

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting**  
**March 7, 2023**  
**Held by Zoom and In-Person Hybrid**

**PRESENT:** C. Boulton; W. Cook; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; R. Gasse; S. Grills; P. Harms; R. Hinthner; E. Holland; W. Kelly; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; V. Maud; A. McCulloch; S. Medd; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; W. Robles; L. Robson; D. Smid; M. Torabi; E. Varley; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Wood; F. Zehtab-Jadid; H. Zhuang; L. Jardine; T. Gill (Student Services); J. Lindsay (Science); B. Spence (Chair); L. Murray (Host); S. Mott (recorder)

**ABSENT:** A. Abdou; D. Combet; K. Edmunds; D. Hétu; S. Khayambashi; R. Kramer; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; K. Noll; I. Puppe; D. Racine; D. Ramsey; B. Rose; K. Saunders; C. Schneider; B. Strang; D. Taylor; L. Xu

**REGRETS:** J. Allan; K. Bessant; L. McLachlan; E. Mihelakis; S. Robinson

**ON LEAVE:** R. Baker; A. Hanemaayer; D. Klonowski; H. Venema

**GUESTS:** Cora Dupuis; Curt Shoultz

### **1.0 Call to Order**

Dr. Spence welcomed members and guests to the meeting and gave the Land Acknowledgement.

### **2.0 Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION (Petrella/Holland): THAT the Agenda be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion: Dr. Spence requested that item 7.0 be removed from the agenda as Cheryl Fleming is unable to attend the meeting today: EDI agenda item will be postponed until the next AFC meeting in April.

### **3.0 AI**

Curt Shoultz spoke on the Artificial Intelligence program called “Generative Pre-Trained Transformer” (GPT) that automatically generates essays and assignments based on key words entered by the student. A common website used is called OpenAI. Please see attached power point notes for presentation details. If anyone would like to assist Curt in writing a syllabus insert, please contact him to volunteer your services.

Discussion on presentation: Question raised on whether GPT inserts references? No, it does not and cannot: the only resources it can insert are from government websites and will not include scholarly articles or text books. Another question asked was whether if two students enter the exact same information, will the exact same product be generated? No, the essays will not be identical but they will be very similar. Additionally, any time anyone uses the program, it makes the program better and better and it will be harder and harder to detect the GPT. A question was also raised on how AI will impact research: it seems that AI can produce a first draft of a literary review that includes far more sources than researchers can read themselves. The answer is yes it can, even using some scholarly sources (but still predominantly government sources). E. Varley stated that she is seeing many instances of GPT in her classes. Her usual tricks to determine plagiarism are copy/pasting statements from the papers into google to see what comes up, but this is no longer working. She also noticed that the AI text is being plugged together with citations where she has to go through every citation listed to see if it matches what they are paraphrasing or giving quotes from: some of the citations do not even exist. Students are very crafty and creative in making references to make it look right. OpenAI works for this but it is not perfect—takes a lot of detective work and time to identify. The Turn It In program may be expensive, but the cost may be worth it. A lot of her students’ essays are coming in with citations or links that don’t

work and are completely made up: even though they look so real. A word of advice is to start with checking the citations and if they don't work, you will not waste any time reading the essay. Another suggestion is to ask students to share screen shots rather than citations so you know their sources are not fake. It is not ideal to make students feel like we do not trust them but at the same time, the alternative is creating students who will not have the necessary skills needed for their degree (a prime example is nursing students especially). GPT is also concerning for the students who are actually doing the work and seeing other students getting better marks and not getting caught: it is not fair to hard-working students.

Curt thanked E. Varley for her valuable information and had to sign off for another meeting.

#### **4.0 Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION (Petrella/Kelly): THAT both the minutes of the closed and open session of the AFC Meeting held February 7, 2023 be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

#### **5.0 Chair's Report**

Dr. Spence provided an update on the various position searches in the Faculty of Arts: the searches are all in various stages and most have been advertised with the exceptions of the RDI Director and the Visual Arts positions, where we are waiting on the completion of the approval process. We are already scheduling meetings for the selection phase with the expectation of being deep in the interview phase by late April or early May.

There was recently a joint workshop held with Senate and Board members on the governance and the context of the proposed Okanagan Charter and whether or not BU should become a signatory. The premise of the charter is that universities and colleges will serve as transformation agents for the sustainable health of current and future societies. In other words, by promoting the importance of health on our campus, it will facilitate general health in society. Dr. Spence would encourage you to look at the charter and the implications it would have on shared governance on campus.

#### **6.0 New and Continuing Business**

##### **6.1 Sessionals Serving on AFC Committees**

**MOTION (Holland/Mihelakis): THAT AFC committee members can have sessional representation if the sessional willingly volunteers their services.**

**CARRIED.**

This was previously tabled due to the fact that AFC was not sure if this was a faculty council decision, an administration decision and/or what role BUFA would play in the matter. BUFA has confirmed that there is nothing mentioned in the CA that prevents sessionals from voluntarily serving on faculty committees. Discussion: A comment was made on how disappointing it is that full-time faculty will not step forward to serve on committees and that sessionals feel the need to. Another comment was made that although it is important for sessionals to be acclimated into faculty life, it is not ideal that someone who is here for the short term would make long-term policy and decisions: that is the responsibility of tenured, full time faculty members.

##### **6.2 Marker Request Process – L. MacKay**

Dr. MacKay expressed concern regarding the student marker hiring process and how long the process takes before the student can be hired—sometimes leading to work needing completion before the student can be hired—this can often result in a “promise” of a contract to a student before they can be

technically hired. One suggestion presented is that perhaps there can be two due dates: one early for those who absolutely know they will need a marker and a later one for those who unexpectedly have higher enrollments than they were expecting etc. Discussion resulted from this comment. Another suggestion was made that since many faculty members will know they will need markers ahead of time, perhaps the due date for marker applications could be in August and December, with monies and consideration set aside for emergency needs. Clarification was made on the lengthy process of marker applications, hiring procedure and practices etc. Discussion continued: it was determined that the student marker hiring process (call for applications) would begin on the last day of first term in December and first week in August, in hopes that the start date of the student marker would align with faculty start date.

### **6.3 BU Teaching House – B. Spence**

If any faculty has an issue or topic they wish to have explored in the context of the BU Teaching House, please contact Erica Brown. This is an excellent pathway to further indigenization of the curriculum.

### **8.0 Other Business/Announcements**

W. Kelly informed AFC about the upcoming Rural Development presentation from Dr. Julia Amorim on “The Privatization of Brazil’s Health Care System and its Impact on Indigenous Peoples”. Thank you to the contributing departments: Rural Development, RDI, Indigenous People’s Centre, Francophone Languages and Studies, Native Studies and Gender & Women’s Studies.

The Creative Writing Literary Exchange has an event coming up this Thursday called “Walking Home: Cross Cultural Exchange in Rural Manitoba” by BU Education Student Elaine Hofer. It is a presentation on her self-published memoir regarding sponsoring a Syrian refugee family.

An announcement was made regarding the retirement of long-term Dean of Arts office assistant, Lisa Murray. She has participated in 260 AFC meetings! Lisa’s last day on campus will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. All were vehemently opposed!!

Dr. Spence reminded AFC that March 8<sup>th</sup> is International Women’s Day and encourages everyone to celebrate and acknowledge the many women who contribute to our society.

### **9.0 Adjournment (Smid/Maud)**

Meeting adjourned at 1:39pm.