

Minutes of the AFC Meeting

April 14, 2026

Held In-Person in CHO 212

PRESENT: A. Abdou; J. Allan; L. Barcellona; D. Combet; K. DeForest; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; P. Harms; D. Hétu; R. Hinthier; E. Holland; W. Kelly; S. Koosel; R. Kramer; L. Laidlaw; A. McCulloch; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; J. Naylor; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; L. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; D. Smid; B. Strang; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; M. Tsoy; E. Varley; F. Zehtab-Jadid; H. Zhuang R. Douris; C. Robinson; F. Akinbode and M. Okonkwo (BUSU); J. Krentz (Education); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: R. Baker; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; A. Lints; L. MacKay; H. Venema; K. Wong; L. Xu;

REGRETS: K. Bessant; C. Boulton; R. Dwivedula; A. Hanemaayer; A. Marshall; A. Mulhern; I. Puppe; W. Robles; A. Theuer; D. Winter; J. Mateer (Science);

ON LEAVE: M. Malainey; E. Mihelakis; S. Petrella; C. Schneider; L. Wood

GUESTS: C. Bovis-Crossen (President & Vice-Chancellor); G. Maltais Lapointe (Institutional Data & Analysis)

1.0 Welcome

Dr. Kennedy welcomed Arts Faculty to the meeting and gave the land acknowledgment. He also spoke about the importance of care and compassion towards others and ourselves. Dr. Kennedy introduced the new BUSU Arts representative, Miracle Okonkwo, who will be replacing Faith Akinbode. Thank you to Faith for her commitment to Arts: she recently organized an Arts student survey about spring and summer courses and has also never missed an AFC meeting! Welcome to Miracle.

Dr. Kennedy mentioned a few celebrations within the Faculty of Arts: congratulations to Aldea Mulhern for achieving both tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, Keith Edmunds and Mostafa Torabi for their promotions to Associate Professor and to Wilder Robles for being promoted to Full Professor.

Dr. Emily Holland congratulated the senior colloquium organizers for an outstanding event the day before. She also celebrated her and Emma Varley's nomination for the 2026 YWCA Women of Distinction awards.

A quick reminder to all that AFC minutes are public-facing but recording of the meeting without permission is not allowed, much the same as if a student records a class lecture without faculty consent or knowledge.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

A question was raised as to why the VPRGS was not present at today's meeting after being invited and cancelling her attendance in December. Dr. Bovis-Crossen explained Dr. Ardelli's scheduling conflicts that led to today's absence. Dr. Kennedy will follow up during his May one-on-one with Dr. Ardelli.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes (Open Session)

MOTION (Smid/Naylor) – THAT the minutes for the Open Session of the AFC meeting on February 10, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED

4.0 **MOTION (Gasse/Kelly) – THAT AFC meeting be moved to a closed session.**

CARRIED

8.0 Motions/Action Items Moved from Closed Session

9.0 Listening Tour – Dr. Christine Bovis-Crossen, President and Vice-Chancellor

Dr. Bovis-Crossen attended AFC to listen to Arts Faculty concerns and to provide some guidance on the way forward for the university. Concerns brought forward to the President from Arts Faculty included the need for increased student supports, next steps for improving campus safety and security, budgetary and resource questions, and lived experiences about the relationship between faculty and administration.

10.0 Presentation “Institutional Data and Enrollments” – Genevieve Maltais Lapointe

Thank you to Genevieve for a clear and organized presentation on Institutional Data and Enrollment trends for the Faculty of Arts.

11.0 Chair's Report – G. Kennedy

Discussion: Colleagues asked about the results from the recent ELAP competition (Emerging Leaders in the Americas) and the challenges posed by changes to the language requirements for visiting student researchers and graduate students generally. The Dean shared that he had asked a number of questions about this and learned that a new Visiting Student Framework is proposed for all of BU. The development of this framework will include faculty consultations, so colleagues interested in these programs, including ELAP, but also MITACS and other global competitions, should be prepared to provide feedback.

12.0 New Business

12.1 Selection Committee Procedures – Arts Review and Planning

MOTION (Hétu/Rose) – THAT the updated Arts Selection Committee Policy for Regular and Term Appointments be approved by AFC.

CARRIED

By secret ballot

Discussion: A question was asked how this policy was different than the old approved policy. The Dean clarified that in addition to updating language and articles to reflect the new CA, more

flexibility and discretion is afforded to departments in choosing selection committees. The previous approved policy required all department members to participate in all searches.

MOTION (Robinson/Varley) – THAT the secret ballots from Motion 12.1 be destroyed.
CARRIED

12.2 Program Name Change – Department of Native Studies – B. Rose

MOTION (Hétu/Gasse) – THAT the Department of Native Studies be renamed to the Department of Turtle Island Studies.

CARRIED
7 Abstentions

As vice-chairperson of the AFC Executive committee, Barbara Rose took over the AFC Chair duties and presented this request on behalf of the chairperson of Native Studies. This is in conformity with the approved Letter of Agreement related to the temporary administrative reporting structure for the Department of Native Studies. Some discussion occurred about the new name and whether the motion should wait until new faculty members joined the Department before being presented at AFC, but it was ultimately decided to bring the motion forward today.

12.3 New Course Proposal – Department of English, Drama and Creative Writing

MOTION (Smid/Rose) – THAT the new course proposal for English, Drama and Creative Writing be approved by AFC.

CARRIED

12.4 Committee Elections – S. Medd

MOTION (Medd/Kelly) – THAT the Arts Faculty nominated for the Arts committees be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION (Medd/Kelly) – THAT the Arts Faculty nominated for the University committees be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION (Medd/Edmunds) – THAT the Arts Faculty nominated for the Senate committees be approved as presented.

CARRIED

13.0 Committee Reports

MOTION (Smid/Gasse) – THAT the Committee Reports be approved as omnibus by AFC.
CARRIED.

14.0 Adjournment – 3:22pm