

Universitas 21
Meeting No. 11 of the U21 Deans of Education Group

March 28, 2008

New York, U.S.A.

Location: Hilton New York, 1335 Avenue of the Americas
Room: Concourse G, Concourse Level
Time: 1 to 5 pm

REPORT

Present:

David Clarke, Melbourne
Mavis Haigh, Auckland
Jim Conroy, Glasgow
Maureen Killeavy, Dublin
Ian Menter, Glasgow
Jim O'Brien, Edinburgh
Gary Thomas, Birmingham
Patricia Thomson, Nottingham
Rob Tierney, UBC
Li-Fang Zhang, Hong Kong
Sara Dexter, Virginia

U21 Doctoral Student Representative
Radhika Gorur, Melbourne

1. Introductions and Sharing

Arrival times at the meeting varied and the suggestion was made that future meetings might make use of the Monday morning of the AERA conference when there is less possibility of clashes with conference events. Rob Tierney further suggested that the possibility of video-conferencing be explored as a means of continuing the dialogue established at the face-to-face meetings and also as a means to involve those Deans unable to attend AERA.

ACTION: David Clarke to explore both suggestions.

2. Reception of Report of Previous Meeting (*U21E 2007A – Chicago* tabled)

The attached report was noted and accepted by the meeting.

3. Reception of Report of Doctoral Students FINE event (Forum for International Networking in Education) (Tabled) – Radhika Gorur (student rep.) spoke to the

attached report. The report of FINE meeting was received with enthusiasm. The increased student attendance at the second FINE event was applauded by the meeting. Radhika's report stimulated discussion in relation to several different matters.

- *Other conferences*
It was suggested that, given the growing success of the doctoral students' forum at AERA, similar initiatives might be pursued at other major conferences. The conferences suggested included: BERA (Britain), ECER (Europe), AARE (Australia), AERA (USA), and EARLI (Europe). The suggestion was that initially less formal meetings might be organised for doctoral students attending conferences other than AERA. David reported that an attempt last year (by himself and Lynn McAlpine) to do exactly this at the EARLI conference had met with a small number of expressions of interest, but an even smaller actual number of attendees. David suggested that any such initiative would have a much greater chance of success if it came from the student group itself (that is, the FINE network) and Radhika confirmed that existing communication channels could be used to determine doctoral student interest in similar events at particular conferences.

ACTION: Radhika Gorur in consultation with David

- *Regional Organisation*
Pat Thomson suggested that students might organise such meetings more effectively on a regional basis in association with the major educational research conference in that region. A corollary of this suggestion was that any such regional coordination, once established, could lead to other regional initiatives. Maureen Killeavy strongly advocated the establishment of better communicative networks among doctoral students at the most local levels. Again, the suggestions were felt to be suitable for circulation among the doctoral students through the FINE network and via the Associate Deans mailing list developed by David.

ACTION: Radhika and David

- *Online Forum*
A key initiative arising from the FINE meeting was the establishment of an online forum for U21 doctoral students in Education. This possibility was raised by Hal Burback (Curry School, Virginia) at the 2007 meeting of the U21 Deans of Education. At that time, Hal identified Brian Ullman, a doctoral student at Virginia, as actively pursuing the establishment of such an online forum. Brian attended the FINE meeting and confirmed his interest in managing the development of such an online forum. The meeting fully supported this initiative.

ACTION: Brian Ullman in consultation with David

- *Inclusivity*
Rob Tierney suggested that the doctoral student initiative might be expanded to promote doctoral education worldwide, sponsored or hosted by U21. The general feeling of the meeting was that any such expansion could only follow the demonstrable viability and sustainability of the FINE group.

The meeting unanimously supported the FINE initiative and expressed its gratitude to Radhika, David and Lynn McAlpine for their efforts in this regard.

4. Business Arising from Previous Meeting

- 4.1 *Higher Degrees in Education* – At the last meeting, it was agreed to employ a common structure and text across websites (consistent with local conventions) - Individual members reported that very little progress had been made on this item. The comment was made from several sources that university level policy regarding acceptable content and formatting for university websites restricted an individual Faculty's or School's capacity to implement this item.

