

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting
September 16, 2025
Held In-Person in CHO 212**

PRESENT: L. Barcellona; R. Baker; D. Combet; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; P. Harms; D. Héту; R. Hinther; W. Kelly; S. Koosel; R. Kramer; L. Laidlaw; A. Lints; L. MacKay; A. Marshall; A. McCulloch; L. McLachlan; E. Mihelakis; S. Medd; A. Mulhern; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; W. Robles; L. Robson; D. Smid; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; E. Varley; D. Winter; L. Xu; F. Akinbode (BUSU); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: A. Abdou; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; K. McKenzie; K. Saunders; B. Strang; A. Theuer; M. Tsoy; H. Venema; K. Wong; F. Zehtab-Jadid

REGRETS: J. Allan; K. Bessant; B. Rose; C. Schneider; L. Wood; H. Zhuang; C. Dupuis (Co-op)

ON LEAVE: C. Boulton; A. Hanemaayer; E. Holland; M. Malainey; J. Naylor; S. Petrella

GUESTS: None

1.0 Welcome Back/Celebrations

Dr. Kennedy welcomed everyone back for fall term and called for celebrations and announcements:

- Dr. Mihelakis has an upcoming co-edited volume, *Embodied Narratives in the Health Humanities and Literary Studies*, which will come out in October with the University of Toronto Press. Additionally, her new collection of poetry will appear in February with Les Herbes rouges.
- Dr. Doug Ramsey announced that Rural Development and RDI are hosting a conference at BU next week and will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Journal!
- Dr. Allison McCulloch has visiting scholars from Japan and New Caledonia this week. There is a guest lecture today and a FASS event tomorrow on the topic of Designing Inclusive Peace.
- In August, Dr. Patti Harms contributed a chapter to "Reading between the Lines: Antifascism within the Urban Ladina Community in Guatemala City, 1932-1944"
- Dr. Wilder Robles shared that a former BU Student, now Vice-Minister of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil, will be visiting to discuss collaboration opportunities with BU.
- BUSU Arts Student Rep, Faith Akinbode, is putting together a satisfaction survey for Arts students.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Smid/Gasse) – THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION (Héту/Smid) – THAT the minutes for the AFC meeting on May 27, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

4.1 VPRGS visit to AFC – Dr. Bernadette Ardelli, VP Research and Graduate Studies, would like to visit AFC in December to present her strategic vision for research and research support at BU. There was agreement that Arts Faculty would have the opportunity to shape this engagement by sending thoughts, questions, and concerns to the Dean that he could anonymously share in preparation.

MOTION (Mihelakis/Smid) – THAT Arts Faculty invite the VPRGS to attend the December AFC.

CARRIED

5.0 Chair's Report

Discussion:

- The Student Misconduct Academic Policy has been updated: please make sure you familiarize yourself with the new policy. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation with a student, there are avenues and approaches to take ie the Dean, Student Services etc. Help is available.
- A Teaching Circle will be held in the Faculty Lounge on September 24. The discussion will focus on dealing with uncomfortable topics in the classroom.

Questions:

- A question was asked about department budgets and whether the Dean's Office could provide a template for chairpersons to work from. Greg said, while this is a good idea and would be beneficial, it may not work for everyone as all departments have different areas of importance. Greg will think on it and may be able to provide a basic guide that works for all while remaining flexible.
- What is meant by ethics of efficiency for workload planning? Greg is building on Jessica Riddell's approach, ensuring that workload aligns with meaningful teaching and service. Greg also keeps this in mind when approving the workload; while remaining mindful that each department has different pressure points. The idea is to maximize our time with meaningful, purpose-driven work.
- A comment was made on the level of bureaucracy and how it appears everywhere – especially seen in the amount of paperwork to process small changes: why does everyone have to sign and approve everything? How does that improve anyone's life? Bureaucracy does not help in efficiency. Greg agrees and hopes that the new regime will improve these processes, but of course it will take time. Deans' Council discusses this as well and has a number of concrete suggestions.
- Circled back to the department budget template as it seems like more work: what is the point of that? Greg thinks it would improve transparency for the budget within the department and will give Greg a clear sense of where the money is being spent/is needed for departments, especially in talks with the VP (Admin & Finance) on budget reform and planning.
- Concern was raised about having the Department of Native Studies report to the Dean of Education at this time, and what the potential impact might be on students. The Dean is not able to share much information beyond what is in the Chair's Report. The program of Native Studies is still a part of Arts. There has been ongoing communication with students. A concern was also brought forward about how members of Native Studies were on the Arts Equity Committee and that those positions are now vacant so the committee cannot move forward. The Dean is waiting for guidance on these committees as there is a Letter of Agreement in process.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Calendar Revisions – English, Drama and Creative Writing

MOTION (Smid/Gasse) -THAT 30.142 Indigenous Literature be added to the Humanities list.

CARRIED.

6.2 Calendar Revisions and New Course Proposals – Business Administration

MOTION (Dwivedula/Puppe) – THAT the calendar revisions and new course proposals for Business Administration be approved by AFC.

CARRIED.

Discussion: What are the faculty implications of the new stream? Would the courses be taught by this faculty or would you need to hire new instructors? Answer: All courses are already offered in the calendar and the department will be using existing resources/faculty to deliver the stream option. Other departments and cross registration may take place in the future.

6.3 New Course Proposals and Deletions – Sociology/GWS

MOTION (Robson/Hinther) – THAT the course deletions for GWS and new course proposals for GWS and Sociology be approved.

CARRIED.

Discussion: Is the intention of the GWS Intro course to stay in the Humanities or where should it fit? Dr. Robson noted that it should read Social Sciences instead and that the form will be corrected as such before being submitted to Senate office.

6.4 Calendar Revisions – Francophone Studies and Languages

MOTION (Hetu/MacKay) – THAT the calendar revisions for Francophone Studies and Languages be approved.

CARRIED.

6.5 Course Deletions – Religion

MOTION (Medd/Hetu) – THAT the course deletions in Religion be approved.

CARRIED.

6.6 Committee Elections – Susan Medd

MOTION (Medd/Smid) – THAT all committee members be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

MOTION (Mihelakis/Smid) – THAT Eftihia Mihelakis be elected as Arts representative for the Senate ad hoc Policy on External Review of Units and Programs.

CARRIED.

Susan Medd, Arts Faculty Council Committee Coordinator, also mentioned that Gary McNeely is organizing a new CAF/PLAR committee that needs an Arts rep: please email Gary for more information.

6.7 Liberal Arts 3Yr Distributed Minor – Greg Kennedy

MOTION (Smid/Saunders) – THAT the changes to the Liberal Arts 3yr Distributed Minor be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

6.8 Liberal Education Requirement – Greg Kennedy

SFC has suggested revisions to ADES regarding the Liberal Education requirement. Please send any suggestions to Greg and he will integrate all changes and bring this back to AFC in October for a discussion and vote.

7.0 Other Business/Announcements

7.1 Teaching Circle – discussed earlier

7.2 Faculty of Arts Speaker Series (FASS) starts tomorrow. Thank you to Rick and Lindsay for taking on this important committee.

8.0 Adjournment

MOTION to Adjourn (Robles) - 1:28pm

CARRIED.