

Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council meeting
Held on January 21, 2014 in room 104 CH

PRESENT: K. Bessant; D. Brown; K. DeForest; R. Gasse; E. Graham; S. Grills; S. Gouthro; R. Hinthier; K. Irvine; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; R. Major; M. Malainey; M. Malazdrewicz; C. Mason; A. McCulloch; P. Morin; J. Naylor; K. Noll; S. Petrella; S. Robinson; L. Robson; B. Rose; M. Serfaty; D. Taylor; E. Varley; D. Winter; K. Wong; D. Taylor (HS); C. Kazakoff-Lane (Library); M. Godoy (BUSU); J. Allan; L. Glendinning (sessionals); B. Strang (Chair).

REGRETS: S. Medd; L. Murray; K. Saunders.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Robson/Gasse) – THAT the Agenda be approved with the following additions: 4.3 Recommendation for SKDVP; 4.4 Arts Rep for the Strategic Enrolment Management Committee; and 4.5 Arts Rep for the Steering Committee for the Academic Plan.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (Petrella/Malazdrewicz) – THAT the Minutes of the meeting of November 19 (and continued on November 26), 2013 be accepted with one change:

Last sentence under item 4.7 should read ‘prior to the next academic year’ not calendar year.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chair’s Report

Dr. Strang noted that in Lisa Murray’s absence, the meeting was being recorded. This recording will be erased once Lisa prepares the minutes.

- The Dean welcomed Dr. Rhonda Hinthier, Department of History, and Prof. Peter Morin in Visual and Aboriginal Art.
- Budget: The process has changed a bit this year. This is the first year the Dean has not been asked to prepare a proposed budget anticipating a 5% cut. The talk centred instead on positions. The Dean’s stance was that Arts had nothing to discuss as all three of our positions were approved for advertising last year. As per AFC policy, R&P was consulted and the Dean discussed his approach with them. R&P had no formal recommendations to make to senior administration. In time, it became apparent that these previously approved positions were brought back into the discussion. Senior administration informed the Dean that a balanced budget proposal meant that we would go forward in the immediate term for 2 positions but not a third. The ad for the Sociology hiring was held up by senior administration and then stopped. They informed the Dean they were considering eliminating the position. Sociology was then informed and they have continued to advocate on their behalf, as has the Dean. The senior admin has formulated a response and has acceded to a request for sessional money to provide bridging for this and next year. Sociology asked for advertising in the fall of 2015 for hiring in spring of 2016 and they have been granted this request. Given that a similar promise was made last year, the Dean has asked for that agreement in writing. The Dean also hopes to push this forward to begin fall of 2014.

Dr. Brown requested some idea of the timeline of these events.

Feb/March the Dean learned of the vacancy. Sociology did an amended staffing plan. Arts was given approval to begin the process to fill the position this fall. Then in August/September,

requests for additional budgetary information came from the V-P (A&R). In November, the Dean was asked bluntly which two positions would be filled if those were the only 2 allowed. The Dean put forward Anthropology and Business. Late in November, in a President's Executive Council committee meeting, more decisions were made and communicated to President's Advisory Committee in late November that they were not prepared to fill the Sociology position. The Dean then informed Sociology.

- Enrolments – No new report. At the drop date we were up 4% generally in Arts.
- Dr. Naylor asked if research mentorship money was available. The Dean reported that the AFC Research Committee will be convened to discuss what to do with approximately \$12,000 – possibly payment for two stipends for a member to serve as a research facilitator in Arts; or course release and sessional payment; or money to distribute to faculty members. Options will be discussed by the committee when they meet. Dr. MacKay said that she hopes that the committee brings their recommendation to AFC for a decision and does not have the final say themselves.
- Dr. Serfaty asked about the Pension Plan situation. The Dean replied that the final valuation letter is due in April. Plan is doing quite well on investment return on income. Two negative indicators are that long term interest rates remain very low. Secondly, annuities are essentially purchased at a member's retirement date so as long as interest rates remain low, a greater amount of money is required per retiree. Situation is better than it was, but not yet as great as you might think.

Dr. Brown reported that the rough estimate of gains in the plan for 2013 is 18%, which is higher than expected. The more Canadianized life-expectancy charts that Canadian plans are now required to use will likely not negatively impact the valuation of our plan, as our plan was originally constructed by reference to academic-specific charts, which will likely be insensitive to Canadianization. The long-term interest rates are also up over half a percent over a year ago, which will significantly improve our plan valuation, perhaps eliminating a third (or more) of our deficit. As a result the University Special Payments should be significantly reduced over last year.

