

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting
December 7, 2021
Held by Zoom**

PRESENT: A. Abdou; K. Bessant; D. Combet; W. Cook; R. Dwivedula; R. Elliott; R. Gasse; S. Grills; D. Hétu; R. Hinther; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; C. Mason; A. McCulloch; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; E. Mihelakis; K. Noll; S. Petrella; D. Ramsey; W. Robles; L. Robson; J. Russell; K. Saunders; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; D. Winter; L. Wood; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid; L. Jardine; J. Lindsay (Science); T. Gill (Student Services); B. Spence (Chair); L. Murray; S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: B. Ashton; S. Asselin; R. Baker; K. deForest; J. Dolecki; M. Hamon; E. Holland; D. Lakevold; V. Maud; L. Mayer; I. Puppe; B. Rose; C. Schneider; B. Strang; E. Varley; H. Venema; K. Wong; H. Zhuang

REGRETS:

ON LEAVE: J. Allan; C. Boulton; J. Forsythe; A. Hanemaayer; P. Harms; D. Klonowski; H. Liu; M. Malazdrewicz; J. Naylor; D. Racine; D. Smid

Call to Order

Dr. Spence welcomed members to the meeting and delivered the land acknowledgement.

1.0 MOTION: (Petrella/Gasse) – THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

Dr. Spence felt it important to note that 5% was against the approval of the agenda.

2.0 MOTION: (Gasse/Kramer) THAT the Minutes of the special AFC meetings held on October 12 and 19, and the AFC meeting of November 2, 2021 be approved.

Discussion: D. Ramsey requested addition to October 12 minutes stating that the VP, in talking about searches at other institutions, offered no examples. D. Ramsey did offer concrete examples of Wilfred Laurier and Brantford that have had successful Dean of Arts searches that started in the winter of this year (as did St. Mary's, who advertised in April of this year for a DOA and were also successful). D. Ramsey would like this reflected in the minutes. L. Murray confirmed that the minutes will be updated to include this information.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chairs Report

Dr. Spence recognized the final AFC meeting of 2021 and expressed appreciation to all faculty for the dedication maintained through a challenging term, especially in regards to service of students, the institution and the wider community. Thank you wholeheartedly for your effort.

An update to the indigenous content of courses proposal (required 3 credit hours of indigenous content incorporated into all under-grad and graduate programs): it has been approved by Senate. Dr. Spence met with Chris Lagimodiere, Indigenous advisor to the President, to discuss the architecture of this endeavor, which is still in the brainstorming stages. There will be a discussion here at a future AFC meeting to discuss the initiative. The initiative needs to be outcome driven, rather than process driven, so we need to clarify outcomes we intend to achieve and then we design the processes accordingly.

The Indigenous education sub-committee at Senate has faculty level reps from Arts, as well as from department of Native Studies. As we move forward, it will become important for the faculty to be consistently updated on decision and proposals of this senate sub-committee. We need feedback from this committee given the importance of this initiative and may want to consider an election for an alternate representative, in case the current rep cannot attend. We may want to re-visit this in a future AFC meeting. It is Dr. Spence's intention to invite Chris Lagimodiere to discuss this new initiative and provide you with the opportunity to have an in-depth discussion.

Dr. Spence revisited concerns raised at the September 30 AFC meeting regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Day and its impact on academic syllabi: this issue has been actively discussed at Dean's Council and PAC. The option approved was the truncation of the fall term study break so that it comes as three days and is in conjunction with Remembrance Day and the closest weekend. This option is favoured because it maintains the convention of beginning the fall term after Labour Day, it maintains a fall term break, and it allows for sufficient flexibility at the end of the term to accommodate a full final exam period plus several days before holiday break in order to complete grading. Will discuss further at a later date.

Over the last 4 weeks numerous cases of departure of academic integrity have been reported. In most of these cases, the students have taken responsibility for the infraction and in many cases, there seems to be some ignorance to the academic policy. Concern is that students are either not reading the policy (despite it being on course outlines) or they are not understanding the policy. It is not understanding the policy that is the most concerning. Based on responses, one student interpreted it that the departure of academic integrity viewed it as a departure from the university. This could be just one student but it is concerning that they may not know what it means. May need a more hands on approach to engage student son academic policy.

L. MacKay raised a question about academic integrity: conducts exercises in class on academic integrity: Is this plagiarism? They all sit there and go through it. A lot of time they panic and for various reasons choose to plagiarize. It goes beyond them not understanding the policy. Panic seems to be the reason most often in her experience. Dr. Spence agrees and feels another discussion on this issue in the future may be important.

Thank you to the departmental chairs who have faced a very challenging period. Dr. Spence also wants to thank the support staff in Deans office and Arts office for keeping us grounded in these challenging times, all with a smile on their face.

Discussion regarding Indigenous course content: question from W. Robles: would like clear guidelines on what is required from each department. Dr. Spence replied that the architecture of what this will look like is still in the brainstorming stage: there are a lot of discussions with a lot of committees. These guidelines do not exist at this time.

