

Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Faculty Council
Held October 1, 2019 in room 104 Clark Hall

PRESENT: J. Allan; S. Asselin; R. Baker; K. Bessant; C. Boulton; D. Combet; K. deForest; R. Dwivedula; R. Gasse; S. Grills; P. Harms; R. Hinthner; R. Kramer; M. Malainey; A. McCulloch; E. Mihelakis; S. Medd; V. Maud; J. Naylor; D. Ramsey; W. Robles; B. Rose; K. Saunders; B. Strang; M. Torabi; D. Wilson; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Wood; M. Bower; L. Robson (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

GUESTS: Dr. David Docherty, President; Ms. Cora Dupuis, Co-op Coordinator; Mr. Grant Hamilton, Director of Public Communications

REGRETS: J. Dolecki; J. Forsythe; A. Marshall; K. Noll; D. Smid; S. Grills (Student Services)

ABSENT: A. Abdou; B. Ashton; M. Bower; H. Gillander; A. Inkpen; D. Klonowski; L. MacKay; M. Malazdrewicz; C. Mattes; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; D. Racine; C. Schneider; D. Taylor; H. Venema; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid; H. Zhuang.

ON LEAVE: A. Hanemaayer; E. Holland; D. Lakevold; C. Mason; S. Petrella; E. Varley.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Grills/Mihelakis) – THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

1.1 Dr. David Docherty, University President

Dr. Robson introduced Dr. Docherty. Dr. Docherty spoke about some of his previous experience, and his vision for BU. He hopes to have the Strategic Plan out in the spring. He feels BU is well poised, due to our size, to nurture our best students and take advantage of opportunities.

The following points were raised by members: Tuition increase for International students causing drops in enrolments, especially for our graduate degree; the need for first year student, and northern and Indigenous student, supports; and the challenges of offering solid 4-year programs with limited resources. Dr. Docherty noted that writing and math supports are important and that the majority of our students stay in Manitoba and contribute to our tax base; the economic advantages are huge.

1.2 Communications and Speakers - Mr. Grant Hamilton

Mr. Hamilton introduced himself to members and indicated that part of his job is to connect BU with the wider community. Mr. Hamilton would like to help facilitate opening up some of the campus speakers series to the public under the umbrella of 'BU Ideas.' Though not all talks will be suitable for this, where you would like to see the public attend, please contact him. Their office can assist with promotion, coordination, etc.

Dr. Saunders suggested he contact Kiran Nazish, SKDVP which they had already done. Dr. Naylor stated that it was hard to think of talks that wouldn't be appropriate for the public and thinks the default should be to include the public. Dr. Robles suggested talking with IPC.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (Naylor/Mihelakis) – THAT the Minutes of the September 3 and 12, 2019 AFC meetings be approved.

3.0 Chairs Report

Recognition: Because we tend to have a lot of AFC meetings and they are long, we'd like to request announcements of publications, grants, awards, etc. to be sent to Lisa Murray. We will write these up and include with the agenda package and perhaps put on the website as 'recent publications, etc.'

Employee and Family Assistance Program: New company is Homewood Health. There is a link on our HR website to this benefit (<https://www.brandonu.ca/hr/benefits/employee-assistance-program/>). They can also be reached at 1-800-663-1142. They offer quite a variety of information and assistance including stress management, retirement planning, will-writing, and counselling.

Homecoming: reminder of poster presentation and synopsis of your work to V-Ps office. It's coming quickly -- 17-20 October.

Scholars from campus have participated in a health survey of students. We have a huge poster outside the Dean's Office with some findings and a report titled 'My health, your health, our health' which is available to borrow. Suggestions from students included ways we can assist them.

Next AFC is the last one for course and calendar changes. Noon, October 23rd is the deadline to get items to Lisa Murray.

4.1 Research Facilitator – Doug Ramsey

Dr. Ramsey agreed to continue this role from last year to complete a few things. He is again happy to provide a workshop for anyone applying for a BURC if it's wanted. He's available to assist with other grant applications too. Please contact him.

