

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

PRESENT: A. Abdou; J. Allan; S. Asselin; R. Baker; K. Bessant; D. Combet; J. Dolecki; K. deForest; R. Dwivedula; R. Elliott; R. Gasse; S. Grills; M. Hamon; D. Hétu; R. Hinthier; E. Holland; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; C. Mason; V. Maud; A. McCulloch; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; E. Mihelakis; S. Medd; K. Noll; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; W. Robles; B. Rose; J. Russell; K. Saunders; B. Strang; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; E. Varley; H. Venema; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Wood; F. Zehtab-Jadid; D. Eberts (Science); C. Kazakoff-Lane (Library); M. Milosevic (BUSU); O. Abayomi; G. McNeely; L. Murray (recorder); S. Mott (recorder); B. Spence (Chair).

ABSENT: B. Ashton; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; M. Malazdrewicz; L. Mayer; C. Schneider; L. Xu; H. Zhuang

REGRETS: T. Gill (Student Services)

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

GUESTS: Dr. Kofi Campbell, V-P Academic and Provost

Dr. Balfour Spence welcomed members to the meeting and gave a land acknowledgement.

1.0 Motion to allow Sessional Instructors to vote in AFC Meetings

MOTION: (Hanemaayer/Winter) -- THAT all Sessional instructors be eligible to vote at Arts Faculty Council meetings.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: (Kramer/Holland) - THAT the Agenda be approved with the addition of item 5.7 September 30th Holiday.

CARRIED.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION: (Gasse/Asselin) – THAT the Minutes of the April 13 and June 14, 2021 minutes be approved with minor revisions.

CARRIED.

4.0 Chair's Report

Dr. Spence welcomed returning faculty and congratulated newly hired faculty: Bill Cook, Tenure Track position in Native Studies – Native Languages; Dr. Ian Puppe, Tenure Track position in Native Studies – Governance; Dr. Michael Hamon, History term position; Mostafa Torabi, Business Administration term position; and Jacqueline Russell, Drama term position.

Dr. Spence expressed his sincere appreciation to all those who have been so unwavering and patient in assisting him. He noted that Lisa Murray, Jan Mahoney and Sally Mott were among the first Arts people

he met with in-person and thanked them for providing day-to-day guidance. Dr. Reinhold Kramer was thanked for providing a thorough briefing and for his continued guidance when needed. He also thanked Dr. Rosanne Gasse who volunteered guidance on modus operandi and all other faculty who continue to assist him with navigation in his new position. He further noted that his decision to accept the Acting Dean assignment was informed by a philosophy that growth and development of our Departments, Faculties and University must be underpinned by the coincidence of shared vision. In the pursuit of a shared vision, he has been meeting with the Department Chairs and Program Coordinators over the past three weeks to obtain programmatic familiarity; identify outstanding issues requiring immediate attention; identify emergent program-related issues; and to discuss departmental vision in context of BU's Strategic Plan. He has also been engaged in research accommodation discussions as well as Dean's Council, President's Advisory Council and Curriculum and Academic Planning deliberations, some of which are reflected in the Fall Term reopening procedures in relation to COVID-19. Dr. Kramer has worked closely with the Physical Plant in spearheading the COVID protocol set up in classrooms and these are set and ready to go.

Arts has cancelled some low-enrolment courses, especially those involving Sessional instructors, and all sessional contracts for this term have been prepared.

A process has been initiated to establish a Search Committee for a RDI Director to replace Dr. Bill Aston who will retire at the beginning of November. Dr. Kramer will be organizing the search committee.

A draft BU policy regarding off-campus activities will be circulated later today.

Dr. Lynn MacKay expressed concern over lost BURC/PDA funds due to COVID shut-downs and questioned whether these funds would be further extended. Dr. Spence deferred to Dr. Campbell, who will bring this concern forward to BUFA negotiations.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Elections

Dr. Kramer, Nominations Coordinator, reviewed the slate of elections, noting recent changes and vacant positions. Nominations from the floor filled all positions and members were elected as noted in the attached list.

5.2 New courses/Course Changes

Dr. Kramer reviewed the course changes from English.

MOTION: (Kramer/Gasse) – THAT 30:429 Chaucer and his Contemporaries be deleted, and THAT 30:3XX Geoffrey Chaucer: The Resurgence of English and 30:4XX Themes in Medieval Literature be approved as new courses.

CARRIED.

Dr. Petrella spoke to a prerequisite error for 90:358 *Crime, Law and Media* that will come to the next AFC.

5.3 Modification to Program of Study

Dr. Wilder Robles explained the Rural Development Department's proposal to change the MRD degree title to M.A. in Rural Development. This degree title change will provide graduates with a more globally recognized degree name.

MOTION: (Robles/Bessant) – THAT the Significant Modification to a Program of Study form to change the title of the MRD degree to MA Rural Development be submitted to the Province.

