

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting
April 22, 2025
Held In-Person in CHO 104**

PRESENT: K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; H. Gillander; A. Hanemaayer; P. Harms; D. Hétu; R. Hinther; W. Kelly; L. MacKay; V. Maud; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; A. Mulhern; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; L. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; D. Smid; B. Strang*; D. Taylor; M. Tsoy; D. Winter; L. Wood; M. Williams-Joel (BUSU); C. Dupuis (Co-op); C. Kazakoff-Lane (Library); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: M. Ebeid; S. Grills; D. Klonowski; L. Laidlaw; D. Lakevold; J. Naylor; D. Racine; H. Venema; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid

REGRETS: J. Allan; R. Baker; K. Bessant; C. Boulton; D. Combet; S. Koosel; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; A. McCulloch; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; E. Mihelakis; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; W. Robles; C. Schneider; M. Torabi; E. Varley; K. Wong; H. Zhuang

ON LEAVE: A. Abdou; E. Holland; R. Kramer; B. Strang*

GUESTS: None

Call to Order

Dr. Kennedy called the meeting to order and gave the land acknowledgement.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Hanemaayer/Rose) – THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION FOR AMENDMENT (Petrella/Winter): THAT the agenda be amended to move item 3.0 ahead of item 2.0.

CARRIED

Outgoing BUSU Arts Representative, Michelle Williams Joel, has been elected VP of BUSU and attended the meeting to introduce her replacement, Faith Akinbode.

3.0 Determine May AFC Date

The next AFC will be held on May 27th at 3:00pm and will focus on review of the ranking of staffing requests from across the Faculty of Arts. Location to be determined.

2.0 New Business cont'd

2.1 Committee Elections

MOTION (Smid/MacKay) – THAT the remaining committee nominees be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Note that both seats on FASS have yet to be filled for the 2025-26 academic year.

2.2 Department of History – D. Winter

MOTION (Winter/Harms) – THAT, based on concerns about communications from the AVPR's office related to BURC applications results and more general problems related to BURC and BUREC, confidence has been lost in the VPRGS (Research and Graduate Studies)'s ability to fulfill the obligations of her job.

Discussion: Dr. Strang provided a synopsis of the context of the department Motion, namely, his own experience with a BURC application. While this individual matter is up to the member to resolve through the means available to them (e.g. appeal, grievance, etc.), this raised a larger discussion about research support for the Faculty of Arts at BU. Members brought up various concerns including a lack of transparency and communication from the office of the VPRGS, a lack of clarity of the roles of the staff within that office, the changes to admin support for BUREC since the transition from Shannon Downey to others. There is a general, widely held view, that the office of the VPRGS does not fully understand the support needs of researchers in the Faculty of Arts, as well as general dissatisfaction about the current BURC policy, particularly with regards to appeals, and to defining BURC funding as being conditional on applying for Tri-Agency external funds. Further, some members expressed concern at a perceived lack of knowledge and training for BURC committee members on issues around Indigenization, and a lack of voice for Indigenous faculty members when grants are determined / rejected back on such issues.

Some members noted that these issues are systemic in nature rather than attributable to a single person, particularly in the context of the new VPRGS office which has only existed since January 2024. AFC requested that the Dean prepare a list of talking points to be shared with Dr. Ardelli and initiate a preliminary discussion to advocate for the Faculty of Arts and improve both research support and mutual understanding. There was also general hope that the VPRGS might visit a future AFC to speak to AFC on these concerns in a collaborative spirit. The Dean noted that individuals, BUFA, BURC and BUREC Arts Reps, and others have roles to play to support these endeavours.

4.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:32pm.