

*Universitas 21*  
**Meeting No. 12 of the U21 Deans of Education Group**

**Monday, April 13, 2009**

**San Diego, U.S.A.**

**Location: Manchester Grand Hyatt**

**Room: Emma C**

**Time: 9 am to 12:30 pm**

**Present:**

David Clarke, Melbourne ([d.clarke@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:d.clarke@unimelb.edu.au)) (convenor)

Graeme Aitken, Auckland ([g.aitken@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.aitken@auckland.ac.nz))

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Rob Tierney, UBC ([rob.tierney@ubc.ca](mailto:rob.tierney@ubc.ca))

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Joao Pedro da Ponte, Lisbon (observer) ([jpponte@fc.ul.pt](mailto:jpponte@fc.ul.pt))

*U21 Doctoral Student Representatives*

Radhika Gorur, Melbourne ([radhikagorur@yahoo.com](mailto:radhikagorur@yahoo.com))

Paula Berneking, Virginia ([pab5k@cms.mail.virginia.edu](mailto:pab5k@cms.mail.virginia.edu))

### **Summary of Key Events**

1. **Welcome** – In welcoming participants, David stressed the new program format, aimed at the stimulation of productive discussion and exchange of ideas, rather than conforming to a more conventional committee meeting format. As a consequence of this less conventional format, there were no motions as such, and the meeting had the character of a forum rather than a business meeting. This relatively brief report reflects that informality.
2. **Noting of Report of Last Year's Meeting (without discussion)**
3. **Report of Doctoral Students 2009 FINE event (Forum for International Networking in Education)** – Radhika Gorur and Paula Berneking (student reps.) reported on a successful meeting. A copy of the report circulated to FINE members is

attached as Appendix A. A key outcome of the FINE meeting was the completion by a FINE working group of a mission statement and goals for FINE. These are attached to this report as Appendix B. It is clear that the FINE group continues to gain momentum and more widespread participation beyond just the AERA conference. On behalf of the FINE group, Radhika and Paula asked for the Deans' support (particularly financial support) in assisting doctoral students at all stages of their candidature to attend conferences such as AERA and participate in FINE networking activities. The Deans' group commended FINE on their various initiatives.

**3. Deans' Roundtable**

A brief "round-the-table" presentation by each institution of developments within their institution. Each presentation occupied about 10 minutes and each generated significant discussion. Notable among the contributions was a particularly informative presentation from the group from Fudan University, where a Research Institute for Higher Education is being established. Since the information exchanged is largely available from the websites of the various Schools of Education, there is no particular value in summarizing the various contributions. There was a feeling that for future meetings, participants should distribute documentation, where possible, to provide a record of the new programs and other new initiatives being undertaken.

**4. FOCUS DISCUSSION: Global influence on educational policy and practice**

Brief invited position papers/statements by three participants were followed by general discussion. Professors Hope, Menter and Tierney made quite distinct presentations on the theme and a lively discussion ensued. In fact, discussion continued 30 minutes beyond the appointed time and only concluded due to the requirement to vacate the room. In keeping with the nature of an interactive forum, no summary would adequately represent the lively discussion. However, various points of common interest were identified between particular participants and it was clear that fruitful communication and collaboration would continue beyond the confines of the meeting.

**5. Aspiration into Action: Where to from here?**

All present expressed their appreciation for both the opportunity to meet and for the more interactive program. The continuation of the U21 Deans of Education group as a pre-AERA forum was universally endorsed, but with the agreement that the starting time should be one hour earlier, with a light breakfast provided for participants. The location of the meeting on the first morning of the AERA conference was strongly endorsed, several participants stressing the opportunity this provided to arrange subsequent meetings during the conference to pursue matters of common interest. It appeared that rather than function as a form of committee with variable membership and uncertain capacity to implement any general proposals, the U21 Deans of Education meeting is most effective in providing a forum for the exchange of issues of immediate interest and current concern, and in catalysing collaborative activity among the participants and those Schools of Education represented at the meeting. Funds will be sought from U21 to support meetings of both the Deans of Education and the FINE group as active networks supporting a variety of collaborative initiatives across U21.

