

**Minutes of the meeting of the Arts Faculty Council
March 3, 2020 in Room 104 CH**

PRESENT: S. Asselin; K. Bessant; M. Bower; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; R. Gasse; P. Harms; E. Holland; L. Jardine; M. Malazdrewicz; V. Maud; A. McCulloch; E. Mihelakis; J. Naylor; K. Noll; S. Petrella; W. Robles; D. Smid; K. Spice; B. Strang; M. Torabi; D. Winter; L. Wood; H. Zhuang; L. Robson (Chair); S. Mott (recorder).

REGRETS: J. Allan; R. Baker; C. Boulton; J. Forsythe; S. Grills; M. Malainey; B. Rose

ABSENT: A. Abdou; B. Ashton; J. Dolecki; R. Elliott; J. Forsythe; H. Gillander; D. Klonowski; C. Mattes; L. Mayer; L. MacKay; K. McKenzie; S. Medd; D. Ramsey; K. Saunders; C. Schneider; D. Taylor; H. Venema; D. Wilson; K. Wong; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid

ON LEAVE: D. Combet; A. Hanemaayer; R. Hinthner; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; C. Mason; A. Marshall; D. Racine; E. Varley

GUESTS: Cora Dupuis; Cheryl Fleming; Cathryn Smith

Dr. Robson called the meeting to order and introduced Cathryn Smith, Chairperson for the Status of Women Review Committee. Every five years the Status of Women Review Committee undertakes a study to ensure that we are making progress towards gender equity at Brandon University. Ms. Smith spoke to the findings of this recent study. The full report has been distributed in digital format.

No questions arose from Ms. Smith's presentation.

Dr. Robson introduced the new Diversity and Human Rights Advisor, Ms. Cheryl Fleming, as she was present for the Status of Women Review Committee presentation.

1.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Smid/Harms) -- THAT the Agenda be approved with the postponement of 4.2 Senate Award Nomination Ideas to the April 2020 AFC meeting.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (McCulloch/Petrella) - THAT the Minutes of the AFC meeting held on February 4th be approved with the correction made that the minutes that were approved were those of December 2, and not September 19, and the change of R. Hinthner's status as on leave.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chair's Report

Dr. Robson reported that the 2020-21 enrollment data to date shows an overall decrease of 15% in applications and a decrease of 9% in admissions as compared to this time last year. Most of the decrease is in domestic applications.

The Acting Dean reported that the Languages grievance resolved with the approval of a 2-year term position. The hopes are that after the 2 years are complete, the terrain will have changed and we will be in a better position to argue for the tenure-track position. As previously indicated by the VP, a position in Languages would have to be re-allocated from elsewhere, and that elsewhere turned out to be Arts; therefore, the search for a sabbatical replacement in English & Creative Writing has been cancelled. The decision to cancel the English position rather than the Political Science or Business Admin term position was made by the Dean after much consideration.

The Dean announced that the special AFC meeting will be held in the Free Slot on Tuesday March 10th in CHO 104. This meeting will allow for discussion of Program Innovation, where ideas will be considered not just for amalgamation, but innovation and implementation of changes in the future.

The Strategic Research Plan was passed by Senate and will be reviewed within 12 months' time. This review will allow for any alterations or suggestions for improvement to be presented.

At the recent Senate Meeting, the President reported that the government mandate is online; we have received no clarification about the mandate from the government, however. The BU budget is almost ready for discussion and there will be public consultation. The Advisory Committee for the Strategic Plan is exploring some discussion papers, and when the document is complete, consultation will begin. The Provost Search will be starting soon and a search firm will be used. On March 23, the Senate and Board of Governors will have a joint meeting.

Student Evaluations: Pending BUFA approval, the online pilot project will occur this April. Anyone who signed up for the pilot project will be using the online system and all others will continue to use paper evaluations again this term. The hope is that in future, ERP will manage online course evaluations.

Dr. Gasse questioned whether the 15% provincial cut in administration is in addition to the initial 15% requested or if it is reiterating the original request. Dr. Robson stated there was no clarification or clear answer to this question but that BU has already completed the initial cuts.

Dr. McCulloch inquired about the concerns surrounding the Strategic Research Plan. Dr. Robson replied that the concerns she could recall involved open access journals and the framing of the research themes. Dr. Naylor added that another concern was the apparent priority allotted to providing seed money for developing applications for tri-Council funding. The concern was that projects that did not require such funding would be disadvantaged. Discussion ensued.

MOTION: (Strang/Naylor) – THAT as part of the Strategic Research Plan review, the plan and amendments be circulated to the university community, particularly Faculty Council, for their input in a timely fashion before Senate approval.

CARRIED.
one opposed
one abstention

MOTION: (Strang/McCulloch) - THAT the September AFC meeting should debate the Strategic Research Plan to carry concerns forward to Senate.

CARRIED.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Co-op Education & Business Administration - Director of Co-op Education, Cora Dupuis, proposed a new stream of co-op education, the Work Experience Stream (WES), which introduces one work term experience for students rather than the current 2 or 3. The proposed change would be available to everyone, not just Arts.

MOTION (Strang/Petrella) – THAT the Faculty of Arts recommends the addition of the Work Experience Stream (WES) to Senate.

CARRIED.

MOTION (Strang/Gasse) – THAT, based on Senate approval of the previous motion, Business Administration adopt the Work Experience Stream.

CARRIED.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

Arts Grading Scale – On behalf of Arts Review and Planning, Dr. Strang presented a recommendation on a grading scheme to provide a common framework for translating grade percentages to letters across all departments in Arts. Arts Review & Planning recommends AFC adopt either Plan A (common letter grade scheme) or Plan B (maintain status quo).

MOTION: (Strang/Smid) – THAT the Faculty of Arts adopt the grading scheme outlined in Plan A.

Dr. Robson suggested that before a new grading scheme is mandated, it would be best to circulate the proposed scale to all faculty members so that everyone has a voice in the mandate, especially if they were not able to attend today's meeting and have concerns about the new scale. The new grading scale will be circulated to all faculty members with a 'Notice of Motion'. The vote was tabled for the next regular AFC meeting in April.

6.0 Other Business and Announcements

A question was raised regarding the special AFC meeting on March 10th, and how one should prepare for such meeting. Dr. Robson explained that Arts currently functions as 13 departments and 2 programs. A discussion will take place at the meeting as to how Arts might function more effectively and more equitably, considering ideas such as amalgamation, degree restructuring, new degree streams, and any other innovative ideas that members may offer. All ideas are welcome as this is an exploratory topic.

Dr. Smid invited everyone to attend the final BU at the Public Library talk on March 19th at 7:00 pm.

Dr. Naylor reminded everyone of the Senior Colloquium call for papers.

Dr. Strang said ARP is working on the interdisciplinary degree and thesis guidelines. ARP is also working on changes to the slot schedule.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.