

Minutes of the AFC Meeting
April 9, 2024
Held In-Person in CHO 104 and by Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT: A. Abdou; J. Allan; K. Bessant; C. Boulton; D. Combet; K. DeForest; R. Dwivedula; M. Ebeid; P. Harms; D. Hétu; E. Holland; W. Kelly; R. Kramer; M. Malainey; V. Maud; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; L. Robson; B. Rose; K. Saunders; D. Smid; D. Taylor; M. Torabi; M. Tsoy; K. Wong; L. Wood; L. Xu; F. Zehtab-Jadid; H. Zhuang; L. Jardine; C. Robinson; C. Dupuis (Co-op); T. Gill (Student Services); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

ABSENT: H. Gillander; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; L. Mayer; K. McKenzie; K. Noll; D. Racine; B. Strang; H. Venema; D. Winter

REGRETS: R. Baker; K. Edmunds; A. Hanemaayer; S. Koosel; N. LaFleur; A. McCulloch; W. Robles; C. Schneider

ON LEAVE: R. Gasse; S. Grills; R. Hinther; L. MacKay; A. Marshall; E. Mihelakis; E. Varley

GUEST: None

Call to Order

Dr. Kennedy welcomed Arts Faculty members to the meeting.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

MOTION (Smid/Naylor): THAT the Agenda be approved.

CARRIED.

2.0 Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (Naylor/Puppe): THAT the minutes of the AFC meeting held on March 12, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED.

Dr. Kennedy presented the land acknowledgement and praised the efforts of Arts faculty in moving towards Indigenization.

3.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Research at BU – A. Hanemaayer – Tabled

Although tabled for another meeting, Dr. Kennedy provided an update to this item: he has recently met and discussed the faculty concerns presented at the last AFC with the relevant departments. There is a commitment to providing in-person and virtual training, starting this Fall. There is interest in developing training modules as well, but this will take more planning and time. Dr. Kennedy also mentioned that he is working with other departments on additional PD opportunities for the Faculty of Arts: more details and opportunities will be presented in the fall, or as they arise.

- No further discussion or questions presented by Faculty.

4.0 Chairs Report

Dr. Kennedy will continue to issue Chairs Reports prior to AFC meetings and will not read it out, but rather highlight key points and facilitate discussion on any relevant issues to faculty:

- The Dean's Office has not yet received a copy of the new CA, which certainly leaves Dr. Kennedy at a disadvantage. Please take this into consideration when presenting questions and issues to the Dean's Office as Dr. Kennedy does not necessarily know the answers straight away!
- EDID – the Religion posting is the first position ad to include the new EDID language regarding recognizing non-traditional academic qualifications, we should learn more about this process.
- If you would like the new rules for course workload to apply to you or your department in 2024-25, you will need to revise and re-submit your workload forms for approval. Since there is no additional budget available, all overload requests will be carefully reviewed. As part of the BU/BUFA MOU on the implementation of the new CA, departments must resubmit by 15 May 24, otherwise the old CA rules will apply for 2024-25.
 - o Workload question arose regarding graduated retirement. Again, Dr. Kennedy does not have the new CA, but he has heard that an MOU from BUFA and the Admin Team will be forthcoming in a few weeks to address this concern. If you are personally affected, please do not hesitate to contact BUFA.
- There are new dates for the staffing request cycle. These will need to be submitted no later than June 1, 2024.
- Please submit vacation absences to Sally Mott no later than May 15, 2024.
- Evaluations for tenured faculty are to be conducted every three years, and probationary faculty are already evaluated annually. This past term, the Dean's Office has already conducted sessional evaluations to those sessional instructors who have not reached RFR. More information will follow as this evaluation process rolls out.
- Thank you to everyone who completed the Research Equity Survey: the results have been sent to the Research Office.
- Please start to think about the Engagement Strategy as it pertains to your department. This will be addressed in more detail in the near future.
- Unfortunately, we have yet to hear a decision about requested replacement positions, and the budget increases shared by the media for postsecondary education in Manitoba are not exactly what BU (and its Winnipeg counterparts) actually received in the provincial budget. Please consider attending the upcoming President's Budget Town Hall meeting to learn more.
- The Arts budget spends a lot of money on office telephones (\$22,000!). Faculty will be consulted on their requirement for office phones and alternatives.

