

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Arts Faculty Council
Held December 1, 2015 in room 104 Clark Hall

PRESENT: D. Brown; R. Gasse; H. Gillander; S. Grills; S. Gouthro; P. Harms; R. Hinthner; E. Holland; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; R. Major; M. Malainey; M. Malazdrewicz; L. Mayer; S. Medd; J. Naylor; D. Ramsey; L. Robson; B. Rose; M. Serfaty; S. Stankovic; B. Strang; D. Taylor; B. Davis; G. McNeely; L. Murray (recorder); D. Tryphonopoulos (Chair).

REGRETS: J. Allan; B. Ashton; D. Smid

Item 1: Modification to a Program of Study - BU/ACC Joint School of Business, MBA in Accounting, additional streams with the BA

The Dean welcomed members. He stated that late last week our office was informed of the government's request that BU put forth a proposal for an MBA immediately. In order to get such a request to the December Senate, we've had to work very quickly and call this Special AFC meeting. The Acting V-P Academic would have liked to have been here, but is away in BC on University business.

Prof. Gillander provided an overview. There has been pressure on the Business Administration department for many years to consider a Master's program. This proposal tinkers with our current relationship with ACC and seeks a new MBA. For a degree framework for the Masters in Accounting, we would follow the successful model used currently by the University of Saskatchewan. We cannot expand with the current staff compliment and so we are seeking funding of new faculty positions. Full financial details are not included in this request as Dr. Robinson indicated they should be left out.

MOTION: Malazdrewicz/Strang – THAT AFC approve the proposal in principle.

Talks with the government have already started but we need to ensure that all here wish to pursue this as well. Accounting has been our strength and our students have great success pursuing the CMA, CGA designations. What is new in our cooperation with ACC is that there will be multiple pathways for students to accommodate a variety of learning styles. While ACC has more PhD trained instructors than BU does, ACC will only be granting diplomas and certificates. The degree designations and control of them, rests with BU and our Senate.

Dr. Ramsey raised concerns about the difference between an MGEU and BUFA instructor, where the promised positions would go to, loss of enrolment for BU, an unknown location, etc. The Dean replied that the government is saying they are willing to fund 3-5 positions at BU, not the College.

Dr. Strang expressed the need for a conversation between BUFA and the Administration as first year, Ph.D. trained accountants command a starting wage of \$135,000 to \$150,000. Market supplements are necessary. He also felt the building and capital costs should be added and that a Dean to supervise the 11 faculty and many students should be sought. He also suggested the addition of funds for International and student support.

Ben Davis questioned if there was precedent for this type of quick vote without the details?

Prof. Gillander shared that this has been a difficult process that she only became aware of in April. Communication from the government is that they wish to move forward now. ACC is very willing to change their programs to better align with us. And the University of Saskatchewan model provides a solid base for us.

Dr. Serfaty expressed his shock at the rushed timeline. The Dean noted that the government is driving the timelines and they are offering funding now. Not likely to have this offer in 6 months' time.

Dr. Brown stated that he had no problem with the MBA, especially in accounting. However, he feels there is no conversation to be had around market supplements. It has been previously discussed and neither side was in favour. The Academic process is significant and we need to have time at all levels to review.

Dr. Grills explained that one of the challenges is the clash between how government and universities work. In this instance, we are being offered money but the process is contrary to collegial governance. Often we get caught the other way with support from the government for the program but no funding. He did caution that the government will remember the budget number we request and hold us to it.

CARRIED.

Item 2: Proposal for a New Program – 4-year B.A. in Public History

Dr. Hinthier discussed the concept and practice of the public history proposal. She noted the degree would include work in classroom and in the public with a co-op or internship component. The program proposes four streams and works in part with ACC in a 3+1 structure.

MOTION: (Naylor/Hinthier) - THAT AFC approve in principle the Proposal for a 4-year B.A. in Public History.

Prof. Gouthro asked what role is ACC to play and if there were connections, conversations with them. Dr. Hinthier replied that there is and that ACC is working this through their approval process as well. Next term Rhonda's class will be working with ACC students.

Dr. Gasse noted that the upper-level courses in web design at ACC but that program is normally 2 years at ACC. Wouldn't that make it 5 years. Dr. Naylor replied that as part of our discussions they are working on a one year program for this. They would likely do that ACC component in their 3rd year.

Dr. Serfaty stated that he likes the proposal but wondered why no budget was attached. Dr. Naylor noted they will ask for a position and a couple of sessional courses, but no extraordinary expenses. The program could be launched now with 4 extra sessional courses.

Dr. Strang stated that web design will change in three years so the later students do it the better. Management of the budget will be important. I would advise asking for the position and not offer up the 4 sessionals.

Dr. Brown thought it was innovative and well-structured but AFC saying we want a new History position seems to leave out a conversation about positions within the faculty. The faculty should consider our top priorities. Would this take away the possibility of positions being given elsewhere? History has done well in the last 10 years with increases in their positions.

Dr. Gasse pointed out that this program is dependent on one person being here. Does that mean that it would collapse if the staff should change? Dr. Naylor replied that their recent external review identified two overlapping areas which are public history and western history and it would be a priority for our department to rehire in this area anyway. It is seen as a priority of the department. For the most part we can offer this at various levels but it is attractive to the government and needed by our Department.

Dr. Grills suggested that a line position in the faculty of Arts on the table should be grabbed. He also wondered if it would be useful to play up the idea to the Province that through this investment we will establish The Centre of Public History.

Prof. Gillander has been told government committed to 5 initiatives with a joint/collaborative aspect. They haven't received enough.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.