

Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Faculty Council
Held November 6, 2018 in the Little Theatre, EB

PRESENT: J. Allan; C. Boulton; J. Dolecki; R. Gasse; S. Grills; A. Hanemaayer; E. Holland; M. Malazdrewicz; C. Mattes; A. McCulloch; E. Mihelakis; S. Medd; S. Petrella; W. Robles; L. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; D. Taylor; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Wood; F. Zehtab-Jadid; L. Murray (recorder); J. Naylor (Chair).

REGRETS: R. Baker; C. Bouliane; D. Tryphonopoulos.

GUEST: C. Shultz

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Malazdrewicz/Rose) -- THAT the Agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (Petrella/Gasse) -THAT the Minutes of the AFC meeting held on October 9th be approved.

CARRIED.

3.0 Recognition

None.

4.0 Chair's Report

- Arts Staffing Document for 2019-20 was submitted on October 23rd, with requests for tenure track positions in Business, English and Creative Writing and Native Studies. We will know by mid-November which of these positions (along with money for sessional) has been approved. A strong argument was made, with Lisa Robson's help, for a Writing position in Composition and Rhetoric.
- First Teaching Circle was held October 25th but was not well attended. We will try again late November. Topic TBA.
- A Department Chairs/Coordinators meeting will be held in November
- Dr. Rosanne Gasse is taking on Chair of Native Studies during Dr. Racine's upcoming leave. Dr. Doug Ramsey will therefore be taking over as the Arts Research Facilitator.
- Three CRC applications have been received in Arts. A committee has been established consisting of the AFC Executive and Dr. Jonathan Allan (minus anyone in a position of conflict) to recommend which of the applications is to be forwarded to the BU committee charged with making the decision for the campus.
- The Dean has been meeting with individual faculty members for a discussion of their 'career' plans over the next few years.
- The Dean is also meeting with the applicants for Tenure and Promotion.

Dr. McCulloch asked if the AFC Research Committee vetted the CRC applications last round.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Responsible Substance use and Harm Reduction Policy

Karen MacDonald is not available today.

5.2 Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology – C. Shultz

Curt Schoultz introduced himself and offered his assistance to all.

5.3 Course/Calendar changes

MOTION: (Taylor/Malazdrewicz) – THAT the calendar changes proposed by Business Administration be accepted.

Dave Taylor explained that the Department wishes to delete the Certificate in Business Administration which has been on the books for 25 years without changes. The Certificate is not recognized by the University as a legitimate credential, there is no recognition of the students upon receiving it, there are no academic standards attached to it, etc. There is no direct entrance into the certificate. International students have to apply to a degree, without any intention of completing it, to achieve university admission. Business plans to propose some post-graduate certificates in the future that would provide enhanced management skills.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Rose/Robson) – THAT 30:355 Victorian Prose be deleted.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Mattes/Wood) – THAT 32:2XX Metis Art, Culture and Language; Printmaking III, Visual Design I and Visual Design II be approved as new courses, and THAT 32:130 Visual Design be deleted.

Native Studies indicated an interest in cross-listing the Métis Art, Culture and Language course. This was agreeable to Visual and Aboriginal Art.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Mihelakis/Petrella) – THAT 58:SPAN:201 Intermediate Spanish be deleted and replaced by two, 3 credit hour courses 58:SPAN:2XX Intermediate Spanish I and 58:SPAN:2XX Intermediate Spanish II.

Intermediate Spanish still refers to the old 201 course. Languages will correct with the Instructor.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Saunders/McCulloch) – THAT 78:3XX American Foreign Policy and 78:3XX Indigenous Politics be accepted as new courses.

Both courses have been offered in the past as Experimental courses. The Department is happy to discuss cross-listing with Native Studies and Rural Development if interested.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Medd/Winter) – THAT the course title for 86:251 “Asian Missionaries, Ministers and Converts in pre-1950’s Canada” be changed to “Religion and Colonialism”; and THAT “East Asian Religion in Practice” be changed to “Asian Religions and Culture” with a level change to 200.

