

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting
March 8, 2022
Held by Zoom**

PRESENT: A. Abdou; D. Combet; W. Cook; K. deForest; R. Elliott; R. Gasse; S. Grills; A. Hanemaayer; D. Hétu; E. Holland; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; C. Mason; A. McCulloch; S. Medd; E. Mihelakis; K. Noll; W. Robles; L. Robson; J. Russell; K. Saunders; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Wood; F. Zehtab-Jadid; L. Jardine; A. Oredogbe; B. Spence (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: J. Dolecki; M. Hamon; A. Marshall; V. Maud; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; B. Rose; C. Schneider; B. Strang; E. Varley; H. Venema; L. Xu; H. Zhuang

REGRETS: R. Baker; C. Boulton; R. Dwivedula

ON LEAVE: J. Allan; K. Bessant; P. Harms; R. Hinthier; D. Klonowski; H. Liu; D. Racine; D. Smid

GUESTS: A. McDaniel; C. Lagimodiere

Call to Order

Dr. Spence welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

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

CARRIED.

Dr. Spence suggested items 4.1 and 4.2 begin immediately following agenda approval so guests do not need to sit through the Chair's Report before presenting.

4.1 Residence Requirement document and ERP update – Andrea McDaniel

Admissions, student records, finance system (legacy systems) all need to be updated for the new ERP program. The initial plan was to go live this summer, but there have been delays in the project. As we move through product, want to take advantage of degree planning program. Students can see at any time what is required, what they have completed and what they have left to complete. Everyone is able to see the same, and the most current, information. This is a very attractive piece of the software and we want to take advantage of it to the fullest. Some things need to be framed differently in the calendar and one of these is residence requirements, which is the number of credits a student has to complete at their home university before they are able to receive that home university's credential. All degrees in Bachelor of Arts have existing residence requirements attached to them in the calendar; Andrea discussed these necessary changes and outlined them in the tables in the package. The primary change Andrea is suggesting is removing any reference to last X credit hours of the degree have to be completed at the home university, including the minor degrees of Business Administration and Economics, which are different requirements than other Arts departments. Andrea spoke at length about the proposed changes and referred to tables in her document (attached to the agenda package). If there are any queries, please contact Andrea. Andrea requested a vote on these changes but after discussion, it was decided that the chairs would prefer to discuss changes with their departments before voting at AFC.

Discussion: Questions about having students under multiple calendars and how that affects graduation, issues of transition, legacy issues and how it will affect students while they transfer to a new program. Andrea responded that students will be adhering to the calendar of the year they apply/register to BU, rather than the calendar year in which they declared their major (as was done previously). At least three departments expressed interest in discussing these changes before voting.

MOTION (deForest/Abdou): THAT AFC will table this vote until April meeting in order to give departments time to discuss change beforehand.

CARRIED.

4.2 Indigenization requirements for undergraduate programs – Chris Lagimodiere

There were 100 recommendations submitted for BU's indigenization plan. A committee has been started to help initiate these recommendations; this committee includes faculty reps from each of the faculties (Arts member is Dr. Lorraine Mayer), department of Native Studies representative (Velvet Maud), reps from academic units, student services and some positions held by title including librarian, VP Academic, two members of Senate, five knowledge keeper positions, and five indigenous student positions. This committee decided to prioritize and rank what commitments to implement at our institution. Through the IESSC, the committee focused on curriculum, indigenous knowledge and integration into our curriculum and classrooms, staff and faculty training and learning opportunities. Chris discussed many of the committees accomplishments made thus far including one motion (made to Senate) that all undergraduate programs include a minimum of three credit hours of indigenous education at BU. Students will therefore need an "I" credit in order to graduate. One size does not fit for all faculties, so Chris is reaching out to give information at this time and hopes to gain some future members of a smaller working group to help put these plans in motion. He would like AFC to consider what would best meet the needs of the faculty of Arts in this working group, keeping in mind that these needs and ideals can be adapted as we move forward. Chris is looking for the establishment of this working group (maybe 5 to 10 Arts faculty members) that can start reviewing some indigenization efforts with guidance from the IESSC and current issues of importance.

A question was raised regarding the IWGIDVA department's denial of a tenured art faculty position, formerly held by indigenous scholar Dr. Cathy Mattes. Dr. Mattes' courses were specifically geared towards indigenous students and content. In addition, a 2 year term position to fill this vacancy was denied to IWGIDVA. The concern is that when positions are denied for indigenous courses that are currently on the books (and that students need to graduate), a red flag is raised. Committees are great but when we are already in a position of being denied these positions, how will that change? Chris was not aware of this situation and emphasized how he believes indigenous positions must be supported. Discussion continued.

