

Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Faculty Council
Held September 19, 2017 in the Little Theatre, Education Building

PRESENT: J. Allan; C. Bouliane; K. DeForest; J. Dolecki; H. Gillander; S. Grills; P. Harms; R. Hinthier; E. Holland; D. Klonowski; R. Kramer; M. Malainey; M. Malazdrewicz; S. Medd; S. Petrella; D. Ramsey; W. Robles; L. Robson; B. Rose; B. Strang; D. Taylor; L. Davidson (BUSU); G. McNeely; D. Tryphonopoulos (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

REGRETS: A. Hanemaayer; L. Mackay; D. Smid.

The Dean continued the agenda from the September 12th meeting, noting that the first item would be the Public History documents and then the discussion of the Business Administration program.

MOTION: (Malazdrewicz/Bouliane) – THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

Dr. Hinthier introduced the Public History proposal, noting that our previous submission to the Province was not accepted. The History Department is now reintroducing largely the same document without the request for a position.

MOTION: (Hinthier/Harms) – THAT AFC approve the new Public History program proposal.

CARRIED.

6.1 Business Administration Review

The Dean stated to AFC that it was up to this body to decide whether the motion from the Department requesting that talks be terminated move forward or not.

MOTION: The Department of Business Administration (the Department) has reviewed the external team's report dated March 15, 2017 and found no persuasive arguments or evidence to support a joint program arrangement with Assiniboine community College. Accordingly, the Department reconfirms its position that the Department is NOT prepared to enter any joint arrangement with Assiniboine Community College.

The Department's expectation is that this decision will be accepted by the President, Dr. Gervan Fearon, who indicated in his letter of February 18, 2016, that "I indicated that I would respect the Department's decision and I will certainly do so."

The Department also resolves that this decision is communicated to the Dean of the Arts Faculty Council, the President, and the Senate.

Prof. Gillander, Chair of Business Administration, explained that she believes this proposal began because: 1) the former president wanted to please the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and a building

downtown was desired. It was believed that a flood of International students coming to study at BU would mean we'd need more space. However, Business has only one new international student this year. Then the tone of the proposal changed to pairing with ACC. 2) The previous government was willing to provide two positions if we collaborated with another institution. With the election of a new government, that's now off the table. Current interests lie more in a general savings of money if we join with ACC. ACC's classes are under attended/over staffed. Mr. Frisson stated previously that ACC wanted our first year students and that their pedagogy was better. Prof. Gillander said that was not acceptable.

Business Administration has over 200 majors but only about 10 students in the 2+2 program. They lose about half the 2+2 students before graduation. The Department was told there was no time for a sufficient survey of what students want. Consultants challenged the viability of the department without a merger. Not a problem.

Dr. Robles questioned what the current president feels. Prof. Gillander noted that in a 3 hour meeting he did acknowledge a mandatory 2+2 is significant. Business would lose about 2/3 of their credit hours. The Acting-President is still supportive of the downtown campus. Dr. Tryphonopoulos noted that the Administration is favourable of joint programs. Prof. Gillander noted that Business is maintaining their existing 2+2 program but are not interested in making it mandatory or in a joint business school.

Prof. Dolecki thanked Prof. Gillander for the assessment of review. He reinforced that the Business Department wants to end this discussion and we should not go ahead against their wishes. Both Economics and Business would be harmed. Reviewers could find no academic rationale to drive this.

MOTION: (Dolecki/Klonowski) – THAT AFC receive the Consultant's Report on the Appraisal and Program Model Review of Business Administration, the Business Administration Department Chair's Report, the Minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting of the Business Administration Department, and the letter from ACC dated June 2, 2017, and recommends to Senate and Board of Governors that Brandon University withdraw from any further discussions and/or negotiations regarding any proposed joint BU/ACC Business Administration program arrangement that involves any mandatory 2+2 program.

Dr. Strang made three points: a) This idea might have been great but wasn't turned over to collegial process in due time -- only at the last hour. A better process could have put us in a better place. b) Our first principle is to look at student education and he can't see good new pathways for our students' success. c) Business does need to grow. It's the smallest in the country and funded 1/3 by endowment money. We need discussions about how to make Business better and how to move forward.

Dr. Darek Klonowski stated that issues of trust and processes are important but the project itself has to make sense. This is not of benefit to BU.

Prof. Mike Malazdrewicz was concerned about the finality of the motion. ACC demands don't need to be accepted but he was concerned that we are the ones walking away.

Dr. Tryphonopoulos noted that procedurally we should look at the department's motion first. Dr. Strang noted that Roberts Rules of Order don't allow a negative motion to be brought forward. Business department members in attendance agreed to the motion proposed by Prof. Dolecki.

Dr. Malainey suggested adding the phrase *'THAT involves any mandatory 2+2 program.'* Initially this was not accepted as a friendly amendment but as discussions continued it was accepted.

Dr. Scott Grills stated that there was very little dissent in the room. AFC, as a group, doesn't want our colleagues railroaded and we do want to do good things for our students. We agree we will not give up our first year students.

MOTION: (Dolecki/Klonowski) – THAT AFC receive the Consultant's Report on the Appraisal and Program Model Review of Business Administration, the Business Administration Department Chair's Report, the Minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting of the Business Administration Department, and the letter from ACC dated June 2, 2017, and recommends to Senate and Board of Governors that Brandon University withdraw from any further discussions and/or negotiations regarding any proposed joint BU/ACC Business Administration program arrangement that involves any mandatory 2+2 program.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting adjourned 1:30 p.m.