

Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council meeting  
Held on September 23, 2014 in room 104 CH

PRESENT: D. Brown; D. Combet; R. Gasse; S. Grills; S. Gouthro; R. Hinthner; E. Holland; K. Irvine; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; R. Major; M. Malainey; M. Malazdrewicz; A. McCulloch; S. Medd; K. Noll; S. Petrella; D. Racine; D. Ramsey; W. Robles; B. Rose; K. Saunders; M. Serfaty; D. Smid; S. Stankovic; D. Taylor; ?E. Varley; K. Wong; H. Zhuang; B. Davis (sessional); S. Robinson (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

REGRETS: J. Allan

GUEST: J. Springer (BUSU President)

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION: (Brown/Noll) – THAT the Agenda be approved with items 4.2 Research Certificate in Social Science and 4.3 Elections being moved to the beginning of the meeting; and with the addition of a Motion to consider providing Sessionals with voting rights at Arts Faculty Council.**

**CARRIED.**

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

**MOTION: (Petrella/Taylor) – THAT the Minutes of the AFC meeting of April 8, 2014, and continued on April 15, 2014, be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

4.6 Sessional Voting Rights

**MOTION: (Noll/Petrella) -- THAT Arts Sessionals be granted voting rights at AFC.**

**CARRIED.**

4.2 Research Certificate in Social Science

MOTION: (Petrella/Grills) – THAT the Certificate be approved.

Dr. Petrella introduced the Certificate and noted how it would benefit students interested in grad school. Sociology encourages other departments to consider doing something similar if so interested. In response to questions she and Dr. Grills replied that the term certificate in this case falls within the use of the word elsewhere at BU; that students need not be a 4-year honours student to take this certificate; that students should be able to complete the certificate without delay as the courses are regularly offered; no specific gpa is required but this does not compromise the academic rigour. Dr. Gasse suggested that point be clarified that as it goes forward to CAP.

**CARRIED.**

4.1 Elections

Dr. Alison McCulloch, Chair of Nominations, introduced the slate of nominees, noting that the previous Chair, Dr. Lisa Robson, did the bulk of the nominations work. All positions were elected by acclamation.

**Arts Faculty Committees:**

AFC Research Committee (3)  
+ two members of University Research Committee

Corinne Mason  
Mary Malainey  
Lorraine Mayer

AFC Review and Planning Committee (5)

Scott Grills  
Doug Ramsey  
Kevin DeForest  
Rachel Major  
Dale Lakevold

**University Committees:**

Faculty of Science Council, Arts Rep (1)  
University Tenure Committee, Arts Rep (1)  
University Promotions Committee, Arts Rep (1)  
Student Travel Fund Committee, Arts Rep (1)  
Advisory Committee for BU Community Outreach, Arts Rep (1)  
Steering Committee for CTLT, Arts Rep (1)  
Strategic Enrolment Management Committee, Arts Rep (1)

Jim Naylor  
Jim Forsythe  
Reinhold Kramer  
Cathy Mattes  
Lin Xu  
Mike Malazdrewicz  
Scott Grills

**Senate Committees:**

Senate Library Committee, Arts Rep (1)

Alan Levy

3.0 Chair's Report

Dr. Steve Robinson, Acting Dean, informed members that between now and the end of his term in December he hopes to have three more AFC meetings. There are several initiatives underway already this term. This creates a few issues and challenges. Scheduling of the AFC has also been a challenge and he noted that the meeting scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> will now be moved November 18<sup>th</sup>.

New Faculty: The Dean introduced the new faculty members: Kristin Hardy, Sociology; Jonathan Allan, Canada Research Chair in Queer Theory and housed in G&WS; Deanna Smid, English; Hejun Zhuang, Business Administration; Wilder Robles, Rural Development; Emily Holland, Anthropology; and Sasa Stankovic, Philosophy. He also mentioned that Dr. Hans Bakker, the 2014 Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor, is on campus until the end of December and his first talk is October 17 -- "Do you mean Sociologists Study the Rural?"

