

Minutes of the AFC Meeting

September 2, 2026
Held In-Person in CHO 212

PRESENT: A. Abdou; D. Brook's; P. Harms; D. Hétu; R. Hinthier; W. Kelly; D. Klonowski; R. Kramer; L. Laidlaw; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; A. Mulhern; J. Naylor; D. Ramsey; L. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; D. Smid; D. Taylor; L. Wood; C. Robinson; C. Dupuis (Co-op); R. Lucyshyn-Wright (Science); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: L. Barcellona; L. MacKay; S. Petrella; C. Schneider; J. Torelli; H. Venema; D. Winter; K. Wong; H. Zhuang

REGRETS: J. Allan; S. Birang; C. Boulton; D. Combet; R. Dwivedula; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; E. Holland; S. Koosel; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; I. Puppe; W. Robles; B. Strang; M. Torabi; M. Tsoy; J. Krentz (Education)

ON LEAVE: R. Baker; K. DeForest; A. Hanemaayer; D. Lakevold; A. McCulloch; S. Robinson; E. Varley

GUESTS: none

1.0 Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to our new term faculty members: Drs. Salimeh Birang (Economics), Saaka Sakka (Political Science), Deanna Brook's (EDCW) and to our tenure track faculty member, Dr. Julian Torelli (Sociology). Arts also welcomes Dr. Jessica Riddell this fall, who is the Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor. Dr. Riddell will be here in-person for two weeks this term and will be hosted by the Department of English, Drama, and Creative Writing.

Dr. Dominique Hétu has been shortlisted for a Manitoba Book Award (Lansdowne Poetry Prize) for her book "*Il n'y aura pas de safety word*"

Dr. Reinhold Kramer and Tom Mitchell just published a book entitled "*P.S. Burn After Reading: The Kellock-Taschereau Commission and Soviet Espionage in Canada*"

2.0 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

Dean shared Land Acknowledgement.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (Rose/Smid) – THAT the minutes for the AFC meeting on June 18, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED

A suggestion was raised to have more detailed AFC minutes relating more of the discussion surrounding AFC issues. There was some discussion, with the Chair reminding that minutes are

public facing and are meant to reflect where there is consensus, motions, etc. There was general agreement that members could request additional detail on specific items.

4.0 Chair's Report - G. Kennedy

The Provost is on track to make decisions on staffing requests by the end of September. If you have made a request, please start thinking now on who you would like on your committee, especially as external members, and start thinking about your ads etc. We are expecting to be approved for a lot of searches this year and are planning to stagger the searches, starting with tenure track positions and moving on from there. The sense about what will be approved (or not) is hiring to replace and probably not hiring for new positions, consistent with previous years, but we won't know for sure until the Provost announces his decisions.

The Faculty of Arts will be hosting its first Arts Day, with SKDVP Dr. Jessica Riddell giving the keynote talk on Wednesday September 23 at the Library Gathering Space. There will be a BUSU rep, who will hold a student pizza reception at lunchtime, as well as coffee, snacks and discussions throughout the day. The event will feature contributions from several departments.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Emerita Nomination – D. Smid

MOTION (Smid/Kramer) – THAT AFC recommends Dr. Rosanne Gasse for status of Professor Emerita.

**CARRIED
Unanimous Yes!**

AFC unanimously agreed that this is a well-deserved nomination.

5.2 Personal Display Parchment Policy – A. McDaniel

MOTION (Mulhern/Hétu) – THAT AFC supports the spirit of the new Personal Display Parchment Policy but does not recommend it go forward to USC and GSC without substantial revision.

**CARRIED
4 abstentions**

Discussion: In general, Arts faculty believes that the policy should allow chosen name to be used for official documents including degrees and do not support the creation of "novelty" papers that have no weight. They also want to confirm that there is an opportunity for graduates to apply to switch their name either back or to a future preferred name (understanding there would be a fee). They further suggest ensuring that transcripts, financial, and other official documents are all integrated to reflect the chosen name and avoid potential problems when the degree is shared with potential employers, references, etc. They would like to know what process and requirements there are for students to prove the validity of their chosen name. They would also request that AFC be consulted again on a future draft.

