

Minutes of the AFC Meeting
February 6, 2024
Held In-Person in CHO 104 and by Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT: R. Baker; C. Boulton; D. Combet; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; A. Hanemaayer; P. Harms; D. Héту; E. Holland; W. Kelly; N. LaFleur; M. Malainey; V. Maud; A. McCulloch; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; K. Noll; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; W. Robles; L. Robson; B. Rose; D. Smid; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; K. Wong; L. Wood; F. Zehtab-Jadid; L. Jardine; C. Dupuis (Co-op); S. Gadbois (Science); B. Spence (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: A. Abdou; H. Gillander; D. Klonowski; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; D. Racine; B. Strang; M. Tsoy; H. Venema D. Winter; L. Xu; H. Zhuang

REGRETS: J. Allan; K. Bessant; S. Koosel; J. Naylor; K. Saunders; C. Schneider; T. Gill (Student Services)

ON LEAVE: W. Cook; R. Gasse; S. Grills; R. Hinther; L. MacKay; A. Marshall; E. Mihelakis; E. Varley

GUEST: None

Call to Order

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

1.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Smid/Hanemaayer): THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (Héту/Petrella): THAT the minutes of the AFC meeting held on December 5, 2023 be approved.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chair's Report

Many departments are anxiously awaiting for position approvals/announcements. Unfortunately we have no news to share as the process is on-going. This puts us in a bad position as we will be behind in advertising and recruiting candidates in good time. A question was asked as to whether departments should have ads ready to go, in order to be prepared to advertise at the last minute. This is a good idea, although everyone should keep in mind that ads need to be approved by the committee before they are submitted for approvals/posting. If you would like to send a proposed ad early, please send to Sally and she will distribute to the committee if/when the time arrives.

An ad hoc Senate committee is being established for microcredentials at BU. There is an invitation for faculty representatives to volunteer to serve on this committee. Please let Sally know if you are interested.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Research at BU – Ariane Hanemaayer – Tabled to March

4.2 Calendar Revision – Dominique Héту

MOTION (Héту/Hanemaayer): THAT the course revisions for Francophone Studies and Languages be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

4.3 Committee Election – Senate Appeals Committee Vacancy – Cameron Boulton

MOTION (Boulton/Robles): THAT Dominique Héту replace Rhonda Hinthier as the Arts representative on the Senate Appeals Committee until June 30, 2024 (for the remainder of Rhonda’s sabbatical).

CARRIED.

4.3 Senate Examination Policy Review Subcommittee – B. Spence

MOTION (Spence/Héту): THAT Deanna Smid be approved as the Arts representative for the new Senate Examination Policy Review subcommittee.

CARRIED.

4.4 BU Semester Dates – P. Harms

Dr. Spence opened this discussion by stating that semester dates have already been approved by Senate but any suggestions for improvement can still be made to the Registrar’s Office.

Dr. Patti Harms wanted to discuss the past December break, where there were only four working days between the last day of exams and the first day of classes. She feels that there was not enough time to prepare for the upcoming term, especially without working on stat holidays. She is also concerned for the students who did not get much of a break and who themselves might have children who had not yet gone back to school and couldn’t be left at home on their own. Patti just felt like it was psychologically and mentally draining not to have sufficient time off to recharge. Shouldn’t there be some consultation with faculty?

Dr. Spence reiterated that these dates have been approved by Senate but if we would like to invite the Registrar to speak on this issue at a future AFC, we could certainly do so.

A comment was made that classes started on January 8th at every other institution. A faculty member informed AFC that this was discussed at the last Senate meeting and that they did look at other institutions before deciding on BU term dates. This discussion continued at length with various personal concerns being brought forward. It was relayed to the group that there are five faculties at BU with different systems than Arts and that the campus must take into account what works best for everyone and make a decision that works for most. It was also mentioned that since BU’s term started earlier than other institutions’, it will also end earlier.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

None

6.0 Other Business/Announcements

Congratulations to Doug Ramsey, who was recently appointed to the Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries Board.

Happy Birthday to Cameron Boulton!

Faculty of Arts Indigenous course working group is putting together a faculty survey alongside Institutional Data. Stay tuned.

Next Tuesday, on February 13, Allison Noto will be hosting a presentation on understanding department budget reports: it is open to everyone who wishes to attend.

Lisa Wood and Dominique Héту reminded AFC about the upcoming FASS presentation by Bruce Strang this Friday, February 9.

Rural Development will be hosting a welcome event for new students on Wednesday February 7.

Lisa Wood reminded everyone that there is a Faculty Art Show on at the Sutherland Gallery. It is open Monday to Saturday from 1-4pm.

Patti Harms reminded everyone that Senior Colloquium is on April 8th and to please start thinking about 3rd and 4th year students who may be interested in presenting.

Dominique Hétu volunteered for the aforementioned microcredentials Senate committee!

Dr. Spence announced that this meeting will be his final AFC before the incoming Dean starts on March 1st. Dr. Spence is very grateful for his time spent as Acting Dean of Arts. He came in with little understanding of Arts and leaves with a great deal of respect and admiration for his colleagues. It was one of his greatest privileges of service to work with you all. Dr. Spence will be debriefing the incoming Dean upon his arrival: please let Balfour know if there is anything you think he needs to bring forward.

7.0 Adjournment (Robinson/Smid)

Meeting adjourned at 1:19pm.