

Minutes of the Arts Faculty Council Meeting
held on September 15, 2010, in room 104 CH

PRESENT: K. Beesley; D. Brandt; D. Brown; A. Datta; J. Dolecki; E. Graham; S. Gouthro; P. Harms; R. Kramer; P. Langlois; L. MacKay; R. Major; M. Malainey; M. Malazdrewicz; A. McCulloch; M. Mott; B. Nicholson; S. Petrella; S. Robinson; L. Robson; K. Saunders; M. Serfaty; D. Taylor; L. Whitt; D. Winter; D. Olsen (Geog.); C. Kazakoff-Lane; A. Braun (Student Services); B. Strang (Chair); L. Murray (recorder).

REGRETS: A. Marshall; S. Medd; K. Noll; K. Rempel (Educ.)

1.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION: (Brown/ Malazdrewicz) – THAT the Agenda be approved as circulated.
CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes of April 14, 2010

MOTION: (Kramer/Brown) – THAT the Minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting be approved.

CARRIED.

3.0 Chair's Report

- We need to elect a rep from Arts to the Hiring Committee for the Director of Aboriginal Initiatives. The budget for this position is coming out of the position of Director of the Indigenous Peoples' Centre (which has not been filled).
- Manitoba Treaty Commission is a potentially great resource and offers regular talks on Aboriginal issues. They also make available speakers regarding legal issues, first nations people, etc. Please see Bruce if you have an interest in learning more about this organization.
- The 2010 Stanley Knowles Distinguished Visiting Professor, Dr. Paul Shore, is here. He is a very amiable and extraordinarily bright person. His goal while here is to connect with others and advance his work in Jesuit relations in the new world. His first public presentation is next Thursday, September 23rd at 4:00 in room 104 CH. We hope to have him present four public lectures during his time here. Please feel free to include him as a guest lecturer, resource person, etc. His office is in room 009 CH and his ext. is 744.
- We will once again have the Aboriginal Writer in Residence funded jointly though the Canada Council for the Arts and Brandon University. Thanks go to Di Brandt as the primary grant holder. This year's WIR, Marilyn Dumont, will join us on 1 November for a nine-month residency. She will be spending 60% of her time on her own work and is also available for public talks, class talks, manuscript review, etc. Please consider how you can support her and how she can support you as well.

- Grants: Ken Beesley has a visiting fellowship at the University of Tasmania in Australia during his sabbatical. Steve Gouthro reported that Lin Xu has received a Canada Council Grant and MB Arts Council grant; Cathy Mattes has received a Manitoba Arts Council grant as a curator; Steve has received a MB Arts Grant and Kevin DeForest sat on a Canada Council exhibitions jury.
- Survey Information: We have a lot of anecdotal information but not a lot of survey data about BU. Last year BU participated in the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). It's an extensive report that surveys students across North America, comparing BU to all Canadian Universities, the 'Carnegie Class' (like institutions), and the NSSE average. Some of the findings are surprising. Anyone is welcome to see this data but this is not a public document. Please contact the Dean's Office if you'd like to view it. The second survey we have results from is the CUSC survey of students who enter university directly from Grade 12. When compared to other small universities in Canada, our students' entering grades are very close to the national average. Our big difference is that the largest universities register fewer at C or lower. We enter 2% at C or lower and 4% at C+. Our A student percentages are similar to the national average and exceed our direct comparators. The vast majority of our students come to us with a B average or higher.
- We have a new degree audit system that should be operational this fall. As with any new system there will be short term issues in implementation, but this should enable us to have access to a system that will allow us to plug in exactly what students require to meet their degree requirements. Part of our problem is how complicated some of our degree programs are. Faculty suggested that it would be useful to have a printout to hand to students as they register that clearly shows them where they're at.
- Calendar – we will have to do one more calendar using the current system. Once the new calendar process is in place, we will be able to work on changes 'behind the scenes' and then upload to a living calendar.
- The Dean wondered if faculty would be interested in him providing a 1 – 1 ½ hour Marking Workshop for TAs. The workshop deals with what values and approaches should be taken when marking a paper, how to deal with grammar, provide useful feedback, etc. He also feels that the students should be paid for their attendance at the course. Response was positive.
- Communication by email – Please don't provide confidential information (like marks) by email unless you are sure of the identity of the student. Students should use their Brandon email address or inform the instructor in class of their personal email address or communicate in person.