- 4.2 *Nottingham-Auckland initiative* – Mavis Haigh and Pat Thomson reported that while the jointly-developed subject is being delivered in Nottingham, this is not yet the case in Auckland.
- 4.3 *Research-mapping database* – This project has lapsed with the relocation of Roger Slee, who had a key leadership role in the project. It was suggested that U21 Deans' Meeting attendees might usefully present on a small number of key projects being undertaken by their Faculties or Schools and that this might stimulate both collaborative research and research student mobility.
- 4.4 *Prioritisation of U21 Research Partnerships* – It was noted that Rob Tierney had circulated a call for expressions of interest in collaboratively applying for research funding in relation to a particular funding opportunity. There was a strong feeling among attendees at the meeting that difficulties in establishing research collaborations were arising at the institutional level rather than the Faculty or U21 level. Rob strongly advocated the use of U21 to leverage international collaborations more aggressively and more purposefully than thus far.
- 4.5 *U21 Conference prior to ECER* – David passed on a report from John Langley (Auckland) that attempts to convene a meeting of U21 Deans of Education at the 2007 ECER conference had to be abandoned due to lack of interest.
- 4.6 *Proposal for a conference on global issues in Education* – This item arose from a suggestion of Hal Burbach (Virginia) at the 2007 U21 Deans' Meeting. As far as was known, no further progress had been made.
- 4.7 *Funding proposal put to U21 Presidents' Meeting* – David Clarke reported that funding had been obtained from the U21 Secretariat to support both the FINE meeting, the Deans' Meeting, and the on-going networking of the extended U21 doctoral student community.

5. **Possible global influence on public educational policies**

(item proposed by John Langley, Auckland) In the absence of John Langley, discussion on this item was limited to a request that John prepare a position paper on the issue to serve as a catalyst at next year's U21 Deans of Education meeting.

ACTION: David to contact John

6. **Any Other Business**

6.1 *Early Career Researchers*

The success of the FINE network and meeting prompted Pat Thomson to suggest that something similar might be organised for Early Career Researchers (ECRs). The specific suggestion was to identify ECRs interested in participating in the development of a community for the purpose of collaborative writing, research funding applications, research projects, and possibly a conference. Since no attendee volunteered to coordinate such an ECR initiative, it was felt that a working party could be recruited to draft a funding proposal to the U21 Secretariat (similar to that obtained in support of the FINE initiative). Nominations for membership of that working party would be sought by David from the Deans' network.

ACTION: David

Additional Contact Initiatives

It was suggested that a meeting of interested U21 researchers (particularly ECRs and doctoral students) be convened immediately prior to the UBC Reception at next year's AERA conference. This short (one-hour) gathering would serve similar

networking purposes to the FINE meeting. The effectiveness of the meeting would be increased if attending researchers were to provide short statements of their research interests for circulation by email prior to the conference. There were no volunteers to coordinate this meeting, but the meeting endorsed the suggestion in principle and it was suggested that expressions of interest be sought through the Deans and Associate Deans networks from anyone interested in taking on the coordination role.

ACTION: David

The meeting closed at 5 pm.

Attachment re Item 3

Report on the U21 Forum for International Networking in Education (FINE)

New York, April, 2007

Following the success of last year's forum for doctoral students in education held in Chicago a day prior to the AERA Annual Meeting, a similar forum was organised to coincide with AERA 2008. The meeting, held in New York on March 23, attracted 20 participants from eight U21 universities. As well, like last year, early-morning breakfast meetings were held on Tuesday and Thursday to continue informal networking. These also were well attended. Funds were obtained to host these events, which provided opportunities for formal and informal networking.

An information flyer was prepared to advertise the events, and the network of U21 Deans, Associate Deans and Student Representatives, built up over the last year, was used to publicise the events over several months prior to the meeting. Last year, the overwhelming response from students was that they were unaware of U21 opportunities and that the information about the forum was not widely publicised on many campuses. Every effort was made this year to circulate information as effectively and in as timely a fashion as possible. As a result, we were able to attract a total of 22 students from eight different universities who wished to participate in the forum and/or the breakfasts.

A listserv was created by Radhika Gorur and interested students were invited to introduce themselves to the group via email and to participate in shaping the agenda and the structure of the Forum meeting.

Eventually, an agenda was developed based on student recommendations, and circulated among them for comment before being finalised. Below are notes from the Sunday meeting:

1:00 Introductions, getting to know each other

1:15 Universitas 21 - Activities, Opportunities and Support - Lavinia Johns, U21 Secretariat

The presentation by Lavinia Johns provided an excellent overview of U21 and how it might relate to and support students in education. Lavinia discussed: the change in U21 priorities which signalled a return to emphasis on research-based collaboration; funding procedures and possibilities; and the types of initiatives that would be likely to be supported by the U21 Secretariat.