Dr. Spence proposed that Arts chairpersons have a meeting and discuss the best way to move forward with the working group.

2.0 MOTION: (Mihelakis/Gasse) THAT the Minutes of the AFC meeting held on February 8, 2022 be approved with minor attendance adjustment.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chairs Report

Dr. Spence talked about the three-minute thesis competition where students can share their research in a way that a lay person can understand the essence and importance of said research. The Faculty of Education has run this competition for a few years and are looking to pass it along to another faculty (if Arts is interested). Just something to think about.

Deans Council has discussed a pilot project called The Teaching Observation Pilot Project, where faculty members would act as peer observers. The idea is to enhance the teaching standards within the faculties. It is an ongoing discussion and Dr. Spence will share more relevant information along the way. E. Mihelakis mentioned that she is involved in the 180 seconds thesis in French so BU is participating in the review process (for the first time this year) and hopefully it will participate in the French version in future.

4.0 New Business

4.3 Native Studies/Languages minor transfer – R. Gasse

Housekeeping item regarding the minor in Native Languages being transferred from the department of Francophone Studies and Languages to the department of Native Studies. The rationale is now that Native Studies has a full time member (W. Cook) devoted to indigenous languages, it is time for Native Studies language courses to join the home program.

MOTION: (Gasse/Mihelakis) THAT the faculty of Arts approve and recommend the transfer of the languages minor from the department Francophone Studies and Languages to the department of Native Studies.

CARRIED.

4.4 Political Science course code revision

The course change had already been approved before Senate but there was a clerical error made in recording course number, so the process needs to be re-started. This vote is to correct the error.

MOTION: (Saunders/Hetu) – THAT the Political Science course code correction be approved by AFC.

CARRIED.

4.5 RDI update

The search for a new RDI Director continues with D. Ramsey as acting Director at this time. An ad was circulated in November and response was lukewarm, therefore the search has been declared a failed search and a new attempt is underway. D. Ramsey has created a roadmap for the in-coming Director and a new ad has been put together by the committee. Dr. Spence will be meeting with the provost this week to discuss the road map and ad; he hopes that after this meeting, the committee will be in a position to post a new ad and get a new Director in place. The belief is that the original posting was not posted on an appropriate site and believe that when it is posted on this site, there will be better results. A question on timeframe was brought forward and Dr. Spence replied that the acting Director is on contract until the end of June, so the plan is to have someone in place by then.

4.6 Academic Advising

A concern was raised that students requesting academic advising have been diverted away from the programs they are interested in and pushed towards bigger programs (eg a student interested in Anthropology courses being steered towards Sociology). Another concern was brought forward where wrong or erroneous information is given to students and some chairs end up going through their student's information themselves to ensure they have the correct courses. These concerns have been felt by a few smaller departments. Dr. Holland and Dr. Varley will meet with student services/advising and relay their findings so that these departments can proceed collectively. Dr. Spence looks forward to hearing feedback from this meeting.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Sessional Volunteer to faculty committee

According to the Dean's Council and CA, faculty has the authority to vote on this issue, as service on committees is not *required* of sessional instructors but they can volunteer their service on faculty committees. A motion was invited for sessionals to be allowed to join faculty committees. Discussion continued. Dr. Spence suggested tabling this vote for next meeting so that by-laws can be consulted.

MOTION: (MacKay/Robles) THAT the vote on whether sessional instructors can volunteer for faculty committees be tabled to next AFC meeting.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Mackay/Robles) – THAT the AFC meeting be extended by ten minutes.

CARRIED.

5.2 COVID update

The province is quickly lifting its mandates however BU will continue enforcement of its mandates until April 28. BU does not want to change protocols mid-stream for faculty and students. After April 28, we will transition to gold phase and will open to the public. There is a cautious expectation that we will have an in-person convocation in the spring.

Also, BU has acquired 1000 rapid antigen tests to be available to faculty and staff on an as-needed basis. More to come on that when details are worked out.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements – none

Dr. Hetu would like to remind everyone that senior student colloquium is underway but there applicant numbers have been low. Please remind your senior students of this opportunity.

7.0 Adjournment (Mihelakis/Robles) – Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm.