

Minutes of the AFC Meeting

May 21, 2026

Held In-Person in CHO 104

PRESENT: A. Abdou; J. Allan; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; P. Harms; E. Holland; W. Kelly; R. Kramer; D. Lakevold; L. MacKay; A. McCulloch; L. McLachlan; A. Mulhern; J. Naylor; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; L. Robson; B. Rose; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; E. Varley; D. Winter; F. Zehtab-Jadid; C. Robinson; M. Okonkwo (BUSU); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: C. Boulton; D. Klonowski; A. Lints; K. McKenzie; I. Puppe; B. Strang; H. Venema; K. Wong; L. Xu; H. Zhuang

REGRETS: L. Barcellona; R. Baker; K. Bessant; D. Combet; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; D. Héту; R. Hinthier; S. Koosel; L. Laidlaw; A. Marshall; S. Medd; K. Saunders; D. Smid; J. Mateer (Science);

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

GUESTS:

1.0 Welcome

2.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Holland/Allan) – THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Agenda item 5.3 Adjunct Professor will be postponed to the June AFC.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (Holland/Kelly) – THAT the minutes for the AFC meeting on April 14 2026 be approved.

CARRIED

Discussion: Question arose as to whether President was a guest to AFC or if she is a member at AFC, conclusion was that Dr. Bovis-Crossen is a member of ALL Faculty Councils in her role as President but since she was visiting on a listening tour, she would remain listed as a Guest.

4.0 Chair's Report – G. Kennedy

Discussion: Dr. Kennedy spoke about his upcoming book club, which segued nicely from the previous discussion. He also reminded everyone about the upcoming financial town hall on June 3. A question was asked about the Shilo working group and who is included in the "we": Dr. Kennedy stated that this is a VP Academic initiative and if anyone is interested in participating, they can certainly contact that office for further information.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Graduate Studies Leave of Absence Policy – A. McDaniel

MOTION (Holland/Ramsey) – THAT the updated Graduate Studies Leave of Absence Policy be approved by AFC.

CARRIED

Discussion: Some minor wording changes were suggested, and Dr. Kennedy will pass these on to the Registrar's office.

5.2 Posthumous Degree Policy – A. McDaniel

MOTION (Holland/Rose) – THAT the new Posthumous Degree Policy be approved by AFC.

DEFERRED

Discussion: Some questions were raised about the rationale of the minimum credit requirement because if a student has good-faith desire, how many credits they have completed shouldn't matter. Other universities use the same sort of language, but it is more about BU itself sending a message of caring and compassion. Maybe using the language "actively enrolled in courses" would be better than a minimum credit requirement. Other members wondered about the philosophy of issuing a posthumous degree when students with other challenges are not given credit. Dr. Kennedy will take this feedback to the Registrar's Office. Motion was deferred.

5.3 Adjunct Professor Application – D. Héту

Deferred to June AFC.

5.4 Course Deletions – Dept of Economics – A. Abdou

MOTION (Abdou/Zehtab-Jadid) – THAT the proposed course deletions for the Department of Economics be approved by AFC.

CARRIED

5.5 Fundraising Needs – G. Kennedy

Discussion: As many of us know already, individuals have the option to donate to BU and decide exactly where you would like your donation to go but, collectively, we could think about doing some fundraising of our own. An example would be contributing to the student travel fund. Greg will do a call-out to departments to see what is important to us and if we can modestly work towards increasing funds. A question was asked about how much is in the Faculty of Arts Fund and what it can be used for. We can only use 4% of this fund annually (Greg will give a balance at call-out) and it is used for the collective good of the faculty. The discussion evolved into a question about the lack of a capital campaign and some fund-raising ideas such as naming/sponsoring opportunities for classroom updates etc.

5.6 Safety and Security – G. Kennedy

Discussion: Student access to building after hours is hard to navigate as there are many challenging incidents occurring that make it hard to know the best path forward. The discussion progressed to the north stacks of library, MB Health and Safety improvement work orders, the disappointing results with STANTEC and inaccessible entrances in winter etc. Some specific suggestions for improvement to faculty security are giving all faculty keys to the classrooms so

they are able to lock the door in case of emergency and to have a list of emergency numbers easily available in all classrooms. The Dean's Office will address the last point this summer.

5.7 Arts Faculty Lounge – D. Smid

MOTION (Medd/Kelly) – THAT the Arts Faculty lounge be renamed the “Dr. Rosanne Gasse Faculty of Arts Lounge”, in appreciation of Dr. Rosanne Gasse upon her retirement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion: It was suggested that a social event accompany the plaque and that all retirees be celebrated at the party. The department chairs of retiring faculty members will form an ad hoc party planning committee to plan this event and, if they are unable to participate, will designate another member from their department to take their place.

6.0 Committee Reports

MOTION (Smid/Harms) – THAT the committee reports be approved as submitted.

CARRIED

6.1 Arts Review and Planning (ARP) Committee – E. Holland

MOTION (Holland/Smid) – THAT, in order to increase effectiveness and efficiency, the minimum required number of faculty members on the Arts Review and Planning Committee be reduced from five (5) to three (3) Arts faculty members.

CARRIED

FOR: 10

AGAINST: 7

ABSTENTIONS: 2

Discussion: Concerns were raised that the ARP committee traditionally represents all of Arts faculty so limiting the number of required members will be detrimental to the faculty. This motion brought forward much debate including how Arts forms committees and the terms of these committees, how some faculty members over-serve while others do not serve at all and the perception that service is often deemed less important in important academic milestones (tenure and promotion as examples). Certainly, discussions are happening for improvements, but there continue to be many challenges. The motion passed and will be reflected in the terms of reference.

7.0 Announcements

- Patti Harms spoke to an Arts Faculty Research Council that she wants to start where faculty can come together to create and support each other in different ways.
- Steve Robinson reminded AFC about the Arts and Science mixer that he is co-hosting on Tuesday at 5pm: everyone here is welcome! Please RSVP so Steve knows how much food to prepare.

8.0 Adjournment – 12:12pm