

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting
December 10, 2025
Held In-Person in CHO 212**

PRESENT: A. Abdou; L. Barcellona; R. Baker; D. Combet; K. DeForest; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; D. Hétu; R. Hinthier; W. Kelly; R. Kramer; Laidlaw; A. Lints; L. MacKay; A. McCulloch; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; A. Mulhern; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; L. Robson; D. Smid; D. Taylor; A. Theuer; M. Tsoy; L. Wood; R. Douris; L. Jardine; C. Robinson; F. Akinbode (BUSU); C. Dupuis (Co-op); T. Gill (Student Services); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: P. Harms; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; B. Strang; H. Venema; D. Winter; K. Wong; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid

REGRETS: J. Allan; K. Bessant; R. Dwivedula; S. Koosel; A. Marshall; E. Mihelakis; I. Puppe; W. Robles; B. Rose; K. Saunders; C. Schneider; M. Torabi; H. Zhuang; C.

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

GUESTS: None

1.0 Welcome

Dr. Kennedy welcomed Arts Faculty to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgment. He also congratulated Arts Faculty for their impactful contributions that benefit our community. Greg also mentioned the impact of our upcoming retirees: Rosanne Gasse and Fattaneh Zehtab-Jadid, both of whom have contributed much to our faculty over their many years. We wish them both the best in their final semester. The chair opened the floor for additional faculty acknowledgements: congratulations were mentioned to Rochelle Douris for her recent production *Mother Courage and her Children*, to Kevin deForest for his 20 years of service at BU and to Lisa Wood, who currently has an art exhibition at U of A.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION (Robson/Kelly) – THAT the minutes for the AFC meeting on October 14, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

None

5.0 Chair's Report

Discussion:

- A question was asked about when the Dean will meet with Peter Hickey. All Deans meet with Peter on December 18th and an individual meeting with Greg only will be scheduled in January.
- A question was asked about how faculty will keep track of when they need to renew their EDIDR training and Lisa Robson mentioned that HR is looking at putting it into the Avanti system. There

was also some discussion on improvements being made to the training where it would be more focused on what faculty really need e.g. workload focused etc. The two-year renewal deadline was confirmed as a hard deadline.

- There will be a save the date coming in January for the next Teaching Circle. Also, you can expect another January survey!
- AI continues to be on the forefront of everyone's mind and there may be an institutional or senate committee that helps educate students and faculty in both the positives and negatives of using AI
- Greg addressed a hiring committee misstep this term and promised to work together with faculty to ensure this process is done correctly in future
- a reminder that the Arts Faculty social is being held today in the Arts faculty lounge

6.0 Report from Senate

There will be more communication in future AFC meetings from both Senate and Senate committees, as well as from other BU and Arts committees. At this time, the representative did not have a formal report prepared, nor were they required to, but was able to communicate that Arts course changes have gone through the formal approval process and that committees are getting filled with representatives. The Senate rep will have a more formal report next meeting. Greg confirmed that the new President is focused on meaningful decisions and discussions and keen to examine innovative meeting practices including consent agendas.

7.0 New Business

7.1 ADES

MOTION (Smid/Ebeid) -THAT the program changes for ADES be approved by the Faculty of Arts.

CARRIED.

1 Abstention

Discussion: Faculty noticed that Ryerson is referenced in the submission and should be changed to Toronto Metropolitan University, in accordance with a recent name change. Another faculty wondered why it could be both a 3-year Science or 3-year Arts degree option, and it was explained that, in Science, it would determine *why* disasters occur and, in Arts, it would focus on *what to do* when disasters occur. Trent Gill, AFC representative from Student Services, discussed the difference these changes make for students.

7.2 AFC Committee Reports

There are no AFC committee reports today, but this is something that will be expected for the next AFC and will continue for future meetings. This is a good way to keep Arts faculty updated with all the good work our committees are doing.

7.3 Liberal Education Requirement

MOTION (Smid/Robinson) – THAT the revised Liberal Education proposal be approved as presented, with friendly amendment to add IWGIDVA Visual Arts to the Humanities list.

CARRIED

1 Abstention

Discussion: Student Services spoke to the intent of this revised requirement and that it is to not have lists or prescribe to students what to take and that pre-requisites are up to departments and they should consider third and fourth year prereqs accordingly. These proposed changes give more freedom to students. It was mentioned that Art History is no longer in Humanities and that all Visual Arts courses should be identified as Humanities, the latter not listed at all in the revised proposal. A friendly amendment was added to Motion in order to adjust this omission.

7.4 Faculty of Arts 2025 Year in Review

Please see Chair's Report for further details. All Arts faculty are invited to add your information to the link provided in Report. A question was asked if this includes co-op (yes) and if this is calendar or academic year (calendar).

7.5 Course Revisions – Sociology

MOTION (Gasse/Smid) – THAT the calendar changes for Sociology be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

1 Abstention

Discussion: This change is to tweak the language in order to make it easier for students and student services to understand.

7.6 Degree Conversion Policy Expansion (Registrar's Office)

MOTION (Barcellona/Smid) – THAT the Degree Conversion Policy Expansion proposed by the Registrar's Office be approved.

CARRIED.

1 Abstention

7.7 Committee Elections – Susan Medd

MOTION (Medd/MacKay) – THAT the external members for Economics and EDCW hiring committees be approved as named.

CARRIED.

1 Abstention

MOTION (Smid/Robinson) – THAT all Arts committee representatives be approved as nominated.

CARRIED.

1 Abstention

8.0 Other Business

- The Career Symposium is taking place on March 17, 2026. Departments are able to add QR codes this year: if you have trouble doing so, the Arts Faculty office can assist you.
- The co-op program has 23 returning students and 79 new applicants this year! The co-op and field experience office are also starting an initiative where co-op students can buy good quality second-hand business clothes, to help them enter the workforce with confidence. If you have clothing donations, please drop the items off at the Faculty office.
- In April, the Drama program will be performing *The Twelfth Night* along with the Assiniboine Theatre Company.

- There will be an Arts Faculty social gathering today at 4:00pm in the faculty lounge. Everyone is welcome to attend!
- In closing, Greg offered holiday best wishes to all faculty and hopes everyone enjoys the break takes good care of themselves.

8.0 Adjournment – 1:53pm