

Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council Meeting of November 19, 2013
Held in room 104 CH

PRESENT: D. Brown; K. DeForest; R. Gasse; S. Grills; S. Gouthro; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; R. Major; M. Malainey; C. Mason; A. McCulloch; J. Muehlbauer; S. Medd; J. Naylor; C. Navid; K. Noll; S. Petrella; D. Racine; L. Robson; B. Rose; M. Serfaty; D. Taylor; S. Tsukamoto; K. Wong; C. Kazakoff-Lane (Library); Sh. Grills (SS); J. Allan, J. Carlson, D. Brandt (Sessionals); L. Murray (recorder); M. Malazdrewicz (Chair).

REGRETS: B. Strang, K. Beesley; S. Robinson; E. Varley.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (MacKay/Kramer) -- THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (Naylor/Serfaty) – THAT the Minutes of the AFC meeting of October 8 and continued on October 15th, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chair's Report

On the invitation of the Chair, Dr. Lisa Robson reported that the Dean of Arts Search Committee will be starting their work on November 28th by meeting with all Arts Chairs and Coordinators.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Course/Calendar Changes – see attached chart detailing all approved changes

MOTION: (Malainey/Racine) – THAT the changes in Anthropology be accepted and that 12:3XX Anthropology of Development and 12:4XX Anthropology of Global Public Health be accepted as new courses.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Kramer/Petrella) -- THAT the title and description changes in English be approved.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (McCulloch/Brown) -- THAT the description of 36/82:280 Human Sexuality be changed, THAT 36/82:378 Psychology of Sex and Gender be deleted, and THAT 36:4XX Gender, War and Peace be approved as a new course.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (MacKay/Serfaty) -- THAT 36/54:4XX Women in Industrialising Society be accepted as a new course.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Racine/Tsukamoto) – THAT degree and course changes for Native Studies be approved. (see attached chart for details)

CARRIED.

It was suggested that the rationales for 68:275 and 390 be expanded to include the information offered at AFC.

MOTION: (Serfaty/Medd) – THAT 78:2XX Comparative Politics and 78:3XX Middle Eastern Politics be accepted as new courses, and THAT the title and description change for 78:382 International Law and Diplomacy be accepted.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Noll/Brown) -- THAT the course changes in Religion be accepted. (see attached chart)

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Petrella/McCulloch) -- THAT the new course 90/36:367 Race, Representative, and Reproductive Justice be accepted as a new Regular course.

CARRIED.

PLAR – Gary McNeely could not attend. This item will be discussed at the next AFC meeting.

4.2 CAP update – R. Gasse, Arts Rep on Senate

CAP used to be a bit of a rubber-stamping committee but with membership changes, this committee has now become very diligent in vetting new courses. A good rationale is essential and should be strong, based on how the course fits into the curriculum in a positive way, indicates how it offers students the most up-to-date information, notes if it's a foundational course, complements other courses, is a capstone course, etc. It should also be noted how the department plans on offering the course, look at deleting courses, note how the course will be possible, pre-requisites need to be carefully considered, don't say that library resources are adequate if you haven't checked that yet. It is also now expected that learning objectives and outcomes should be part of your course outlines. The outline is seen as a contract between the student and the faculty and must be detailed.

Concerns were raised about academic freedom, that AFC asks Dr. Gasse to speak against these types of changes, whether AFC should propose our concerns before Senate, etc.

4.3 AFC Direction to Arts Executive – L. Robson, Chair of AFC Executive and Agenda

Dr. Robson stated that the Executive requires some direction from AFC. The committee has been working quite procedurally. AFC would like the Executive to be more proactive, asking questions about items, suggesting changes, etc. -- not approving and disapproving submissions but being more hands-on in order to streamline things before they arrive at AFC.

Members agreed that polishing submissions prior to their arrival at AFC is most useful, but there was concern over 'policing' of Departmental items and that an item would not go forward to AFC if objections were not addressed. It was suggested that perhaps the by-laws need to be changed to clarify the duties of the Executive and Agenda Committee.

The Executive noted that the point of a hands-on approach is to try to ensure that all information is provided and to prevent things being turned away from CAP. However, on a couple of occasions their feedback to the instructor was met with an angry response because it was assumed that the Executive did not have the authority to offer such suggestions. Therefore

the Executive is seeking clarification. It is already within the authority of the Executive to act in AFC absence: approving or denying urgent requests and work arriving during the summer months. However, the extent of their role in reviewing the agenda items prior to AFC is vague.

Members approved of the more hands-on role of the Executive -- to ask questions, make suggestions, streamline the process, etc. --while keeping in mind the concerns raised in this discussion.

4.4 Security on campus

Allison McCulloch informed members that a former BU student had been intimidating students and faculty in Gender and Women's Studies and the President and has recently been banned from campus. She noted that there doesn't seem to be much direction on how to deal with these situations and feels the administration needs to make this a safer campus.

Sheilagh Grills, Student Services representative, noted that she has been threatened three times and twice hit. She believes that Mr. Tom Brophy, the new Associate V-P, would like a clear cut up-to-date policy including guidelines on working alone. Carman Kazakoff-Lane also noted that students working after hours in the library have expressed feelings of not being safe.

MOTION: (Serfaty/Petrella) -- THAT Arts Faculty Council recommends that the senior administration create a committee, with broad university campus representation, to look at the issue of security on campus.

CARRIED.

5.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 and will continue November 26th, same time and location.