

Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council meeting  
Held on December 9, 2014 in room 104 CH

PRESENT: J. Allan; D. Combet; K. Deforest; R. Gasse; S. Gills; S. Gouthro; K. Hardy; P. Harms; E. Holland; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; M. Malazdrewicz; L. Mayer; S. Medd; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; D. Racine; B. Rose; K. Saunders; M. Serfaty; D. Smid; B. Strang; K. Temky (Geog.); S. Grills (S.S.); S. Robinson (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

REGRETS: R. Major; M. Malainey; E. Varley.

**1.0 Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION: (Racine/Petrella) – THAT the Agenda be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

**2.0 Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION: (Gasse/Gouthro) – THAT the Minutes of the November 18, 2014, AFC meeting be approved with a correction under 4.2 replacing ‘student health insurance’ with ‘student liability insurance.’**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION: (Petrella/Racine) – THAT the Minutes of the November 25, 2014, AFC meeting be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

**3.0 Chairs’ Report**

- Staffing/budget. Arts currently faces three vacancies next year (two in Sociology, one in Native Studies). The Dean requested the filling of these three positions, together with requests for three term positions to help cover leaves. At the moment, only one of these has been approved to be advertised and filled (the Datta position in Sociology). Sociology, with sabbatical leaves next year, could be down to two positions from five and a half. The Native Studies position has been delayed, and all term replacements denied. As the year develops this may change.
- Institutional Collaboration. Last Tuesday the Acting Dean attended a meeting in Winnipeg between senior admin of both institutions to initiate on-going discussions on collaborative credentials. These talks are preliminary, but there appear to be some common concerns that will be followed up in the new year. The week before that, we met on this campus with the senior admin team from ACC for the same purpose, and we reviewed all of our current collaborations and affirmed our desire to work together on many others. There is a real sense of enthusiasm on both sides to move forward together in ways that can better serve all of our students. There have been difficulties in accommodating students at both ends so there is work to be done, but great potential to work more together. It would be nice to have a signature program or event that could symbolize our work together for the public. Once people see us as cooperative it may ease some issues.
- External Reviews. BU is haltingly moving toward the norm in Canadian universities of using regular external reviews of units as a tool for improving performance overall, and though there have been considerable delays resulting from changes in the VPA’s Office, they are now getting under way in Arts. Two will happen next term (History and G&WS) and two more in the fall (Anthropology and Economics).
- Dr. Robinson’s term in the Dean’s Office. As was announced yesterday, Dr. Robinson will be continuing in the Dean of Arts Office one more term, this time as Associate Dean of Arts, to assist Dr. Tryphonopoulos in transitioning to the Deanship in the middle of a very busy year. Details have yet to be worked out as to how the work will be shared, but he looks forward to assisting Demetres and the Faculty any way he can in this new, temporary role.

Dr. Holland questioned whether there a document indicating the cooperation with ACC and what the process is? The Dean replied that yes, there is an MOU formally declaring intent but no formal process. They will be working towards establishing procedures. Dr. Racine noted that one of the problems is that the students often have no writing skills and are jumping into 3<sup>rd</sup> year courses.

Dr. Serfaty asked what the term positions that were denied were. The Dean answered that one is in Sociology, one in Political Science, and one to cover an LTD. Dr. Serfaty expressed his concern about sessionals being funded and strongly recommended that this money is lined up soon so that courses can be advertised. The Dean said he will be guided by what you put forward in sessional requests in his attempts to gather funds. He feels the signals from senior admin confirm that sessional support is necessary. But even in this current year, support is not necessarily there for all sabbatical positions.

Dr. Racine inquired as to how many positions have been cancelled or delayed within the administration. It is important for all to know if sacrifices are being felt all over. Dr. Robinson confirmed that there are delayed positions within admin but can't provide details off the top of his head. He also noted that the kind of talks that are occurring around these issues are very cooperative with the best interests of the University in mind. Not simply each administrator defending their area, which they do, but also advocating at times for other areas.