CARRIED.

5.4 Faculty of Arts Speaker Series (FASS) Delivery Preference 2021-22

Dr. Lynn MacKay expressed the FASS organizers' desire to keep the speakers series online for the upcoming year. This manner of delivery opens the audience to people beyond the university and seems to be a safer method given the uncertainties of COVID.

MOTION: (MacKay/Elliott) – THAT the Faculty of Arts Speaker's Series continue to be presented via Zoom.

CARRIED.

5.5 Name change to Visual Art Major, Minor and the Creative Arts Stream

Prof. Kevin deForest reminded members that during the previous academic year, the IshKaabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg Department of Visual Art modified all course names and descriptions to remove the word "Aboriginal" and replace it with "Indigenous." The same change to the names of their Major, Minor and to the Creative Arts Stream will complete the update to terminology desired by the Department.

MOTION: (DeForest/Combet) – THAT the Major, Minor and Stream name changes put forth by IshKaabatens Waasa Gaa Inaabateg Department of Visual Art be approved.

CARRIED.

5.6 Decanal Search – Dr. Kofi Campbell

Dr. Campbell introduced himself to members and requested that the Acting Dean step out of the meeting during this discussion. Dr. Spence left the meeting.

Dr. Campbell spoke to members about the recommendations resulting from an investigation into the past Dean of Arts Search. He noted that all but one of these recommendations will be shared with members of the Arts Faculty. When questioned, he explained that one external investigator reviewed the process with each member of the hiring committee. It was imperative that each member of the hiring committee know that their conversation with the investigator was confidential and that they were free to speak openly and honestly about the process. The full report will remain confidential, which is standard HR practice. The findings from this investigation impact searches beyond the Dean of Arts position and it will take time and careful consideration to change BU's policies.

Members expressed concern over a number of issues. One member expressed their dismay over the treatment of Dr. Robson, who is widely respected in the Faculty, and who had applied and had been shortlisted for the position. She had put her name forward for the deanship in good faith, and the outcome of the process has ended up subjecting her to the maximum amount of public humiliation possible. Notwithstanding the signing of a document of support for Dr. Robson by 34 Arts faculty members, the narrative that the faculty of Arts is "divided and dysfunctional," that continues to be circulated on campus, is inaccurate and dangerous. The argument was made that the faculty is not divided, and actually quite united over the mishandling of the hiring of a new dean.

The faculty was told that an investigation was carried out in the spring of 2021, and that a report was received in May: the entire summer has gone by without any discussion of the recommendations. It was expressed that the policies governing hiring committees for Admin positions are flawed and in need of revision, therefore the long forced pause was counterproductive and delayed the search for a new Dean significantly.

Dr. Campbell invited the search committee members or others in the faculty to meet with him. His office will facilitate this. Dr. Campbell hopes to have the recommendations to the members of the Faculty of Arts in roughly a month's time.

MOTION: (Winter/Robles) – THAT the meeting time be extended a half hour.

CARRIED.

Dr. Spence returned to the meeting.

5.7 September 30th Holiday

Dr. Steve Asselin expressed concern over the loss of class time that this recently announced holiday will have on classes. Those held in slot 14 will lose one full week of class time and he would like to see the university add time to the term to compensate for the contact hours lost.

MOTION: (Noll/Robles) – THAT due to the loss of contact hours experienced by classes held on Thursday, September 30th, the Faculty of Arts add December 9th to the fall term as an optional day of class for instructors with Thursday schedules who desire to restore the lost teaching time.

CARRIED.

6.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Arts Faculty Selection Committee Procedures – AFC Review and Planning

Dr. Rick Baker noted that the committee is almost done the suggested revisions and will present them at the next AFC meeting.

6.2 COVID Protocol Update

The Chair drew members' attention to the August 26 email sent out by the BU Communications Department that notes the most recent changes to BU's COVID protocol. Dr. Varley expressed her frustration with the lack of clear information from senior administration. She posed several questions at the last AFC and they have not been answered. She, and other members, do not feel safe in the classroom and need answers immediately. The Dean will take their concerns to the Dean's Council meeting tomorrow and report back as soon as he can.

7.0 Other Business/Announcements

The Chair congratulated Dr. Alison Marshall on receiving the William Norrie Arts and Cultural Volunteer Award for her work with the Chinese community.

Dr. Spence also announced that the deadline for nominations for the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences 2022 Governor General's Innovation Awards is September 17th. For further details, please contact Lisa Murray in the Dean's Office.

Dr. Serena Petrella asked that Senior Admin be shown this document: Guideline on Human Rights and COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements EN FINAL August 2021.pdf. This document bolsters the argument that vaccines are a necessary health measure, and that simple dissent on ideological (not medical)

grounds, will not allow a private citizen to legally challenge an employer's introduction of mandatory vaccine mandates, on the grounds that it is a "human rights violation."

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8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:52.