Dr. Ramsey is also concerned with the potential loss of databases in the library and so would like to talk to the Chairs about what databases are really important to have. He would like to have more of a presence publicly about what we do.

4.2 Research Fellowships – K. Saunders (for A. Hanemaayer)

Dr. Saunders, Arts BUFA rep., read the following statement from Dr. Hanemaayer in her absence:

Many faculty across the university were invited to attend the global excellence initiative workshop in September of 2018. This event was hosted by the acting president (Robinson) and the deans of all faculties. At this meeting faculty were encouraged and given advice from visitor Dr. Howard Alper on how to apply for international research fellowships. I proceeded to search out and apply to these opportunities as my employer had advised. One of my fellowship applications was successful, and I came back to BU with an application for special leave. Throughout this process I discovered that no infrastructure or administrative procedures had been put in place to support these initiatives.

I wanted my experience entered officially into the record in the AFC minutes with the goal of informing others who may be looking for similar opportunities. Perhaps this could also begin a conversation around supporting global research excellence on campus.

I also want to acknowledge my department and the Dean of Arts office for making this opportunity work in the face of challenges.

Discussion among members included a desire to have processes in place and for timely decisions to be made. Dr. Grills noted that the process left Sociology in a situation that meant course instructors had to

be switched in the middle of a course. The benefits of our members need to be balanced with the needs of our students. Concerns were raised about how three person departments would cope and they certainly shouldn't be penalized because of their size.

Dr. Strang reminded members that a Strategic Research Plan was approved across the campus which included the need for a V-P Research and felt this request has just disappeared. Others noted a clear disjunction from being nimble as the President just said and what the university actually does. We should have been able to set things in place PRIOR to the term starting, to support both the students and faculty. Dr Robson noted that Dr. Hanemaayer informed the university about her fellowship opportunity in mid-July, but due to absences from campus, her leave approval and the approval to advertise the position wasn't received until August 26th. Backflips were done by the Department and others to get someone in place for October 1. Faculty expressed a concern about how, in a variety of offices, the campus is 'one-deep' and no one is put in place to fill the role of those who are on vacation, leave, etc.

4.3 Course and Calendar Changes

MOTION: (Rose/Gasse) – THAT the course additions to the Historical Breadth list in English be approved.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Rose/Mihelakis) – THAT AFC approve the deletion of 30:453 Poetry and Prosody.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Boult/Rose) – THAT AFC approve the Department of Philosophy joining the Co-op program.

CARRIED.

Ms. Cora Dupuis, Co-operative Program Coordinator, spoke about the Co-op Ed program, noting this is full-time, paid work during the summer months, and 9 credit hours towards the completion of the student's degree. These credit hours replace electives and not program requirements. While students are working, they are taking the co-op course, writing assignments, completing personal reflections, etc. As a BA grad, she is excited to get more Arts areas in the Co-op Program. Dr. Grills asked for an update on how Arts is doing. Last year's Sociology student did not get a work position. Ms Dupuis noted that it is up to the students to apply for work and it is a competitive process. We have a History student currently active and the entire program is still in a growth period.

CARRIED.

4.4 Elections

Arts rep to the Centre for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT) – Dr. Doug Ramsey
Arts rep to BURC, Social Sciences, 2 year term – Dr. Bruce Strang

MOTION: (Strang/Rose) – THAT the external members of the Hiring Committee for the HR Search in Business Administration be Dr. Reinhold Kramer and Dr. Doug Ramsey; and THAT the external members on the Strategic Management hiring committee be Dr. Scott Grills and Prof. Susan Medd.

CARRIED.

Dr. Winter reminded members that our policy states that faculty can only serve as external members on one hiring committee per academic year. It's fine to have these people contacted ahead of his involvement, as long as we are aware of this stipulation.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements

Thursday at 4:30 p.m., Gender & Women's Studies is hosting an open house in room 104 CH. Everyone is welcome to stop by and speak with students.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.