Dr. Allan requested that people stop referring to positions by the previous incumbent's name. Dr. Robinson replied that names are attached to line positions in internal documents but that we can certainly stop doing so in our own conversations.

#### **4.0 New Business**

##### **4.1 Notice of Motion**

**MOTION: (MacKay/Saunders) – THAT Arts Faculty Council meetings continue to be held in the free slot (Tuesday 12:40 – 1:30 pm.), but that they be allowed to run an extra 30 minutes to 2:00 p.m., with the proviso that wherever possible, urgent or contentious items will be scheduled early in the meeting so that all members will be able to participate.**

Dr. MacKay has brought this forward on behalf of Arts Executive concerns. There have been a large number of meetings this term. This is simply one option to deal with the time issues, but others are welcome.

**CARRIED.**

Dr. Robinson noted that Dr. Malainey has asked that if the motion passes, there should be a provision or amendment that business that affects particular departments cannot be discussed in the absence of members of that department (who had to go off and teach in slot 13). Members felt the motion covered the concern raised by Dr. Malainey. There was some discussion of other time options.

##### **4.2 Academic Plan**

We had a good discussion at the last AFC meeting although it could not be well attended due to the Declare Fair. The plan is being polished up and when ready it will appear on the website. Different areas of the university will have different roles and not every action item applies to every area. For example A.vii doesn't really apply to Arts but will be done by other areas.

Arts will need to complete something like the sample chart in the agenda package. We need to create this for the March Senate so AFC will need to have approved our document prior to this date. This does seem to be a job best suited to Arts Review and Planning. This is a big task. They may wish to not take it all for themselves, but this should be a good place for dialogue to start. This committee should meet and

decide the best manner in which to move forward. Individual departments will also need to have their own discussions but perhaps after Arts sets a plan of action.

Dr. Harms was concerned about the Academic Plan work occurring at the same time as the Departmental Reviews in both History and Gender. The Dean felt both exercises should actually work well together. Dr. Naylor requested that Arts R&P communicate with Chairs/Coordinators. Prof. Gouthro questioned if it was just the Faculty document, and not the Departmental documents, that are due in March. The Dean confirmed this. This exercise is just for the faculty as a whole. But the Academic Plan applies to all levels and so at some time individuals and departments will need to consider how they will work forward with this plan in mind. He stated that we have a tremendous opportunity to engage in creative thinking and openness, especially in the beginning states.

Since 1992 participation rates in MB universities has increased 42%. In that same period our enrolment has declined 25%. We are not a leading institution of choice and have not been for 20 years. Now this issue is complicated (eg Winnipeg's population has increased while Brandon's has not) but that statistic suggests that maybe we could be doing something differently. Dr. Strang stated that one issue that proves bothersome is the way our liberal arts distribution requirements are laid out. A review of this would be useful.

The decision to send the document to AFC Review and Planning was made by consensus.

#### 4.3 Course/Calendar Changes

**MOTION: (Naylor/MacKay) – THAT 54:4XX *The Mediterranean in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* be approved as a new course.**

Dr. Gasse suggested a reading list be included. Dr. Strang explained that this will be looked at week by week and the students will define the topics and direct the readings.

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION: (Racine/Mayer) – THAT 68:3AX *Indigenous Feminism* be approved as a new course.**

Dr. Gasse pointed out the grade scale is missing as well as the statements on accommodations and academic integrity. Dr. Mayer agreed to put both items in the course outline.

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION: (Racine/Mayer) – THAT the cross-listings with Departments 96 and 97 (which no longer exist) be removed from 68:454 *Native Health Issues*.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

#### 6.0 Other Business/Announcements/Recognition

MOTION: (Allan/Medd) THAT Recognition be moved to the beginning of the meetings.  
Agreed by consensus.

#### 7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.