Dr. L MacKay: is it 3 credit hours in the whole degree or is it 3 credit hour in each major? Dr. Spence clarified it is 3 credit hours per program. There are a lot of issues that aren't clear as many discussions have taken place on the best way to set up this initiative.

L. Robson inquired as to what positions have been requested for Arts Faculty next year and if there are any ideas on what will be approved/when we can hire. Dr. Spence requested replacement positions for Business Administration, Classical and Modern Languages, Visual Arts, Drama, RDI Director and a new position in Business Admin. L. Robson wondered if there was a new writing position (Academic Writing Specialist) requested also per VP of Academic's discussion in September 2021. Dr. Spence will refer back to this at the next AFC meeting, after looking into it further.

S. Grills suggested that BU might find it useful to look into what other institutions are doing in terms of the indigenous education requirements, as many are already reviewing the program rather than implementing. Regina, Winnipeg and Lakehead are already looking into revisions, so they may be useful

to discuss with the appropriate people so that we do not replicate the challenges they have already faced.

4.0 New Business

4.1 New Courses/Course Changes (History, Native Studies and Languages)

MOTION: (Winter/Combet) – THAT the History department introduce one new 200-level course (2XX The Historian’s Craft) that will provide training in essay, note-taking, citation etc.

The subject matter of course will stem from instructor’s expertise in training essay writing, not taking, as well as an ever-changing subject matter. The Department believes this course will be a useful addition to teach basic skills and help create a community within the cohort.

Discussion: T. Gill inquired whether new course will be a new requirement for honours or majors. D. Winter answered that they would like to offer it a few times before adding it to honours program.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Gasse/Petrella) - THAT the Native Studies change pre-requisite for 68.353 Rise of Metis Nation stating a specific course rather than 54 credit hours.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Mihelakis/Hetu) – THAT 13 courses be deleted from the Languages program, as they are no longer taught nor are there plans to teach them again in the foreseeable future.

E. Mihelakis discussed the 13 course deletion/changes individually.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Mihelakis/Jardine) – THAT seven revisions be made to Languages program specific to translations of titles into English and minor requirements reconsiderations.

E. Mihelakis discussed these revisions, including minor title changes, course descriptions and pre-requisite changes.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Combet/Jardine) – THAT eight new courses be added to the Languages program.

E. Mihelakis discussed the additional proposed courses at length.

Discussion: R. Kramer wondered if there are accompanying course outlines for the new courses. Lisa Murray reminded Arts faculty that the outlines were circulated at last AFC meeting.

R. Gasse commented that this is a bold and ambitious over-haul of the Languages program with numerous course addition in a 3 person department: how will the department manage the implementation to ensure the courses will be taught on a regular rotation basis? E. Mihelakis responded that the new program quite the same as it is moving from 25 total courses to 30 (quite similar in size to Political Science) and will be quite feasible in a 3 year cycle, plus it leaves room for future growth. E. Mihelakis also mentioned that the Languages department remains open to other departments for dialogue on partnership, cross-registration etc.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Jardine/Mihelakis) – THAT the admission requirements change for CO-OP program.

E. Mihelakis and Cora Dupuis discussed and agreed upon course replacements for 255 and 256 (Language Style I and II) with Francophone Studies I and II in the Co-Op program. E. Mihelakis and C. Dupuis decided the suggested courses are very similar in breadth in order for students to transition from program to co-op.

CARRIED.

4.2 BU Sexualized Violence Policy Motion (previously circulated) – C. Mason

S. Petrella requested the floor in C. Mason's absence as this motion is very important and time-sensitive, not to mention that it has been deferred many times already.

MOTION: (Petrella/Mihelakis) – THAT the Faculty of Arts join other faculties on campus by adding the BU Sexualized Violence Policy on all course syllabi in order to inform students of this policy.

Discussed the sex scandal with women's soccer team and the coach. When scandal broke, it became evident that students are not aware of the services provided to them in these situations. C. Mason suggested that to policy be added to course syllabi in order to inform students that this policy exists. All syllabus will have reference so students will see it in every course they take. All schools at BU have passed this already.

CARRIED.

4.3 Establishment of ad hoc committee re: Dean of Arts Search - AFC Review and Planning

B. Spence believes that members of council need to have an opportunity to review a document before it can be discussed and decided on at AFC. This shall be deferred until there is something concrete that can be reviewed before coming to council.

R. Kramer mentioned a chat note from R. Dwivedula that the committee is working on above-mentioned document re: the Dean of Arts search.

4.4 Election – AFC Review and Planning (one vacancy)

One vacancy remains on AFC Review and Planning committee. B. Spence called for nominations or volunteers to fill this vacancy. No nominees or volunteers submitted despite the importance of such a committee in our functioning. B. Spence is concerned about lack of communication from the committee so will meet with the members of the committee to discuss challenges and the best way these challenges can be addressed. Election will be postponed to a later date.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Arts Faculty Selection Committee Procedures – AFC Review and Planning Committee

No one present to speak on this agenda item.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements – none

7.0 Adjournment (Robles/Taylor) – Meeting adjourned at 1:09pm.