**DINNER: Oceanaire Seafood Room (8:15 pm onwards)** – The U21 Deans' Dinner has become something of an institution and was very well attended. Its location on the first evening of the conference provided further opportunity for participants to identify areas of common interest and to arrange further meetings, both during the conference and further into the future.

## **Appendix A**

### **Report Following the FINE '09 Events in San Diego, USA, April 12-16 2009**

Dear FINE Folk,

I think all those present would agree that our recent meeting at AERA San Diego was a resounding success, with 13 students from four different universities (McGill, UBC, Melbourne and NSW) and several academics attending the Forum. A list of attendees and the agenda of the meeting are appended at the bottom of this report for those who were unable to be present.

Importantly, this meeting moved FINE into phase 2 – with wider sharing of responsibility and a spread of events beyond AERA. I summarise below some of the key developments.

#### **A FINE Committee**

There was wonderful enthusiasm in the FINE group this year to take on responsibility to nurture and promote FINE. Paula Berneking (Virginia), Esther Chan (Melbourne) and Jae Yup (NSW) volunteered and we now have a team of people with exciting new ideas. I am confident that with the expansion of the team, FINE will grow to provide great opportunities to U21 doctoral students.

#### **Mission Statement**

During this year's FINE forum and subsequent meetings over breakfast, Jae, Paula and Esther formed a working group to draft the mission statement and four goals for the group for the year. We look forward to more from this team on the mission statement and goals.

#### **Newsletter**

One of the goals of this team is to produce a FINE newsletter, and Esther and Jonghwi Park will be working on this venture. Planning for the first edition is already underway.

#### **FINE membership**

There was discussion with regard to the membership of FINE, and it was decided that we would consider the alumni of U21 universities to also be part of the FINE group. This would ensure some continuity within the group.

#### **The FINE Database**

If you have not had a look recently at the FINE database, do have a look (go to <http://www.universitas21.com/Education/FINE.html> and click on the link 'download database' and use the password 'education') – we now have 47 members from 10 universities signed up, with each member providing details such as the title and a brief synopsis of their thesis. This is a tremendous resource for student networking, and it is wonderful to see how the membership to this database has grown recently. The idea of the database was to make it possible for conversations and collaborations to occur between students with similar research interests. Perhaps these conversations are already occurring. It would be very good for the U21 community to hear how the database is being used – please do write to one of the FINE coordinators (names and email addresses at the bottom of the page) to let us know. And if you have not entered your details into the database as yet, please do so using the link on the website.

#### **FINE in Europe?**

Is there any interest in a FINE forum during EARLI or ECER 2009? If you are attending either of these conferences and would like to be part of a FINE activity, or know someone at your university who is attending and might be interested in FINE participation, please let us know. Any volunteers to help coordinate these events? David Clarke is going to EARLI and I will be at ECER. If there is any interest at all, we need to know soon so that funding can be sought and events planned.

#### **The U21 Deans of Education Meeting**

Paula and I attended a meeting of the Deans of Ed from various U21 universities, which is coordinated by David Clarke. It was a very interesting meeting where the Deans or their representatives shared how things were going in their respective universities and discussed the types of issues they are dealing with currently. Ideas were also exchanged on the internationalisation of education.

Together with Paula. I presented a report on the FINE meeting. Paula made a particular plea for funding for students in their first or second year to attend the AERA conference and to participate in FINE. David will be posting the minutes of this meeting on the U21 website if you want to have a look.

### **Thanks and Acknowledgements**

A very big thank you to David and Lynn for their commitment to the group. David has spent hours on securing funding from U21, organising the room and catering, booking restaurants, liaising with the U21 Deans and Associate Deans to promote information on FINE and to encourage participation, and working with me to develop a program of events in San Diego.

Lynn's and Chris' presentations were outstanding – thought-provoking and very useful – our grateful thanks to them for such wonderful presentations.

Thanks also to Bob Bracewell and Rob Tierney for attending the meeting – FINE feels very encouraged when U21 academics take interest in its welfare. We also had three guests from Fudan university in attendance. The participation of several academics added a valuable dimension to the discussion, culminating in Rob Tierney's encouragement for the FINE group to take on a more active advocacy role on behalf of U21 doctoral students in Education.