- Draft Budget talked about a decrease in sessional funds. All the Deans have been very vocal that this is not a realizable goal and we now have a commitment that the full levels of sessional funding will be provided. We hope to see these already very lean levels continue for Arts.
- A concern for a long time has been that the faculties are isolated from enrolment – there is no return on enrolment increases to the faculties. There has been much discussion here. University may provide some additional funds for higher than expected levels of enrolment. If we bring in students we should be rewarded and provided with the extra funds required to then teach these additional students. There is a possibility that we may be able to get 60% of any tuition increase beyond 2% to flow back to the faculty for academic programming – eg. student advising, sessionals, research. A discussion will be held if this does eventually occur. Dr. MacKay asked if there was a penalty if the 2% was not met. The Dean replied no and that this would be done on a faculty not departmental basis.

4.1 Dr. Petrella spoke about the Sociology position and resulting motion.

MOTION: (Petrella/Grills) – WHEREAS:

- 1) The Department of Sociology has been informed that a line position has been eliminated from the department, (The department has also been informed that the same position is open for reconsideration after a second year of holding the position vacant),**
- 2) The Vice-President (Academic and Provost) has informed the department "The decisions pertaining to Faculty positions underwent extensive consultation, through PAC and PEC,**

- involving with the provision of information and discussions with all the Dean.” (Email correspondence, December 10, 2013) and
- 3) The “Extensive consultation” process did not adequately include the Department, the Faculty of Arts and its relevant committees.

The Department of Sociology recommends to AFC that the following motion be forwarded to Senate for consideration:

MOTION: THAT AFC expresses its disapproval with the Budget Process at Brandon University. It is recommended that the Budget process include meaningful input from Departments/Units, Faculties/Schools, appropriate committees of Senate and the Senate on all matters that are related to the academic functions of the University prior to the presentation of the draft budget to the Board Budget Committee.

Additionally it is recommended that, no line position within the Professorial ranks, Professional Associates, Instructional Associates or Administrative Associates shall be eliminated from the budget of Brandon University without meaningful consultation with the Department/Unit, the Faculty/School, appropriate committees of Senate and the Senate. In all cases Senate shall review the impact of the loss of any position, paying particular attention to the loss of credit hours of instruction (if any) for the department/unit and related areas, the impact on students (including, but not limited to, time to degree completion), and the consequences for program integrity, scholarship and research, and community service. The Senate shall forward its review and its recommendation on the loss of the position to the Board of Governors for the purpose of informing the budget process and budget decisions. The Senate shall forward its review and its recommendation on the loss of the position to the Board of Governors for the purpose of informing the budget process and budget decisions.

Dr. Serfaty expressed favour with having the Senate involved in this because the issue in an academic matters. Dr. Brown suggested the Academic Operations Committee of the Board of Governors be involved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.2 Academics without Borders

Dr. Grills spoke as the University’s representative for Academics without Borders. They frequently offer projects that academics may be interested in. Dr. Grills puts possible faculty in connection with these projects. He suggested that sabbaticants may be interested in work in conjunction with this organization. Very important work is being done in Africa in re-establishing universities that have been destroyed. This is also a registered charity.

4.3 SKDVP

Sociology has put forth a nomination for approval by AFC. The deadline was January 15th and policy requires that AFC be consulted.

MOTION: (Grills/Graham) -- THAT AFC supports Sociology’s nomination for the Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professorship.

Dr. Grills gave a brief review of the applicant.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4.4 Arts Rep for the Strategic Enrolment Management Committee

MOTION: (Robson/Malazdrewicz) - THAT Dr. Scott Grills be elected as the Arts Rep to the Strategic Enrolment Management Committee

CARRIED.

4.5 Senate Steering Committee for Academic Planning

Dr. Strang discussed why this committee has been formed and what it may accomplish.

MOTION: (Naylor/McCulloch) – THAT the nomination be given to the AFC Nominations Committee.

Dr. Brown noted that the Steering committee will develop the mechanism for the academic plan, not create the plan itself.

CARRIED.

5.1 30:4XX The New Mother (and Father) Stories in Canadian Literature

MOTION: (Kramer/Rose) – THAT 30:4XX *The New Mother (and Father) Stories in Canadian Literature* be accepted as a new experimental course.

Dr. MacKay was concerned that this course is being taught by a sessional that has several other courses on the books and asked how this course fits in with the English program. Dr. Kramer noted that it builds on first year Canadian Literature courses and that it provides another 4th year option for students.

CARRIED.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements

Dr. McCulloch announced Dr. MacKay's book launch to be held in room 104 CH at 3:40 p.m. January 31st.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.