

Universitas 21
Meeting No. 17 of the U21 Deans of Education Group
Thursday, April 3, 2014
Philadelphia, USA

Location: Marriott Hotel, 1201 Market Street, Philadelphia
Time: 8 am to 12 noon

REPORT

Participants:

David Clarke, Melbourne (d.clarke@unimelb.edu.au) (Convenor and Chair)
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Guest participants/observers

Irma Eloff, Pretoria (Irma.Eloff@up.ac.za)
Liesel Ebersohn, Pretoria (Liesel.Ebersohn@up.ac.za)
Thuwayba Al Barwani, Sultan Qaboos University (athuwayba@hotmail.com)
Stacey Edmonson, Sam Houston State University (EDU_SLE01@SHSU.EDU)
Jerry Sroufe, AERA Director of Government Relations (jsroufe@aera.net)

U21 Doctoral Student (FINE) Representatives

Juliette Lyons-Thomas, UBC (jlyonstomas@gmail.com)
Jennifer Tatebe, Auckland (j.tatebe@auckland.ac.nz)

1. Welcome (Introductions and noting of 2013 Report) – David Clarke

Professor Clarke welcomed U21 colleagues, extending a special welcome to Professor Inés Sáenz from Tecnológico de Monterrey, the two FINE representatives, Dr Gerald Sroufe from the American Educational Research Association (AERA) directorate, Professors Eloff and Ebersohn from the University of Pretoria, Professor Edmonson from Sam Houston State University, and Professor Al Barwani from Sultan Qaboos University. Professors Eloff, Ebersohn, Edmonson and Al Barwani attended as self-funded observers. After meeting for fifteen years, with varying degrees of subsidy from U21, this meeting was the first to be fully funded by contributions from the participating schools of education. The representation of fourteen U21 Schools of Education represents yet another high point in attendance. Together with the number of guests, the level of attendance suggests that the U21 Deans of Education

meeting is widely recognised as a valuable forum for networking between Schools of Education internationally.



2. U21 Update Report (esp. Educational Innovation Cluster) – Graeme Aitken

Professor Aitken reported on the functioning of the U21 cluster structure and the nature of the mission of the Educational Innovations Cluster in particular. Participation was noted of members of the U21 Deans of Education group at the 2013 conference at UCD: “Effective and sustainable approaches to learning and teaching in a rapidly changing digital environment.” In addition, deans who are interested in the U21 Educational Innovations Cluster conference at UNSW in October this year, focused on personalised learning and learning analytics, were strongly encouraged to contact their DVCA/Provost or equivalent because invitations are restricted to 3 members from each institution.

3. Brief Remarks by Jerry Sroufe, AERA Director of Government Relations

Jerry Sroufe, AERA Director of Government Relations, expressed his continued appreciation of willingness of the U21 Deans of Education group to allow him to attend its meetings and of the information exchanged at the meeting. Dr Sroufe reported that the AERA Organisation of Institutional Affiliates (OIA) was planning on holding an event similar to the U21 Deans’ meeting prior to the next AERA conference, probably with a focus on the evaluation of research productivity in Education. He indicated that an invitation would be extended to U21 Deans to participate in that meeting. Dr Sroufe invited Professor Clarke to attend a meeting of the OIA Executive, to be held in Philadelphia during the AERA conference.

Addendum: Professor Clarke subsequently attended this meeting (Sunday, April 6) and shared details related to the organization and purpose of the U21 Deans meeting. As a consequence of that meeting, contact was established with Professor Michael Feuer (George Washington University), Chair of the OIA. Subsequent communication included news of a conference to be convened by Professor Feuer late in 2014 on the subject of the comparative ranking of universities. The proposal for a pre-AERA session in 2015 in Chicago, hosted by the OIA, on measures of research productivity, was confirmed and interest was again expressed in some level of U21 participation in that meeting. Communication between Sroufe, Feuer and Clarke will continue in relation to this planned pre-AERA session.