Enrolments: BU is up just over 3% in enrolments but only about 1% in credit hours. Arts is down with the most recent figures placing us down about 6-7% from last year at this time. Campus-wide enrolment is down about 25% from our peak enrolment in 1992, and we have many more faculty members and facilities from that time. Senior admin would like to pursue increased enrolment as a path to funding growth. An enrolment management strategy will be developed to consider how we could grow and how to avoid shrinking, unit by unit. The Acting Dean will be working with the Chairs and Coordinators to discuss this and other related matters.

We have always been challenged in finding methods to retrieve useful information from the data we collect on our enrolment and student body. However, BU has recently invested in a new tool that Doug Pickering, along with a senior Science student, has put in place. Once completely up and running you will all have access to this tool. Department Chairs and Program Coordinators will have an October meeting to discuss this.

BU Workplace Wellness Task Force: Dr. Robinson has been a member on this committee. BU conducted a survey on psychological health and safety this past Spring. The results are interesting and will be discussed probably at the October 21<sup>st</sup> AFC meeting.

BU has been required by law to conduct a workplace diversity survey. A questionnaire will be distributed soon to acquire baseline information to work from in meeting our obligations.

Lisa Murray will be away for about 6 weeks in October and the Acting Dean asked for your understanding as he struggles to manage his office in her absence.

PSAC and EmpCentre: In the coming year and going forward, student assistants and casual pay will be managed through EmpCentre, our new HR payroll system. This will involve many of you and we will do our best to support you in this. Dr. MacKay raised concerns about administrative work being pushed to faculty members.

Dr. Ramsey informed members that Hans Bakker is engaging well with his students and he encourages others to introduce yourselves to him. The Acting Dean noted that Dr. Bakker will give talks, participate in classes and events, possible mentoring opportunities, etc.

Dr. MacKay raised her concerns about the heavy use of the free slot and suggested that to avoid future conflicts, perhaps speakers and other events could be slotted at another time.

Mr. Ben Davis asked where the enrolment data is being drawn from. Dr. Robinson replied that it is held in our institutional records which go back as far as 1977 (as partial records) and certainly from 1982 to the present. This new ability to extrapolate the data in various forms will be quite useful. However, the data, though accurate in itself, does not match other internal enrollment metrics at the moment. It's been gathered in different ways, so in the next several weeks we need to work to find a consistent reporting manner.

#### 4.1 Course/Calendar Changes

**MOTION: (Ramsey/Brown) – THAT 88:6XX Thesis (9 credit hours) be accepted as an experimental Course.**

**CARRIED.**

#### 4.4 Academic Plan

This is a large document that is part of a planning process that's been ongoing for a year or so. It has gone to Senate for discussion and they want feedback from the Faculties. Concerns, questions or comments should be made quickly to the V-P Academic. The document will be revised and shrunk (as much of this is contextualizing information) and brought back to Senate in October. Key priorities (page 26 onward) are deliberately vague to allow for the same document to serve as a template for other documents. If approved at October Senate, it will then come back to the Faculty to implement. This work should lead to an Arts Academic Plan that will indicate how Arts intends to act on, and interpret, this document. Our document will then go back to Senate (perhaps in March 2015). We can't leave this until Dr. Tryphonopoulos arrives. The Dr. Robinson has spoken to him and he does want us to start work on it now.

Dr. Robinson also mentioned how every year there is endless discussion about the budget process and the priorities and how it relates to them. We are always told that academic priorities are taken into

consideration but without a document that clearly states our priorities it's difficult to see the connection. Goal here is to put something public and visible. The budget process then needs to dialogue with these priorities.

Dr. Ramsey expressed his disappointment about community outreach and the talk of RDI. In a university this size, and a community this small, and there is a very large connection from so many other areas. He was encouraged to provide the V-P with his comments.

Dr. Brown commented that if a priority like community engagement is identified, the purpose is not to assess how well we do it, just to make it a priority. Look at the priorities in the document and think of what you are doing or want to do and if they don't fit into those priorities perhaps we should add another priority.

**MOTION: (Ramsey/Goouthro) – THAT the Meeting will continue next week.**

**CARRIED.**