

Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council Meeting
Held on October 8, 2013 in room 104 CH

PRESENT: D. Combet; K. DeForest; R. Gasse; H. Gillander; S. Grills; S. Gouthro; K. Irvine; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; R. Major; M. Malainey; M. Malazdrewicz; C. Mason; L. Mayer; A. McCulloch; J. Muehlbauer; S. Medd; J. Naylor; C. Navid; K. Noll; S. Petrella; M. Pollex; D. Racine; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; I. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; M. Serfaty; D. Taylor; E. Varley; D. Winter; F. Zehtab-Jadid; J. Allen; B. Davis; S. Tsukamoto; S. Leitch; J. Thomas (Sessionals); B. Strang (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

REGRETS: K. Bessant; Sh. Grills (Student Services).

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Gasse/Malazdrewicz) – THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (Robson/MacKay) – THAT the Minutes of the meeting of September 3, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED.

Dr. Strang introduced Dr. Gervan Fearon, Vice-President (Academic and Provost). Dr. Fearon spoke briefly about why he was interested in coming to BU and answered questions re Presidential and Decanal searches and his vision for an academic plan. He was questioned about the use of Recruiters for these positions and whether the expense of doing so was wise at this time. Dr. Fearon agreed that we need to be sensitive to the costs and noted there are pros and cons to the decision. Sometimes the right people don't step forward and need to be approached.

Dr. Fearon noted that we've all been very welcoming and kind to him. We don't have to agree on everything or have all the answers, but we are all working for the betterment of the University community and for this he thanked everyone.

3.2 Counselling Services at BU – Sherry Sawatzky-Dyck

Mrs. Sandy McMaster and Ms. Sherry Sawatzky-Dyck work 8:30 – 4:30, every day, all year. They are trained to work with students on a huge spectrum of issues: personal, depression, anxiety, marital, group, etc. If we encounter students showing actions such as self-destructive behaviour or unusual responses to questions or assignments that raise concerns for the student or for the instructor, please contact Student Services. They can come to us, the student can come to them, or another student can bring the student to Student Services. The counsellors always have a spot available in their day to allow for a crises situation.

Ms. Sawatzky-Dyck also provided contact information for the Westman Crisis Services for after office hours situations. Their Mobile Crisis Unit can be reached at 725-4411 or 1-888-379-7699 or at www.brandonrha.mb.ca and they operate 24 hours a day.

Questions arose about privacy issues and what is and is not allowed. Ms. Sawatzky-Dyck confirmed that you can contact Student Services directly and provide a student's name and or the issue. We are all working together on the campus in one system for the student. It is allowed. Some faculty have simply told students that unless they go see someone in Student Services they will not be allowed an extension

on a paper, rewrite, deferred exam, etc. so that they know they are taken care of. Student Services will then confirm, with permission of the student, that they met with someone.

3.3 Course Changes

MOTION: (Gillander/Taylor) – THAT 16:090 Bookkeeping course description be changed (as corrected); THAT the C+ requirement be removed from 16:252; 16:253, 16:254; 16:352, THAT 16:378 Corporate Finance be moved to the 400 level to reflect the current course content; and THAT the prerequisites for 16:395 Business Policy be simplified.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Gouthro/Malazdrewicz) -- THAT the new Fine Arts Studio Minor be approved.

Prof. Gouthro stated that this is a broader minor intended for Education students. Questions arose about process and whether permission was needed from COPSE, and if the number of upper-level courses could be increased.

MOTION: (Serfaty/Gouthro) -- THAT the proposed Minor in Studio Art be referred to the AFC Review and Planning Committee for suggestions and returned to AFC by the next meeting.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Gouthro/Petrella) – THAT the calendar changes in Visual Arts be approved.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Gouthro/Grills) -- THAT the changes to the Visual Arts stream within Creative Arts Degree be approved.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (McCulloch/Robson) -- THAT the new course 36/30:3XX Literature and Masculinity be approved.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Racine/Petrella) -- THAT the new Experimental course 68:3XX Trauma Across Gender and Social Context be approved.

CARRIED.

It was suggested that a fuller description of course requirements such as size of assignment, details, parameters, length of papers, etc. might be helpful for the CAP approval process.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements:

Meira Cook is presenting at 1:30 today in the Elephant Room.

Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

MORE ON DR. FEARON's talk: , noting that as an Economics Professor he is a Faculty of Arts person. He came to Brandon for a couple of reasons: BU has an incredible amount of history and incredible amount of promise. We have made significant contributions to the province and the country. We may think of ourselves as being local but we do have an extensive reach to the world. Brandon also seems to have a lot of pride about having both a university and a college. Finally, part of his discovery of BU was the BU Mission Statement and the Preamble to the C.A. When he asked himself if he could live and embody these two statements, the answer was yes.

In response to questions about the Presidential search, Dr. Fearon stated that the Board is forming the search committee and that as far as he knew, there was no discussion about leaving the position vacation for one year as a cost-saving move.

When asked to elaborate on the development of an academic plan for BU, Dr. Fearon stated that it is a focal point for what we do or how we conduct ourselves; where we are aiming to get in our voyage. Something to share with all Faculty Councils and Senate to provide a framework or approach to the process. All Academic Units should say what their role is within our key priorities.

Dr. Fearon was asked if the University could provide clear research requirements or benchmarks for Tenure and Promotion. He suggested that each faculty/academic unit can come up with a set of practices and standards, but that we should think of ourselves not just here, but in consideration of the requirements of other universities.

In response to a question about the Dean of Arts search and whether a head-hunter would be used, Dr. Fearon replied that the committee is forming and it was decided to use a recruitment company. Faculty expressed concern about the abilities and costs of head-hunters. Dr. Fearon agreed that it is important to consider costs. There will be pros and cons. Pros are that quite often outside of a university, people may not step forward. They may be interested but the knock on the door often nudges them to act. Sometimes questions can be asked of a head-hunter that one would be uncomfortable raising in front of a hiring committee.