3. Report of Doctoral Students 2014 FINE event (Forum for International Networking in Education) – Juliette Lyons-Thomas and Jennifer Tatebe

FINE leaders, Juliette Lyons-Thomas and Jennifer Tatebe reported on the forum held on the previous day and on initiatives taken by the FINE group over the past 12 months (see report attached as Appendix). It was also noted that the entire FINE leadership team of Juliette Lyons-Thomas, Jennifer Tatebe and Nancy Njiraini were retiring, having completed their doctoral studies, and that a process of transition to a new leadership team was underway. The

entire meeting expressed their appreciation of the wonderful work done by Juliette, Jennifer and Nancy over the past few years. The vitality and continued growth of the FINE group is a direct consequence of the efforts of this outstanding team.



4. Deans' Roundtable

Brief reports were provided by each of the fourteen participating School of Education and by the guests, supplemented by explanatory materials in several cases. Several issues of common interest emerged. In particular, the growing international emphasis on accountability measures of research productivity was noted.

5. FOCUS DISCUSSION

Chair: David Clarke

Brief position papers were presented on two topics of interest to U21 Deans' group.

Topic 1 - Character Education

Three papers presented by James Conroy and Bob Davis (Glasgow); Irma Eloff and Liesel Ebersohn (Pretoria); Blye Frank (UBC)

Abstract: Character education is an umbrella term loosely used to describe the teaching of children in a manner that will help them develop variously as moral, civic, good, mannered, behaved, non-bullying, healthy, critical, successful, traditional, compliant and/or socially acceptable beings. The term has also been used to embrace such programs as religious education and moral education. Current interest in education for civics and citizenship and in positive psychology interpret the same agenda in a different form. What are the responsibilities of Schools of Education with respect to Character Education?

Topic 2. – The contribution, role and relevance of Schools of Education in the contemporary university

One paper presented by Sinikka Neuhaus (Lund)

Abstract: In most communities, Schools of Education have not enjoyed the status of Faculties of Medicine (for example) within their own universities. What is the role of Schools of Education within the contemporary university? How frequently and in what ways does the University community make use of the expertise to be found in a School of Education? What is the relevance of a School of Education to the mission of the contemporary university?

Discussion of both topics (and all four presentations) centred on an examination of the role of Schools of Education (and the purpose of education, in general) in contemporary educational contexts. The growing attention being paid to "Character Education" or "Civics and Citizenship" was noted and discussed in relation to the obligations of Schools of Education to address this trend in pre-service teacher education programs. The additional and related issue of professionalism was raised by Professor Sugrue and discussed with interest.

6. Aspiration into Action: Where to from here?

Chair: Graeme Aitken

The concluding discussion addressed the need for consequent action and participants undertook to provide details by email to Professor Clarke regarding actions arising from the U21 Deans' meeting. Participants were reminded that a symposium by members of the Deans group with the title: "Clinical Approaches to Teacher Education: Connecting Research in Ireland, the USA, Scotland and Australia" was on the AERA program on Friday, April 4. This symposium was a direct consequence of the Focus Discussion from a previous meeting. Presenters at the symposium were: Ciaran Sugrue (Dublin), Ellie Wilson (Virginia), Jim Conroy (Glasgow), Larissa McLean Davies & Field Rickards (Melbourne), and the discussant was Linda Darling-Hammond (Stanford). It was suggested that members of the Deans' group might consider submitting another proposal for inclusion in the 2015 AERA conference in Chicago. Professor Clarke undertook to solicit expressions of interest.

7. Follow-up Actions

A number of consequent actions were subsequently identified by meeting participants. These clustered around several of the topics raised during the meeting:

- a. Clinical Teacher Education
- b. Character Education
- c. The Role of Schools of Education
- d. Professionalism in Education
- e. Research Productivity Measures
- f. Doctoral (and other) Student Exchange
- g. International Collaboration
- h. Distance Learning

Each of the participating Schools of Education expressed interest in pursuing several of these topics in various collaborative combinations.

Subsequent to the meeting, Professor Postiglione (Hong Kong) shared the Hong Kong Report: "Educational Research: Focus, Approaches and Quality Indicators." This document was circulated to the entire U21 Deans of Education group and was greatly appreciated. Such sharing of key policy and strategic documents provides another demonstration of the function of the U21 Deans of Education group as a forum for sharing best practice and key initiatives.

SUMMATIVE REMARKS

Yet another record level of representation and the constructive interactivity of the group discussion, confirms the role of the annual meeting of the U21 Deans of Education group as an energetic and constructive forum for the sharing and addressing of challenges across U21 Schools of Education internationally. The perspectives of the observers are also illuminating and illustrate the extent to which U21 is leading the field in providing a forum for this level of international sharing of practices and concerns.

