

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting**  
**April 8, 2025**  
**Held In-Person in CHO 212**

**PRESENT:** J. Allan; R. Baker; K. Bessant; C. Boulton; D. Combet; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; H. Gillander; S. Grills; A. Hanemaayer; P. Harms; D. Héту; R. Hinther; W. Kelly; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; V. Maud; L. Mayer; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; E. Mihelakis; A. Mulhern; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; L. Robson; D. Smid; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; M. Tsoy; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Wood; C. Robinson; T. Gill (Student Services); M. Williams-Joel (BUSU); M. DiMuro (Education); C. Dupuis (Coop); A. McDaniel (Registrar); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

**ABSENT:** K. DeForest; M. Ebeid; D. Klonowski; L. Laidlaw; K. McKenzie; I. Puppe; D. Racine; H. Venema; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid

**REGRETS:** R. Dwivedula;; S. Koosel; A. McCulloch; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; W. Robles; B. Rose; K. Saunders; C. Schneider; E. Varley; H. Zhuang

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

**GUESTS:** Kofi Campbell (Provost & VP Academic); Shannon Downey (Executive Office to Provost & VP Academic)

**Call to Order**

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

**1.0 Welcome/Celebrations**

Dr. Kennedy welcomed Arts Faculty members and faculty discussed a few great things happening in Arts.

- Arts BUSU representative, Michelle Williams-Joel, has recently been elected to the role of BUSU VP; Michelle will introduce the new Arts rep next meeting
- Congratulations to Dr. Lorraine Mayer who was recently awarded the Senate Award for Research Excellence
- Dr. Emily Holland was recognized for her very important work on the Prairie Green landfill search

**2.0 Approval of Agenda**

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

**MOTION FOR AMENDMENT (Winter/Harms): The Department of History would like to add a discussion to the agenda regarding the BURC and BUREC grant adjudication process. The addition was approved on the condition that if time runs out, a Special AFC will be held to address the issue.**

**CARRIED WITH AMENDMENT.**

**3.0 Approval of the Minutes**

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

**CARRIED.**

**4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

- None

## 5.0 BU Academic Plan – K. Campbell

Dr. Campbell presented an overview of the BU Academic Plan (attached) and opened the floor to questions and comments. Discussion revolved around aspects such as building and fostering partnerships with the community; the definition of community, partnership and sustainability; the use of strong wording of “must” rather than “working collegially”; the recognition of academic freedom; the lack of inclusion of rural geography and distinction between graduate and undergraduate programs; and how BU will respond to the demands of the community. Dr. Campbell will take these suggestions into account and also invited any further questions, opinions etc to be sent to the VP Office. The final version of the Academic Plan will be available May 6<sup>th</sup>.

## 6.0 Chair’s Report

Discussion:

- Congratulations to Scott Grills, Heather Gillander and (once again) Darrell Racine on their upcoming retirements. AFC wishes you all the best in your futures and thanks you for your vast contributions over the years to your departments, the Arts Faculty Council and to the BU campus/community.
- A reminder to all that Richard Adu is continuing on this summer as the Faculty of Arts Student Communications Assistant, albeit at reduced hours. Richard has already accumulated 555 active followers across various social media platforms that celebrate Arts programs, students, alumni and events. Please feel free to reach out to Richard if you need any assistance in promoting your department. The Student Communications Assistant position has been a successful venture and we hope to resume more robust hours again in the fall.
- The Staffing Request deadline to the Dean’s Office has been extended to May 8, thereafter the Dean will rank the submissions. There will be an AFC called in later May to discuss the rankings. Everyone is welcome to submit requests however an email came out this week from the VP Provost office which reminded everyone about the current financial situation and the unlikelihood of new positions being approved.
- The deadline for faculty/unit EDIDR plans has been extended to September 30 by a combined BUFA/BU determination. This is to allow the new Equity Review Committee to be struck and for institutional data to be collected.
- A question was asked about when departments could expect to see the 2025-26 budget: Greg replied that we are hoping for the end of May but it is likely to be similar to the 2024-25 budget.

