession. If there is something that he is not doing or is doing well, please let him know.

I. Chair’s summer ... Away May 19-June 29

V. Committee Reports

A. Diversity Committee – Jeasik Cho
• Jeasik reported that from the qualitative data that was obtained from the College diversity survey, the Diversity Committee has provided five categories that the College needs to address, along with twenty suggestions, to the Dean.

B. Assistant Professor Search Committee – Angela Jaime
• John recommended that we start looking for new candidates now. Angela has stepped up to chair the search committee. As soon as EEO approves the committee and job description, the search committee will move forward. The plan is to post the position on August 1 and accept applications until November 10, with phone and campus interviews in November and December.
• Angela expressed her hope to recruit more candidates of color. As such, the committee will reduce the number of years required for teaching experience, and move ESL to a preferred qualification.
• Once approved, Angela will send the job description out to faculty and ask that they post to listservs, etc.
• John proposed that the Department give incentives to faculty, as well as adjuncts and GA's, who go to conferences and advertise. Jeasik moved to provide $250 per conference incentive to faculty, adjuncts, and GA's with a cap of $500 to those who advertise. Jenna seconded. Motion carried.
• During on-campus interviews for another department's search, Jenna had attended a job talk for a candidate of color, and she felt as if the candidate was being attacked by other faculty in the College. Jenna reported that, in her opinion, a job talk shouldn’t be like a dissertation defense. It’s not the space to do this, even if someone doesn’t agree with the research being presented. She was unsure if this should be addressed at the College level. John agreed that while we should challenge candidates, we also need to remind ourselves that many are probably graduate students and they are not at the same research or experience level as faculty are.
• Angela reported that Tracy Owens-Patton will be having a workshop on micro-aggression on Monday. Maybe the College or Department could hold similar workshops on a monthly basis to help curb occurrences such as this. Maybe if incentives are provided, more faculty would attend.
• John suggested to start workshops at the Department level, then approach C&I, and finally approach Ray to slowly broaden the scope of these workshops.
• Angela offered to help organize, but she would need someone else to initiate and keep it going while she is on sabbatical. Jenna offered to do so. This would not be a one-time thing, but would be an ongoing process that the Department is committing itself to.
• Jeasik moved to hold a facilitator-led workshop on micro-aggression in the fall with Angela and Jenna leading the process, and that the Department commit up to $2,000 to this and others in the future. Angela seconded. Motion carried.

VI. Partnership/NNER 2015 Summer Symposium – Audrey Kleinsasser
• Audrey provided a handout about the June 25 Kids, Schools, and Communities that Help Them Prosper event to Stephanie to share. She will need help this summer for the NNER Summer Symposium.

VII. Roundtable: News/Reflections/Plans for the Summer
• Angela thanked the Department for supporting the Shepard Symposium. After five years of chairing the Symposium, this year’s was the most successful. The GSA event on Saturday was especially phenomenal.
• Allison will be teaching this summer and finishing rewrites on her comprehensive exam.
• Angela Lewis thanked the Department for her graduate assistantship. She learned a lot over the past year. She will be working on manuscripts during the summer and will be collecting data for her dissertation in the fall.
• Angela Jaime is very grateful for Angela Lewis who is an amazing instructor – Nicki as well! Angela Jaime will be leaving on graduation day for New Zealand, and will be teaching a couple of summer classes for TAIC, and will attend a StirFry seminar in California. She will also be helping with the NNER Summer Symposium and will be chairing the Equity, Diversity, Social Justice Committee for NNER.
• Jeasik received approval for his book, but still needs to add a few things. It will probably be published in the fall. During the semester, he taught a non-credit Korean language course and also became certified as an NCAA tennis umpire.
• Stephanie had a very busy year and learned a lot. She thanked the faculty for all of their support. This summer, she will be continuing to renovate her house and will be having a wedding reception with family and friends. She also recently got a new puppy, which has kept her very busy.

• Terry just had a chapter published. She has finished packing up her house and will be in Milwaukee again this summer. In addition to teaching for the Dental school, she will also be re-vamping a special education class.

• Jenna had a good year overall. After some serious health issues, she has realized that human beings can be resilient, but also vulnerable. She will be teaching two courses this summer and will hopefully visit her children, both of whom are going back to graduate school.

• John will be leaving for Kenya on May 19. While there, he will lead a serve learning project that will be building a new classroom for a school in need, which they have been fundraising for. He will be back on June 21. While he is away, Allen has agreed to sub for him, and the Dean's Office will also be available for support. During the week of June 1, Allen will be out of town. Curriculum & Instruction would like John to take over as Chair, and there is a report that needs to be done by June 30. John's daughter received a research fellowship and his son has an internship, so they will not be home over the summer.

VIII. Important Dates

May 2015

8 Last day of classes
8 CoEd End of Year Burrito Breakfast, 7:30am, EA 318
8 CoEd Awards Recognition Luncheon, 11:30am-1pm, Hilton Ballroom
11-15 Finals Week
16 Commencement, 9am, IPF
18 Summer hours begin for the office (7:30am-4:30pm)
21 Final grades due online by 12 noon
25 Memorial Day Holiday – Office closed
26 Summer session begins

June 2015

25 Wyoming & NNER Friends June Symposium (sponsored by the Partnership & NNER), Marian Rochelle Gateway Center
26-29 NNER 2015 Summer Symposium

VIII. Adjournment

Jeasik moved to adjourn the meeting. Angela seconded. Adjourned at 11:32am.

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Stephanie Ksionzyk
Office Associate