

Minutes of the AFC Meeting
March 12, 2024
Held In-Person in CHO 104 and by Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT: A. Abdou; J. Allan; R. Baker; C. Boulton; D. Combet; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; A. Hanemaayer; P. Harms; D. Héту; E. Holland; W. Kelly; R. Kramer; N. LaFleur; M. Malainey; V. Maud; L. Mayer; A. McCulloch; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; J. Naylor; K. Noll; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; W. Robles; L. Robson; B. Rose; D. Smid; M. Torabi; D. Winter; L. Wood; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid; H. Zhuang; C. Henry; L. Jardine; C. Dupuis (Co-op); M. DiMuro (Education); S. Gadbois (Science); T. Gill (Student Services); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: H. Gillander; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; D. Racine; K. Saunders; B. Strang; M. Tsoy; H. Venema; K. Wong

REGRETS: K. Bessant; S. Koosel; D. Ramsey; C. Schneider; D. Taylor

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

GUEST: Chris Lagimodiere; Dr. Balfour Spence

Call to Order

Dr. Kennedy welcomed Arts Faculty members to the meeting.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Baker/Dwivedula): THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

Agenda amended: item "4.2 Reports from Senate Reps - E. Mihelakis" postponed until April AFC. Request and decision made to move item "4.3 Research at BU - A. Hanemaayer" up on the Agenda: moved ahead of Chair's Report and after Guest.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (Héту/Smid): THAT the minutes of the AFC meeting held on February 6, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED.

4.0 New Business

Dr. Kennedy welcomed special guest Dr. Balfour Spence, who was applauded for his work as Acting Dean of Arts for the last two and a half years. Thank you, Balfour!

4.1 Arts Faculty Indigenous Working Group (Chris Lagimodiere)

Chris Lagimodiere, Associate VP of Indigenous Initiatives, attended AFC to speak on the Arts Faculty Indigenous Working Group, whose members include Emily Holland, Natalie LaFluer and Ian Puppe. This is part of a larger institutional initiative and Senate sub-committee that has established ten institutional commitments to support Indigenous Education. Other faculty members interested in getting involved can reach out. The Arts Working Group has further created a survey for all to complete in order to assist with identifying questions, concerns, and opportunities.

Chris Lagimodiere then invited questions from the AFC: one faculty member expressed a potential concern about how some Indigenous faculty members teaching mandatory course content may experience negative treatment from some students. The Associate VP asked for more information and will follow-up. The Dean also encouraged departments to review the criteria to approve courses

meeting the institutional Indigenous content requirement, as this will diversify the offerings and share the work. The sub-committee meets in April to consider current proposals and review those that were approved in a preliminary fashion for this past academic year. Another faculty member asked if Indigenous content was limited to North America. The Associate VP indicated yes at this time.

4.2 Reports from Senate Reps – E. Mihelakis – Tabled to April

4.3 Research at BU – Ariane Hanemaayer

Dr. Hanemaayer submitted four draft motions for AFC. First:

MOTION (Hanemaayer/Hetu) - THAT the ORS and Finance produce two training modules for all faculty members that train faculty to read and understand both the balance and departmental reports and the employee analysis/payroll information.

Introduction: Dr. Hanemaayer expressed the need to offer more regular financial training for all faculty members so that they can better manage their grants and also have a better understanding of budgeting software and specific financial approval processes at BU. Past training sessions delivered by financial services staff were appreciated and could be repeated, but there was also a desire for training modules or other kinds of permanent resources.

Discussion:

- Several colleagues suggested revised wording of the motion to make it more of a request rather than a task.
- The consensus was that both synchronous (in-person) and asynchronous options would be helpful.
- The Dean offered that it was part of his job to pursue these kinds of requests with the relevant offices and that he would be happy to follow-up with financial services, the research office, and the new VP (Research and Graduate Studies).

Friendly Amendment:

MOTION (Hanemaayer/Hétu) - THAT AFC requests additional training opportunities be made available to all faculty on financial reports and procedures, including but not limited to research grants, departmental budgets, and hiring of students and other assistants.

CARRIED as Amended.

MOTION (Hanemaayer/Combet) - THAT the ORS and Finance remove language 6c from the “Authorization to Operate Account” form, to bring our research practices into line with higher education standards.

TABLED.

Dr. Hanemaayer explained that according to some of her own preliminary research, other institutions use different language and have a different understanding of the responsibilities of institutions and individual researchers with regards to research accounts. A wide-ranging discussion ensued, with several members requesting examples. It was also mentioned that this specific point had implications for the union and employer and might best be taken up in that forum. With time short, there was consensus that Dr. Hanemaayer would circulate the results of their research so far as well as consult with BUFA, and that the Dean would discuss with the relevant financial staff at BU, in order to set the conditions for a more focused discussion at a future AFC.

3.0 Chair’s Report

Sent ahead of AFC meeting for Faculty review. Elaboration not necessary: please contact the Dean of Arts if you have any questions. Dean’s office hours are Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 3pm.

5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

None

6.0 Other Business/Announcements

- Jim Naylor reminded everyone that the Senior Colloquium is on April 8th and to please urge 3rd and 4th year students to present.
- Lisa Wood reminded Faculty of the Dr. Koosel's student exhibition at the Glen P. Sutherland Art Gallery.
- Cameron Boulton needs two volunteers for the SSHRC Impact Award committee: thank you to Reinhold Kramer for volunteering.

7.0 Adjournment (Smid)

Meeting adjourned at 1:33pm.