

Minutes of the Special AFC Meeting – Continued
Held on October 19, 2021 by Zoom

PRESENT: R. Baker; K. Bessant; D. Combet; K. deForest; J. Dolecki; R. Dwivedula; R. Gasse; A. Hanemaayer; D. Hétu; R. Hinthier; E. Holland; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; 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; C. Schneider; B. Strang; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; E. Varley; D. Winter; L. Wood; S. Grills (Vice Chair); L. Murray; S. Mott (recorder).

ABSENT: A. Abdou; B. Ashton; S. Asselin; W. Cook; R. Elliott; M. Hamon; D. Klonowski; R. Kramer; A. Marshall; L. Mayer; I. Puppe; B. Spence; B. Rose; H. Venema; K. Wong; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid; H. Zhuang; C. Kazakoff-Lane (Library); J. Lindsay (Science); T. Gill (Student Services)

REGRETS: J. Allan; V. Maud; M. Milosevic (BUSU)

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

1.0 Call to Order

Dr. Scott Grills introduced himself as Vice Chair, welcomed members to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgement.

2.0 Business Arising (continued from last meeting)

3.1 MOTION: (Ramsey/Mihelakis) THAT an ad hoc committee of the Faculty of Arts be established to prepare for the next decanal Arts search, including but not limited to, ensuring that the recommendations flowing from the investigation into the previous Arts decanal search process are followed.

Dr. Ramsey opened discussion of motion by explaining the origins of the motion and procedure he followed in establishing support from faculty members. It was suggested to add “and that the Motion be referred to the Arts Review and Planning Committee for the purposes of establishing composition and terms of reference” and then have it presented at AFC for consideration. A discussion ensued regarding time constraints.

Dr. Emily Holland suggested a friendly amendment to the end of the motion that states a point of clarification: “are appropriately implanted into hiring policy.” Dr. Robles felt the motion was unclear. Dr. Ramsey indicated that the committee is for our purposes and that he thought a number of interested members might help to nudge the process along. Dr. MacKay supported Dr. Holland’s clarification to the motion and noted her disappointment in the V-P at the last meeting. She felt that the V-P was unprepared and given how Arts has been mistreated by senior admin., she strongly believes Arts should send a message that we do want to be constructive and improve matters.

Prof. Dolecki believes that structure is needed in the proposed motion, specifically regarding membership and terms of reference. He suggested that the last phrase of the motion should be deleted. He agrees the motion should be sent to the Review and Planning Committee for review so that specific terms of reference and procedures be recommended to Arts. A deadline of December 7th (December AFC meeting) was suggested and accepted as a suitable time frame.

Dr. Grills noted that the polling set up for this meeting for the purposes of voting on motions is anonymous and therefore no motion to destroy the ballots will be required.

MOTION (Dolecki/Winter) – THAT the establishment of a proposed ad hoc committee be referred to Arts Review and Planning Committee for composition, terms of reference, etc, and THAT they report back to the December 7th AFC meeting.

CARRIED.

3.2 MOTION: (Ramsey/MacKay) -- THAT a Decanal Search Committee (according to BOG Policy) for Dean of Arts be struck early in the Winter 2022 term with the goal of a new Dean of Arts being appointed for August 1, 2022.

Dr. Emily Holland suggested a friendly amendment to the motion: “according to newly established BOG policy for the hiring of Academic Administrators.” Agreed. Dr. Ramsey discussed the email poll that was sent to each Department to gauge interest in such a motion. There was clear interest. He had informed the V-P about his course of action and stated that Dr. Campbell’s suggestion that members were pressured to vote in favour was upsetting. Dr. Petrella noted that Dr. Campbell suggested that Dr. Ramsey approach members of the Faculty to gain a sense of their views on matters. . She assisted with this process and certainly didn’t feel that any pressure was put on members. Dr. McCulloch spoke to the length of time it takes to implement a new BOG policy and that while we do want a revised and robust policy, we do not want another failed Dean search. Dr. Robles agreed and noted that the new policy will need to go to all Faculties yet. The process will take time.

For information purposes, Dr. Grills informed AFC members of the process involved to make these changes: VP has committed to consultation with all faculties and units; then he must take it back to the faculty committees; then take into account comments and submit them to the Board; and then BOG needs to approve the revised policy. Finally, the ad needs to be crafted by the Hiring Committee, posted for the search to begin. Dr. Grills suggested the process would most definitely take months. Prof. Dolecki mentioned that these policies do need to be amended but that it takes a long time to get it completed. He believes the time frame of the proposed motion is too quick. The current Acting Dean’s two-year contract and BU’s commitment to it was also noted.

Dr. Mihelakis offered to bring forth AFC’s wishes to the joint BOG/Senate meeting. A comment was made that it is necessary to encourage administration to expedite the careful changes to Board policy. Concerns were raised about the motion as currently framed. The Administration should be encouraged to expedite the process of careful revision to BOG policy. Then a separate motion should be created to proceed to a quick search, with the revised policy in place. Dr. Petrella reminded members that the purpose of this vote was to specifically articulate to the V-P the level of support from the faculty to put pressure on the Administration to proceed more quickly. Dr. Saunders reminded faculty that we are in this position because the University failed to follow their own policies. The longer this goes on without any accountability to Arts Faculty, the longer they will make unilateral decisions that may negatively affect Arts Faculty. It is important to remind Administration that our voice matters. Discussion on the matter continued on both sides. Dr. MacKay suggested adding “if possible” to the end of the Motion if this would bring more support for the motion.

Due to time constraints, the Chair brought discussion to a close to ensure a vote could take place before members had to leave the meeting for classes.

MOTION: THAT a Decanal Search Committee (according to newly established BOG policy for Academic Administrators) for Dean of Arts be struck early in the Winter 2022 term with the goal of a new Dean of Arts being appointed for August 1, 2022.

CARRIED.

3.0 Other Business/Announcements

No other business or announcements raised due to time constraints.

4.0 Adjournment

MOTION: (Dolecki/Combet) THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.