

Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council meeting
Held on March 11, 2014 in room 104 CH

PRESENT: A. Abdou; D. Brown; K. DeForest; J. Dolecki; R. Gasse; H. Gillander; E. Graham; S. Grills; S. Gouthro; R. Hinthner; K. Irvine; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; R. Major; M. Malainey; C. Mason; L. Mayer; A. McCulloch; P. Morin; J. Muehlbauer; J. Naylor; K. Noll; D. Racine; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; L. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; M. Serfaty; D. Taylor; E. Varley; D. Winter; F. Zehtab-Jadid; Sh. Grills (Student Services); J. Carlson, B. Davis, G. Gatin (sessionals); L. Murray (recorder); B. Strang (Chair).

REGRETS: S. Medd. S. Petrella.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

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

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (MacKay/Grills) – THAT the Minutes of the meeting of January 21, 2014, be approved with the addition of Dr. Brown’s comments on the pension plan.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chair’s Report

- On March 25, 12:40 – 2:30 p.m. in the Louis Riel room, Student Services is holding a “Declare Fair” to encourage students to declare a major. Faculty members are invited to participate.
- The Provincial Government plans to fold COPSE into the Minister of Education portfolio. We’re not sure what will happen to our proposals currently in front of the council.
- Senate has established the Centre for Teaching Learning and Technology. There was permanent money for improving teaching from the government but the new minister doesn’t believe in permanent funding. BU has put forward a proposal for 1 year funding. Moving forward with hiring a director.
- The ministry of Agriculture Food and Development just presented the Rural Development Institute with a cheque for \$110,000. This donation helps all our students, but in particular the Rural Development MA students.
- The V-P offered \$15,000 dollars for research support in Arts. These funds were to be used for two 3-credit course releases: 1 person responsible for workshops around grant writing, funding opportunities, etc. Another person would provide peer support: assisting with particular grant applications, etc. The remaining funds could be used to run workshops, and generally support research.

Members expressed some frustration with the options offered and research support in general. The AFC Research Committee requested input from AFC. The Dean noted that this money is coming from the indirect costs program so we need to be careful about how it is used.

MOTION: (Dolecki/Naylor) -- THAT the matter be referred back to the AFC Research Committee, asking them to take into account the conversation today, and bring back recommendations to AFC.

CARRIED.

- University budget: We have had presentations around broader issues including the pension plan. We have rough calculations now and the formal valuation will go to the pension board. We hope to come to a balanced budget while ensuring our current hirings will work through to fruition. There are however, substantial cuts to sessional funding and the Dean does not feel this is sustainable. Until the pension board rules as to what it intends to do nothing is known. The Dean reminded members that negotiations dealt with what happens when the insolvency payment calculation is done. Three parts, one to university revenue, one part to scholarships, and one part to BUFA members. The special payments will be influenced by the decisions of this board. There are some \$400,000 in cuts in sessional budgets across the university as part of the current draft budget.

MOTION: (Ramsey/Winter): THAT, in the case of a failed search, the President not be replaced for one year and that those salary savings be directed to sessional funding, etc.

CARRIED.

- Hirings: We are working to complete the Bio-Anthropology hiring. Business will meet this week. English search is now underway and the Sociology term search is also on the go.
- Departmental web pages: Some pages are up-to-date but some are not and have broken links. Basic updates and changes can be sent to Lisa Murray. The second issue is that supplementary course information is sometimes placed on Moodle on the S-drive or other external sites. The university is not saying don't do this, but be cautious. These documents are open to access, and unless in pdf format, can be manipulated by others.
- The Dean confirmed he has interviewed for a position in Halifax and noted that he did inform his boss and use his vacation time.

4.1 Course Changes

MOTION: (Racine/Gasse) – THAT the changes to Section 6 of the Academic Calendar be updated as presented.

CARRIED.

It was noted that such changes would be easier to see if the 'track changes' markings were visible.

MOTION: (Kramer/Rose) – THAT 30:2XX Digital Journalism be approved as a new course.

The Brandon Sun has an endowment that supplements the offering of this course. Dr. Grills noted that there is no grade allocation chart, disability accommodation, etc. on the course outline. The assignments for the last section where the students can be published in the Quill or write an essay do not seem comparable. In addition, the requirement to have a laptop is problematic. Dr. Kramer agreed to take this course back to the Department and resubmit at a later AFC.

MOTION WITHDRAWN.

The Fine Arts Minor was withdrawn.

MOTION: (Racine/Muehlbauer) – THAT 68:195 and 197 Michif I and II be accepted as new Regular courses.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Grills/Ramsey) – THAT 90:3XX *Sociology of Knowledge* be accepted as a new Experimental course.

Dr. Robson noted that the calendar placement was not needed for an experimental course. Philosophy noted that they cover roughly half of the content of this course and would welcome future conversations.

CARRIED.

Dr. McCulloch asked for guidelines on the additional materials to be included with CAP forms (syllabus, etc). Lisa Murray will send out the most recent CAP form as well as what she has for instructions to all Chairs and Coordinators.

Dr. Racine stated that the 99:3XX course in the agenda package will be reviewed and resubmitted at a future AFC under the Department of Native Studies.

MOTION: (Racine/Brown) -- THAT the changes in Physical Education requirements be approved.

CARRIED.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements
None.

6.1 Psychological Health Survey – S. Robinson

Workplace Health and Safety has not dealt very much with psychological health. There is now a new national standard with guidelines and resources preventing harm and enhancing mental health. A Workplace Psychological Wellness Committee is in the process of being struck. Consultants holding workshops recently at BU recommended that BU use this free survey. Employees will have a two week period to do the survey. It takes 15 minutes to fill out, is anonymous, and the more people participating, the more useful it is to BU. Results will be reported in aggregate but if there's enough participation it could be broken down further.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.