Discussion:

- A suggestion was made that if we change the due dates for Annual Activity Reports, could the new due date be the end of August since the academic year is generally accepted to be September 1 to August 31st.

MOTION (Holland/Dwivedula) – THAT the new due date for End of Year reports be August 31st of each academic year.

CARRIED.

- Discussion continued around telephones in offices and that the new CA states all regular faculty are entitled to an office with a desk, chair, computer and telephone. As the Dean's Office does not have the new CA, Dr. Kennedy is unable to make an informed comment. Alternative suggestions and opinions to traditional landlines were proposed. It was also mentioned that telephone lines are needed for security reasons, which lead to a wide-spread discussion involving short-comings in BU's overall security and emergency plans. Dr. Kennedy noted specifically that he will follow up on the lack of interior classroom locks and security plans.

Present committees and past history were discussed with Dr. Kennedy suggesting that questions about security will be added to the upcoming faculty survey to identify concerns.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Committee Elections – C. Boulton

**MOTION (Boulton/Smid) - THAT the committee volunteers be elected as presented.
CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Maud/Naylor) – THAT the committee nominations from the floor be elected as presented.
CARRIED.**

5.2 AFC Vision – G. Kennedy

Dr. Kennedy opened the floor to discussion of the AFC Vision, circulated previously to AFC via email.

- Suggestion was made to add up to two meetings in the fall (possible in October and early November) in order to deal with course calendar changes before the November Senate meeting. Perhaps the small meetings could be held virtually.
- Non-voting members expressed the desire to maintain a place at AFC: there was no objection from AFC as it improves connection with other departments and faculties. The Dean's Office will look into policies on who should be included at AFC and focus on engaging student representatives.

MOTION (Smid/Puppe) – THAT AFC accept the proposed AFC Vision Statement on a yearlong trial basis, with the caveat that up to two small meetings be included in October and/or November to vote on course calendar changes and that external members will still be invited to participate at AFC as non-voting members.

CARRIED.

6.0 Other Business/Announcements

- Dr. Kennedy would like to showcase Arts Faculty and has the goal to submit a write up to the Advancement Office once per week. If you have something to boast about, please submit a draft to Dr. Kennedy.
- The Indigenous Course survey is still active: please consider completing this survey if you have yet to do so
- The BU Status of Women Review Committee, as part of our Collective Agreement, is charged with the task of surveying the membership every five years. Please contact Shari Maguire at BUFA if you need the link.
- Dr. Serena Petrella's students have organized an event, "Women who Work in the Criminal Justice System" that is open to all attendees and is being held later today.
- The Arts Faculty Year End wind up is being held this Friday, April 12th from 4pm – 7pm. Please bring a beverage of your choice and a small donation to cover the cost of snacks.
- In order to support transparency, the Administration will be hosting a Budget Town Hall in the near future. All are encouraged to attend.
- The Career Symposium is being held April 23 and 24: if you are interested in assisting at the Arts table, please contact Kevin deForest.

A long discussion followed the general announcements regarding the Evans Theatre and the decision made by Administration to repurpose it as a new space for the Indigenous Peoples Centre. While all faculty support the fact that IPC deserves a larger space that better suits their needs, AFC does not appreciate the non-transparent way in which the Administration handled the process, without consultation and without even informing faculty as well as other community stakeholders. The unknown future of the Drama program (and also of the Brandon Film Festival and other activities that typically use the Evans Theatre) weighs heavily on faculty and students.

MOTION (Kramer/Smid) – THAT AFC formally protests the lack of transparency about the decision to repurpose the Evans Theatre and further asks that nothing be done until we have a new support plan from Administration for the Drama program and also for the Brandon Film Festival.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.0 Adjournment (Smid)

Meeting adjourned at 1:54pm.