5.3 GWS – Degree Requirement Change – L. Robson

MOTION (Robson/Smid) – THAT AFC approves the degree changes to Gender & Women’s Studies, as presented by Lisa Robson on behalf of GWS.

**CARRIED
2 abstentions**

Discussion: Some minor questions about whether this change adds a second capstone course and a request was made for clarification on whether a co-op student can take any GWS course. Dr. Robson will follow up as appropriate.

5.4 Faculty of Arts - Fundraising Needs – G. Kennedy

Dr. Kennedy opened the floor to discussion on fundraising needs within the Faculty of Arts. One area of note would be classroom updates such as moving towards tables and chairs rather than individual desks etc. This led to discussion regarding the delays from Physical Plant due to staff shortages etc. This is very frustrating to be sure, but they are working on filling the vacancies now and hopefully will be back on track soon. A mention on fundraising was that faculty wish there was something to be excited for, like a big project or campaign ie a lecture hall or theatre space. Ideas circulated about creating community excitement and partnership with BU, perhaps classroom sponsorship or building naming rights etc. This led to the idea of Arts creating their own fundraising committee in order to achieve greater funding for items that are relevant and specific to Arts.

MOTION (Smid/Dupuis) – THAT AFC create an ad hoc fundraising committee to achieve our own fundraising goals, first being a lecture hall and theatre. The members of this fundraising committee will be on a three-year term.

**CARRIED
Unanimous**

Greg will discuss these ideas with the Advancement and Alumni office to ensure Arts is able to do this work and aligned with institutional efforts.

MOTION (Smid/Kramer) – THAT the Arts department needs/priorities list be approved and put forward for consideration, with the amendment that the theatre and lecture hall be at the top of the list of priorities.

**CARRIED
Unanimous**

5.5 Course Changes

5.5.1 Sociology – L. Laidlaw

MOTION (Laidlaw/Robson) – THAT AFC approve the new course proposed by the Department of Sociology.

**CARRIED
Unanimous**

5.5.2 Francophone Studies & Languages – D. Héту

MOTION ((Hetu/Smid) – THAT AFC approves the new course proposal proposed by the Department of Francophone Studies & Languages.

**CARRIED
Unanimous**

Note: English, Drama and Creative Writing would welcome a discussion on cross-listing with this course.

MOTION (Mulhern/Hetu) – THAT item 5.7 be moved up in the agenda to 5.6.

CARRIED

5.7 Committee Elections – S. Medd

MOTION (Medd/Smid) – THAT all nominations for vacant committee positions be approved as omnibus and as presented.

**CARRIED
Unanimous**

5.6 Academic Plan – G. Kennedy

Discussion: A suggestion was made that maybe chairpersons could work together and share ideas on how their departments would like to proceed; it would be a more collaborative approach rather than working individually. Dr. Kennedy thinks this is a great idea and would be happy to attend, if needed. There was discussion to confirm the purpose of the Academic Plan and the expectations around this work. It presents an opportunity to reinforce good things already happening, and also to consider possible new initiatives and supports. It was observed that the institutional Academic Plan does not speak specifically to some items, such as AI, but it is intended to be broad enough to provide guidance for all programs across BU. Departments can work within the broad themes and be specific to their program requirements. Cora Dupuis invited Arts to include reflection on co-op and experiential learning in the Academic Plan.

It was suggested that the language in the Dean's Orientation document "we will deliver decolonized academic programs" be reframed to reflect the ongoing and significant work needed to achieve that. Perhaps new language could say "we aspire to deliver" or something similar. The Chair emphasized that the draft statements and questions in the orientation document are simply an optional resource to help initiate the work, and looks forward to department responses.

6.0 Adjournment – 11:56am