The continued activity of the FINE group of research students is particularly pleasing. The FINE group's activities are entirely subsidized by the Deans' group and provide an outstanding return in effort and outcomes on a minimal investment of funds. The FINE group offers an important model for other international student networks.

The U21 Deans of Education group has been meeting for 15 years. Its longevity and remarkable (and increasing) level of participation by Schools of Education suggests that it provides a valued forum. The recent connection with AERA's Organization of Institutional Affiliates suggests that U21 is seen as a making an important contribution to the international Education community beyond its U21 membership.

David Clarke
June, 2014

APPENDIX

U21 FINE Report 2014

The Forum for International Networking in Education (FINE) continues to engage students from U21 institutions through meetings at conferences, newsletter and email communication and through our FINE rep network.

In April, FINE held three events at the 2014 annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Philadelphia. The FINE Forum, held on Wednesday, April 2nd, was the flagship event and was attended by 27 postgraduate scholars and 4 professors across the network from the US, Canada, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

The forum provided participants with information about pursuing different academic pathways. Guest speakers discussed the following topics:

- How to “Navigate the AERA conference” as a postgraduate student
- Becoming an academic, “Minion, Manager, Mentor and Maniac”
- Considerations of seeking an academic position in a different context
- The international postdoc search
- Noncognitive factors in academic and professional success



- These topics were complemented by an interactive, collaborative activity in which participants shared their tips, suggestions and questions about the various phases of the PhD process. Guest speakers helped to facilitate these small group discussions. Prompts included:
 - 1) The proposal phase
 - 2) Working with data
 - 3) Writing up
 - 4) Publishing
 - 5) International collaboration & networking to align with FINE’s goals
 - 6) The job search

Following the Forum, was a networking dinner held at Bistro La Minette, where emerging scholars were able to continue their networking over dinner. In addition to the Forum, FINE also held breakfast meetings between 7 and 8:30 am on April 4th and 6th, each attended by 25 FINE members, and Deans from UBC, Lund, and Glasgow.



Surveys

For the second year, the FINE Leadership team has conducted a short survey of FINE forum attendees with the aim of gaining insight into their research and networking interests. Based on responses from the forum in Philadelphia, postgraduate FINE scholars are interested in opportunities to learn about:

- 1) Postdoctoral opportunities, and
- 2) Academic employment in general

Achievements

Postgraduate FINE scholars were also well represented as AERA presenters. Our FINE members presented in symposia (1), paper sessions (14), roundtables (3) and posters (2) with some FINE scholars presenting multiple (2-3) papers. The strong showing of accepted papers demonstrates the high level of scholarship by U21 postgraduate students that translates into strong potential for future research connections within the U21 network.

We have also invested significant effort in recruiting U21 FINE representatives. We currently have 19 active U21 FINE representatives. Our presence at international conferences, and the distribution of our newsletter are critical to the recruitment of more FINE representatives. We would also like to thank the Deans of Education group for actively assisting us to identify postgraduate students suited for the FINE representative role. In light of the retirement of three long-standing Leadership team members, we have put in place a more formal transition plan. The plan involves one on one mentoring via Skype to help new Leadership team members learn their role, and exiting members staying on for 2-3 months to cover the period of transition.

Finally, FINE has continued to produce our newsletter, *The FINE Times*. In the past academic year, we have produced 3 issues, and distributed it to U21 Education students worldwide. The newsletter, which is in its sixth year of circulation, often features new FINE members, provides updates on past and upcoming events, a career section, and other topics relevant to students interested in international networking.

Summative Remarks

It is very pleasing to see continued high levels of interest and engagement within the FINE network. For the past three years, our FINE forum event at each year's AERA conference has consistently been attended by 25-30 FINE members and 3-5 Deans from across the network. We are also equally pleased to report findings of "returning" FINE members at our events who we are seeing year after year, and sometimes at different international conferences.

We would also like to formally acknowledge our deep gratitude and thanks to the U21 Dean's group for supporting our FINE activities throughout the year.

Jennifer Tatebe (on behalf of the FINE Leadership team)

June 2014