Regards,  
Radhika

Contact:

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## **FINE 09 – Participants and Key Events**

### **Students:**

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### **Academics:**

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Rob Tierney, UBC ([rob.tierney@ubc.ca](mailto:rob.tierney@ubc.ca))

### **Key Events:**

**FINE Forum** Sunday, April 12, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, *Salon B, Omni San Diego hotel*

**Dinner hosted by FINE** Sunday April 12, 7:00 pm – *Venue: Candelas*

**FINE Breakfast 1** Tuesday, April 14, 7:30 am – *Venue - Café Chloe*

**FINE Breakfast 2** Thursday, April 16, 7:30 am – *Venue - Café Chloe*

# FINE '09

Sunday, April 12

**Salon B of the Omni San Diego**

1:00pm to 5:00pm

## PROGRAM

### Student Attendees

Paula Berneking (Virginia); Jayne Butler (University of Melbourne); Man Ching Esther Chan (University of Melbourne); Shuhua Chen (McGill); Radhika Gorur (University of Melbourne); Donna Hill (UBC); Jae Yup Jung (University of New South Wales); Ashwani Kumar (UBC); Lay Hoon Seah (University of Melbourne); Li Hua Xu (University of Melbourne)

### Academic Facilitators

Prof David Clarke (University of Melbourne), Lynn McAlpine (McGill University)

**Special Guests** Chris Davison (University of NSW) Rongri Lin (Fudan), Qingnian Xiong (Fudan), and Tian Linghui (Vanderbilt/Fudan), Bob Bracewell (McGill), Rob Tierney (UBC)

**Official photographer:** Lay Hoon Seah

**Minutes:** Jayne Butler

**Report to U21 Newsletter** - volunteer

- |     |         |   |                      |
|-----|---------|---|----------------------|
| 1.  | 1:00 pm | Welcome and Introductions   | <b>David/Radhika</b> |
| 2.  | 1:20 pm | Confirmation of the agenda  | <b>Radhika</b>       |
| 3.  | 1:30 pm | Perspectives on doctoral student education                                | <b>David</b>         |
|     |         | a. Chris Davison - Research training for doctoral students at NSW and HKU |                      |
|     |         | b. Lynn McAlpine- Making the transition to post-doctoral life             |                      |
| 4.  | 2:00pm  | The PhD experience – sharing stories                                      | <b>Lynn</b>          |
|     |         | a. Paula Berneking- The life of a doctoral student in the US              |                      |
|     |         | b. Li Hua Xu – On being a full-time international student                 |                      |
|     |         | c. Small group discussion - ALL   |                      |
| 5.  | 2:30 pm | Navigating AERA   | <b>Lynn</b>          |
|     |         | a. Jae Yup Jung: Hopes and anxieties of a first-timer                     |                      |
|     |         | b. Radhika Gorur: The AERA Graduate Student Council                       |                      |
|     |         | c. Jayne Butler: What I learned from AERA '08                             |                      |
|     |         | d. General discussion   |                      |
| 6.  | 3:15 pm | Coffee Break  | <b>All</b>           |
| 7.  | 3:45 pm | The FINE group – purposes and functions                                   | <b>All</b>           |
| 8.  | 4:15 pm | Looking ahead – plans for beyond FINE '09                                 | <b>David/Radhika</b> |
| 9.  | 4:40 pm | Connecting with the Deans' Meeting  | <b>David</b>         |
| 10. | 4:50 pm | Thanks and acknowledgements   | <b>Radhika</b>       |

## **Appendix B**

### **FINE Mission Statement and Goals**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Forum for International Networking in Education (FINE) is an international group of doctoral students from Universitas 21 Schools of Education who cooperate and collaborate in order to better understand educational issues from a global perspective. The group seeks to provide opportunities for social and professional networking and possibilities for collaborative research and enhanced academic and career prospects.

#### **Goals: 2009-2010**

1. Promote conversations between students with common research interests
2. Increase communication to and among members through newsletters and online discussions
3. Appeal to Deans to help fund early stage graduates to attend international conferences such as AERA and EARLI and the FINE events associated with them
4. Serve as an advisory and advocacy body representing the needs of the FINE community