**MOTION (Hanemaayer/Mayer) – THAT AFC expresses its concern about the timeline of the EDI plan and the optics of this delay in the current political climate. WE direct the Dean to advocate for a timely development of the plan.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion:

- Some members expressed concerns that there was insufficient action on the EDIDR commitments across BU/BUFA. A general discussion ensued about the requirements and the impact on members from equity-seeking groups.

**MOTION (NAME/NAME) – THAT AFC mandates the EDIDR committee to draft an interim plan for consideration no later than August 15, 2025.**

Discussion:

- Members from equity-seeking groups must be given the opportunity to participate on these committees.
- Elders, Knowledge-keepers, and other advisors are not to be considered replacements for faculty members on this committee

**MOTION WITH FRIENDLY AMENDMENT – THAT AFC mandates the EDIDR committee to draft an interim plan for consideration no later than August 15, 2025. This committee must ensure it includes appropriate representation from equity-seeking groups in the Faculty of Arts.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **7.0 New Business**

### **7.1 AI Policy Approval - Department of History**

**MOTION (Hinther/MacKay) – THAT AFC approve the Department of History AI Policy as submitted.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.2 Course Revisions – Department of Business Administration**

**MOTION (Taylor/Gillander) – THAT AFC approves changes suggested by Indigenous Content Committee (ICC), to be included in 2025-26 academic calendar.**

**CARRIED (14 For; 6 Against; 10 Abstain)**

Some members were concerned about the percentage of Metis content in this Indigenous course, and also noted that the textbook intended to be used is dated. Other members noted that this course had already been approved at AFC and at ICC, and that the small changes incorporated were specifically to address some of these concerns.

### **7.3 Course Revisions – IWGIDVA Dept of Visual Art**

**MOTION (Wood/Mihelakis) – THAT the IWGIDVA course revision be approved as submitted.**

**CARRIED**

### **7.4 New Arts Committees – Arts Student Recognition Committee and Arts EDIDR Committee**

**MOTION (MacKay/Harms) – THAT AFC approve the creation of both the Arts Student Recognition Committee and the Arts EDIDR Committee.**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION (Hinther/Smid) – THAT AFC approve the inaugural members of the Arts Student Recognition Committee as Lynn MacKay, Rick Baker and Patti Harms.**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION (Hinther/Gillander) – THAT AFC approve the inaugural members of the Arts EDIDR Committee as Lorraine Mayer, Velvet Maud, Aldea Mulhern and Denis Combet.**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION (Grills) – THAT AFC extends the meeting to 4:00pm.**

**CARRIED.**

### **7.5 Committee Elections**

**MOTION (Boult/Hetu) – THAT the various committee nominees be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**7.6 SWRC Executive Summary – Will be presented at BUFA AGM**

**7.7 Revised Arts Hiring Policy – AFC Review and Planning**

**MOTION (Gasse/Allan) – THAT AFC approve the AFC Review and Planning annual report and the revised Faculty of Arts Hiring Policy.**

**TABLED**

Discussion: Consensus continues to elude AFC on this policy. A number of questions and concerns were raised including the number of departmental members that should be included and ensuring for an odd number of committee members as a whole. There was also discussion about what would constitute “exceptional circumstances” for retiring or resigning members to participate as voting members. This feedback will be taken back to the committee for further consideration.

**7.8 Future AFC Dates**

**MOTION (NAME/NAME) – THAT AFC approves the new AFC meeting dates.**

**CARRIED**

**8.0 Other Business/Announcements**

**None**

**9.0 Adjournment**

**Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm.**

Discussion: A special AFC will be held in April to discuss the motion brought forward today by the Department of History and also to fill outstanding committee vacancies. An additional AFC meeting will also be held in May to discuss staffing request rankings and the revised Faculty of Arts Hiring Policy.