- AFC may want to consider the question of online vs paper evaluations. Science just voted to go completely online. IT has indicated they will not be able to support the paper evaluations any longer.
- Scholarships – we don't seem to recruit well with our current methods. We may try to streamline our application process so that info goes to high schools earlier so that students can make decisions earlier. Grade 11 final grades may be used as a determining basis.
- Gloria Stienem will be on campus October 18, tickets available through BUSU.
- IT is working towards a fully automated student registration system.
- AFC Bylaws – we should make a recommendation to Senate to amend its Bylaws to make a clear understanding of who can and cannot be members of AFC. Having to vote sessionals in every year seems quite unfair.
- The Strategic Plan calls for us to carry out program reviews of all departments. At BU what tends to happen is that a Department is reviewed when in trouble. At most universities, an external evaluation every six or seven years is normal. A Faculty Review might be the best place to start. The Dean would like input from the Faculty as to what questions you would like to have asked. Please send your thoughts to Bruce in the next 5 weeks or so.

MOTION: (Dolecki/Nicholson) - THAT the review request (including objectives, questions to be answered, etc.) be submitted to AFC prior to submission to Senate for discussion.

CARRIED.

The Dean will make available the Senate policy on external reviews to members of AFC.

- The Ad Hoc Métis Studies Committee and First-Year Curriculum Committee are just underway and will report back to AFC when they can. Di Brandt suggested that Marilyn Dumont could be a part of the Métis Studies Committee.

MOTION: (Kramer/MacKay) -- THAT AFC ask the Dean to request CAC to replace the position lost in the Writing Centre.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- The Dean welcomed and introduced Dr. Anisha Datta, who was hired in Sociology. Anisha received her B.A. and M.A. at the University of Calcutta in India and completed her Ph.D. at UBC where she's taught in the Arts One

program for the last couple of years. Dr. Allison McCulloch has moved from a term position to a tenure track position in Political Science.

- The Dean noted that we'll need to provide an Arts Representative to serve on the hiring committee for the new Director of Aboriginal Initiatives.

MOTION: (Serfaty/Dolecki) - THAT Nominations Committee find an Arts Representative on the Hiring Committee for the Director of Aboriginal Initiatives.

CARRIED.

4.0 New Business

4.1 Elections

The following positions were elected by acclamation:

A.F.C. Research Committee (3) and two members of the Univ. Research Cmte.	Laurelyn Whitt David Winter Elizabeth Graham
A.F.C. Review & Planning Committee (5)	Steve Robinson Serena Petrella Steve Gouthro Alan Levy Joe Sawchuk
Faculty of Health Studies Council Rep. (1)	Rachel Major
University Tenure Committee (1)	Bev Nicholson
University Promotion Committee	Derek Brown
University Research Committee Representatives (2) (three-year term, staggered if possible)	
Humanities Alternate	Kurt Noll Dale Lakevold
Social Sciences Alternate	Joe Sawchuk Abdella Abdou
Student Travel Fund Committee (1)	Kevin DeForest
Advisory Comm. for BU Community Outreach (1)	Denis Combet

4.2 Course and Calendar Changes

MOTION: (Robson/Kramer) – THAT 30:354 *Screenwriting* be cross-listed with Drama and allowed for the Drama minors and Drama Stream in the BA in Creative Arts.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Langlois/Harms) – THAT the new prerequisites for 36:362 *Sociology of Gender Relations* be accepted.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Langlois/Harms) – THAT 36:466 *Critical Readings in Gender* be accepted as a new course.

CARRIED.

4.3 Combined Honours

There was discussion about what is 'formal admission' as required by the Science Faculty and if Arts should do the same. Science Faculty requires a 3.0 gpa in the Major upon entering the honours program.

MOTION: (Winter/Serfaty) – THAT AFC accept the new language for the Calendar under 7.4.

MOTION: (MacKay/Robinson) – THAT the reference to 'formal admission' under 7.4.1A) and B) be removed from the document.

DEFEATED.

MOTION: (Langlois/Robinson) – THAT 'and Program' be added under 7.4.1.A) and B).

CARRIED.

The amended Motion was then considered and CARRIED.

MOTION: (Brandt/Kramer) -- THAT the AFC refers the issue of a coordinator for the Creative Arts program to Arts Review and Planning with an eye to appointing a coordinator from within the disciplines involved.

CARRIED.

MOTION: (Dolecki/Nicholson) – THAT the meeting recess until September 21st at 12:40 p.m.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.