1:45 How to get the most out of AERA: Conference structure and networking - David Clarke - academic/researcher perspective; Radhika Gorur - student perspective. General Discussion

Most of the Forum participants were attending AERA for the first time, and David and Radhika, together with the couple of other participants, provided advice on how to get the most out of the conference, with tips on such practical matters as choosing the right sessions, becoming a member of Special Interest Groups, networking at the conference, and window-

shopping for potential co-presenters at conferences, and potential employers and collaborators.

2:45 Coffee

**3:15 Thinking ahead: Career development and getting published
Lynn McAlpine - Life after the PhD; David Clarke - Getting published:
Outlets for your brilliance**

Lynn's presentation on career pathways, employer priorities and trends in academic practice provided pertinent information. She raised questions of a very practical nature, and provided students with an opportunity to think through some important issues regarding their own priorities, strengths and interests. Her suggestions on getting published were supported by further advice from David. The presentation encouraged students to give attention to how and where they situated themselves as academics and professionals.

**4:15 Moving forward - chair: Radhika Gorur
Open discussion relating to initiatives that the group might take
between FINE events**

This section generated a great deal of discussion and several ideas were raised. There was overwhelming support for the creation of an online discussion forum or a form of virtual meeting space, where U21 students with similar interests could collaborate and support each other. Brian Ullman of the University of Virginia volunteered to consult with Lavinia and explore the possibilities of creating such a forum. Many questions need resolution with regard to security of the material on the site, the administration of the site, the uses to which it could be put and so on. Brian is to work with David and Lavinia to follow this up further.

It was agreed that this major initiative of developing an on-line forum should become the main goal for the U21 FINE group over the next several months. Once the details of the on-line forum and any costs associated with its establishment are identified, a submission will be made to the U21 Secretariat with regard to the funding of those costs.

Paula A. Berneking (University of Virginia) suggested that it was important for the group to frame a mission statement identifying the major goals that might guide the group's future activities. Radhika volunteered to coordinate the collaborative development of such a mission statement in consultation with all participants. Such a document will then be circulated more widely for comment by students unable to attend the FINE meeting through Associated Deans and Student Representatives.

Participants were also encouraged to work through their respective universities to explore such possibilities as visiting scholarships to partner universities and joint video-mediated conferences.

Participants were asked to express interest in assisting with the coordination of the group, and Brian Ullman again expressed his willingness to help. Since the completion of the meeting, others have also indicated their willingness to assist. For the moment, Radhika will coordinate the development of the mission statement with the support of various FINE members.

4:55: Short-term housekeeping - David Clarke

- a) planning possible breakfast meetings on Tuesday and Thursday**
- b) Identifying conference must-sees**

5:00 Meeting closed

Highlights and action points

1. There is still room for significant improvement in communication channels. The list of student representatives is incomplete and even where student representatives have been identified, details have not been provided as to the nature of their role.
2. There were several positive points to be noted with regard to the Forum this year. There was a great deal of expectation, enthusiasm and camaraderie generated by the consultative process prior to the meeting. Email exchanges in the preceding weeks allowed students to get to know each other. This level of interaction was the subject of much positive comment.
3. Details of the proposed on-line forum will be developed through consultation between David, Brian and Lavinia. If possible, a submission for costs will go to the Presidents' meeting held in May.
4. A mission statement will be developed to clarify the ongoing goals of the FINE group. This will be coordinated by Radhika over the few months. The completed mission statement will be posted on the U21 Education web page.

Radhika Gorur
Lynn McAlpine
David Clarke

List of Participants

Tracy Lau	University of Hong Kong
Manla	University of Hong Kong
Gao Fang	University of Hong Kong
Simon Bailey	University of Nottingham
Elizabeth O’Gorman	University of Dublin
Colleen Blaney	University of Dublin
Kim Davies	University of Queensland
Jenny Arnold	University of Melbourne
Jayne Butler	University of Melbourne
Kollen Sussman	University of Melbourne
Radhika Gorur	University of Melbourne
Dadong Hou	McGill University
Francis Huang	University of Virginia
M Townsend	University of Virginia
Paula A. Berneking	University of Virginia
Brian Ullman	University of Virginia
Constanza Tolosa	University of Auckland
Guo Jianpeng	University of Hong Kong
Deanna Christine Vogt	University of Virginia
Beverley Sweeny	University of Virginia
Lavinia Johns	U21 Secretariat
David Clarke	University of Melbourne
Lynn McAlpine	McGill University