

Minutes of the AFC Meeting

June 18, 2026

Held In-Person in CHO 104

PRESENT: A. Abdou; J. Allan; L. Barcellona; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; P. Harms; D. Hétu; R. Hinther; E. Holland; R. Kramer; L. Laidlaw; D. Lakevold; A. Marshall; K. McKenzie; S. Medd; A. Mulhern; J. Naylor; W. Robles; L. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; D. Smid; B. Strang; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; M. Tsoy; E. Varley; D. Winter; F. Zehtab-Jadid; L. Jardine; G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: R. Gasse; A. Hanemaayer; D. Klonowski; S. Koosel; A. Lints; L. MacKay; I. Puppe; A. Theuer; H. Venema; K. Wong; L. Xu; H. Zhuang

REGRETS: R. Baker; K. Bessant; C. Boulton; D. Combet; W. Kelly; A. McCulloch; L. McLachlan; E. Mihelakis; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; M. Okonkwo (BUSU)

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

GUESTS: none

1.0 Welcome

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

MOTION (Winter/Holland) – THAT the agenda be amended to include Item 4.3 to discuss the concept paper on joint departments shared by the Dean in a recent survey.

CARRIED.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (Smid/Naylor) – THAT the minutes for the AFC meeting on May 21, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED

4.0 New Business

4.1 Adjunct Professor – D. Hétu

MOTION (Hétu/Smid) – THAT AFC approve the Adjunct Professor application of Angelica Silva.

CARRIED

MOTION (Hinther/Holland) – THAT AFC recommends a review of the Adjunct Professor policy to Senate.

CARRIED.

4.2 Staffing Requests and Ranking – G. Kennedy

The finalized rankings go to the VP (Academic) by July 20. Arts has a particularly large number of requests: please start preparing for searches now by thinking about the composition of search committees, drafting job ads, etc. The searches will be staggered through the year so that we are not overwhelmed, depending on how many are approved. The ranking document provided is a preliminary assessment and the Chair welcomed feedback, which some departments have already provided in written form. There will be an opportunity for additional written feedback no later than July 15.

Discussion: Many departments (Business Administration, Rural Development, Anthropology and English, Drama and Creative Writing to name a few) had additional comments, questions and clarifications to mention. The Chair will take all of these points into consideration before submitting his final ranking to the Provost. It was also discussed how three-person departments should not be part of the ranking process since they are automatically filled according to the BUFA CA.

MOTION (Hétu/Holland) – THAT AFC adamantly supports that three-person departments are not to be ranked (in the Staffing Request), in compliance with the collective agreement.

CARRIED

1 abstention

1 opposed

4.3 Arts Faculty Survey – Discussion of Department Mergers

MOTION (Winter/Hetu) – THAT AFC strongly objects to the merger of departments as discussed in this proposal.

CARRIED

1 opposed

Discussion: Some faculty objected both to the concept of joint departments and also raising this issue through a survey. The Chair explained his rationale of using a survey to poll and provide an opportunity for anonymous feedback about a concept paper that addressed previous faculty questions about the possible benefits of mergers including improving service workload. From the Chair's perspective, this was the logical next step after the discussions at the last Faculty of Arts retreat, and the question was included amongst several other possible initiatives so that he could know how best to focus and prioritize his efforts and energies in the remaining years of his mandate. Indeed, the desire was to ascertain whether this was worth further exploration, in which case the normal processes of collegial governance (i.e. departments, AFC, Senate) would have been followed. The Chair acknowledged that being presented with a concept paper about joint departments at the same time as considering staffing requests, as well as the title of the paper (it included the word "proposal") may have created confusion and suggested that these topics were linked (they were not). It was agreed that the survey question about joint departments will be removed from the survey and the survey will be re-circulated so that faculty can provide feedback on the other proposed initiatives.

5.0 Adjournment – 3:13pm