

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting**  
**November 7, 2023**  
**Held In-Person in CHO 104 and by Zoom (Hybrid)**

**PRESENT:** A. Abdou; D. Combet; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; S. Grills; P. Harms; D. Héту; R. Hinthier; E. Holland; W. Kelly; S. Koosel; R. Kramer; N. LaFleur; M. Malainey; A. McCulloch; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; W. Robles; L. Robson; B. Rose; D. Smid; M. Torabi; M. Tsoy; L. Wood; F. Zehtab-Jadid; L. Jardine; M. DiMuro (Education);

C. Dupuis (Co-op); S. Gadbois (Science); T. Gill (Student Services); B. Spence (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

**ABSENT:** A. Hanemaayer; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; K. Noll; I. Puppe; D. Racine; B. Strang; D. Taylor; E. Varley; H. Venema; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Xu; H. Zhuang

**REGRETS:** J. Allan; R. Baker; K. Bessant; C. Boulton; A. Marshall; V. Maud; K. Saunders; C. Schneider

**ON LEAVE:** W. Cook; R. Gasse; L. MacKay; E. Mihelakis

**GUEST:** D. Eberts

**Call to Order**

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

**1.0 Approval of Agenda**

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

**CARRIED.**

**2.0 Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION (Naylor/Smid): THAT the minutes of the AFC meeting on October 10, 2023 be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

**3.0 New Business**

**3.1 Liberal Arts Distributed Major Proposal – Derrek Eberts**

Dr. Eberts requested a motion be brought forward (and approved) at AFC that would initiate the inclusion of a list of social science courses in the calendar for the Liberal Arts Distributed Major. Currently, the calendar requires students to pick BA requirement in Geography courses but there is no such list to choose from: this sometimes leads students to choose anything, whether it is Arts and Physical/Natural Science courses. The problem is that if Liberal Arts students only choose courses in Natural Sciences, they will graduate with fewer Social Sciences courses than our Majors. Another issue is that, because it is not clear which courses students should choose, there is often confusion closer to graduation as to whether students have the right courses to graduate, especially in the case of Geography. This proposed list would help clarify required courses for both students and the student advisors who advise them. Dr. Eberts discussed this issue at length and proposed many ways the changes could be presented in the calendar. Some suggestions were made by Arts Faculty as to the best way these changes could be added to the calendar, if approved. Student Services also voiced how helpful this list would be for advising students.

**MOTION (Ramsey/Smid): THAT the Faculty of Arts approves the list of Geography courses for the Liberal Arts Distributed Major and approves the inclusion of this list in the course calendar.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion: Questions and discussions arose as to who manages the list of students on the program. The conclusion is that no one person manages the students (or the program) as it is difficult to do because of various issues including stream declaration, unclear processes and students changing chosen streams so often. In short, the two main issues are that there is no one managing/coordinating the program and there is nowhere in the system for students to declare their stream: this discussion was a good start in addressing these issues for future consideration.

### **3.2 Calendar Revisions**

**MOTION (Medd/Smid): THAT the proposed new course for Religion be approved as presented. CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Hinthier/Smid): THAT the proposed calendar changes for Public History be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Smid/Holland): THAT the proposed course deletion for English, Drama and Creative Writing be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Ebeid/Kramer): THAT the proposed new course for Economics be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion: Will this course support Econometrics course? Yes.

**MOTION (Robles/Smid): THAT the course changes for Rural Development be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (McCulloch/Smid): THAT the proposed course prerequisite in Political Science be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Harms/Smid): THAT the proposed course changes for Latin American Studies (History) be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion: Will this program contain a Caribbean component as they are so intertwined? Yes, it is very flexible as to what can be included.

New course proposal from Native Studies not presented: motion tabled to future meeting.

**MOTION (Koosel/Hétu): THAT the proposed new course for IWGIDVA Visual Arts be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

### **3.3 Research at BU – A. Hanemaayer - Tabled to February AFC.**

#### **4.0 Chair's Report**

On October 25, the VP of Indigenous Initiatives, Chris Lagimodiere, met with Dean's Council to get a better understanding of how his new office could assist faculties in engaging Indigenous knowledge and in identifying ways to address those needs in a respectful way. An example would be the newly established guidelines for compensation on the website. The Associate VP Indigenous Initiatives is interested in your feedback on how the creation of this office can help support those actions. Please feel free to contact Chris if you have any suggestions or questions.

During the Senate meeting on October 19, it was suggested that it is time to review faculty by-laws. We should start thinking about how to do this: perhaps we should establish a committee to review these by-laws and make them current. We will put this discussion on a future AFC agenda.

Discussion: Dr. Robles discussed an upcoming visit by the Brazilian Minister of Indigenous People to BU and invited faculty to attend, as much of the information presented will be very interesting. Comments were made about the challenges in setting up the visit and how the administrative process would benefit from increased efficiency. Discussion continued regarding a few issues, circling around to the Indigenous Education Program committee membership (for Indigenous course requirements) and how if faculty joined Senate, it would help facilitate productive changes for both committees and policies.

#### **5.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

#### **6.0 Other Business/Announcements**

Wilder Robles mentioned an upcoming presentation on "Research Partnerships for International Development: Exploring UNESP (Brazil) and BU (Canada) Potential Research Collaborations" has been rescheduled from November 14 to November 21<sup>st</sup> due to many potential attendees being away for reading week. Dr. Robles discussed this presentation and partnership at length and hopes Arts Faculty are able to attend on the new date.

#### **7.0 Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.