Dr. Gasse offered that the brief course outline seems to go beyond the title. Is it revised or more of a new course? CAP may send back if it appears new.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Wilder/Malazdrewicz) – THAT 88:3XX Cooperative Experience be accepted as a new course.

Dr. Robles introduced the course. Questions arose as to why this would be outside the normal co-op structure and it was suggested that this should be better addressed in the rationale before forwarding to CAP.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Grills/Hanemaayer) – THAT 90:4XX Social and Historical Research Methods be approved as a new course.

The short title was found to be confusing. Department will revise before forwarding to CAP.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Gasse/Grills) – THAT the revised course descriptions for 99:090 and 99:175 be approved.

CARRIED.

5.4 Liberal Education Requirement

Dr. Gasse introduced the long history of attempts and reasons to change the current structure. The committee who brought this forward consisted of volunteer members of CAP. They were Dr. Gasse, Dr. Tryphonopoulos, Dr. Ardelli, Ms. Andrea McDaniel, Ms. Alex Braun and the BUSU President. Some considerations were that the current policy is from the 80s and is seen as simply an obstacle to graduation by many students, the artificial notion that the social sciences and humanities fit neatly into separate piles, etc. This new suggestion is built around blocks: Language, scientific, numbers, and human experience. Some departments find themselves in different blocks, eg. NS. If departments feel misplaced or split incorrectly please let Ms McDaniels know. Prof. Dolecki expressed his strong dislike of the model noting that he sees it as a regression and doesn't buy the rationale for changing it – troubling requirements are only difficult for people who can't read. He also felt that the Liberal Education definition from the AACU was offensive. He objected to the descriptions under each category: finds them embarrassing and infantile and should not be in a calendar statement. Dr. Holland expressed her approval of the document and found the descriptions helpful to facilitate the process.

MOTION: (Dolecki/Zehrab-Jadid) – THAT the Liberal Education Requirement Revision Proposal be returned to CAP to come up with a more manageable document; and THAT Economics be included in the Social Sciences or its equivalent.

Dr. McCulloch questioned if how other universities handled this issue was considered. Dr. Gasse noted that eight years ago research was done and it was discovered that BU was the outlier at that time. Some Departments such as History or Gender don't fit easily into one category which is one reason people have moved away from the model. Many disciplines are crossing boundaries. Ms McDaniel noted that there is a lot of variety. Dr. Gasse also noted that larger institutions had different requirements for each faculty.

Dr. Grills stated that Justice Studies courses were left out entirely and that he has a problem with the 4th category. Other institutions have more of a qualitative reasoning/numeracy requirement which is good but he didn't feel category 4 reaches that. Concerned that moving this forward without addressing Indigenous content would be a mistake. Dr. Winter questioned if our computer system would be able to handle this. Ms McDaniel noted that it's all being done manually at the moment. It would be best to sort this out before we get a new system though.

Dr. Mihelakis noted the unequal credit distribution and that having only 3 credit hours in a language is not at all useful.

Dr. Gasse and Ms McDaniel withdrew the proposal to allow the committee to work on it further.

Dr. Allan suggested more students be involved and Dr. Winter suggested more faculty input. Ms McDaniel stated that the working group is happy to receive any feedback.

5.0 University Examination Policy

Ms McDaniel stated that Arts' current regulation will stand. It states "with the exception of laboratory examinations in the Arts and Sciences, no in-class tests or final examinations that are worth more than 10% of the final grade may be held during the last 14 calendar days of classes in the Fall or Winter term" (AFC Motion, December 8, 2015). [For additional information on exams and the Arts policy on course Outlines, please see: <https://www.brandonu.ca/arts/dean/policies/course-outline/>]

6.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

7.0 New Business/Announcements

Prof. Dolecki requested that at a future AFC meeting there be a discussion of the weeding policy of the library.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.