

**Minutes of the AFC Meeting**  
**August 28, 2024**  
**Held In-Person in CHO 212**

**PRESENT:** R. Baker; K. Bessant; M. Ebeid; K. Edmunds; R. Gasse; S. Grills; P. Harms; D. Hétu; R. Hinthier; E. Holland; W. Kelly; R. Kramer; L. MacKay; M. Malainey; A. Marshall; V. Maud; K. McKenzie; L. McLachlan; S. Medd; A. Mulhern; J. Naylor; S. Petrella; I. Puppe; D. Ramsey; S. Robinson; L. Robson; B. Rose; D. Smid; D. Taylor; M. Tsoy; K. Wong; L. Wood; H. Zhuang; G. Deterville; C. Robinson; C. Dupuis (Co-op); M. Williams-Joel (BUSU); G. Kennedy (Chair); S. Mott (recorder)

**ABSENT:** A. Abdou; K. DeForest; H. Gillander; D. Klonowski; D. Lakevold; L. Mayer; D. Racine; K. Saunders; H. Venema; F. Zehtab-Jadid

**REGRETS:** J. Allan; C. Boulton; D. Combet; R. Dwivedula; A. Hanemaayer; S. Koosel; A. McCulloch; E. Mihelakis; M. Torabi; D. Winter; L. Xu; T. Gill (Student Services); M. DiMuro (Science)

**ON LEAVE:** B. Strang

**GUEST:** None

**Call to Order**

Dr. Kennedy called the meeting to order and gave land acknowledgement.

**1.0 Welcome/Celebrations**

Dr. Kennedy welcomed Arts Faculty members and gave several congratulatory remarks:

- Congratulations to Cameron Boulton on his new book: *Epistemic Blame: The Nature and Norms of Epistemic Relationships*
- Congratulations to Jonathan Allan on his new book: *Uncut: A Cultural Analysis of the Foreskin*.
- Shout out to RDI, who have BCI students enroute as we meet.
- Welcome to Aldea Mulhern, new faculty hire in Department of Religion.
- Congratulations to Lynn MacKay for her induction into the National Historical Society.
- Good news from Cora Dupuis and the Co-op program: all Arts co-op students were successfully placed!
- Lisa Wood – conducted a solo exhibit in Flin Flon and has an upcoming group exhibit in Winnipeg on Sept 26
- Congratulations to Mostafa Torabi on completing his PhD.

**2.0 Approval of Agenda**

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

**CARRIED.**

**3.0 Approval of the Minutes**

**MOTION (Kelly/Petrella): THAT the minutes of the AFC meeting held on April 9, 2024 be approved.**

**CARRIED.**

#### **4.0 Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Finance training is coming, hopefully in October or November. This training may be offered to chairpersons first.
- Campaign Plan – Discussed Dr. Kennedy’s Campaign Plan for the Faculty of Arts. This is a personal reflection tool and not an official document, but shared to help faculty know what the Dean is thinking about and trying to move toward (attached to minutes)

#### **5.0 Discussion Topic: AI**

- 20% of students use AI regularly and nearly 50% never use it. Statistically: men are more likely to use it, Indigenous students less likely, and international students more likely (besides those from European countries)
  - There is a great diversity in usage and awareness of AI
  - A greater transparency is needed for students and greater clarification on authorized and unauthorized use in class
- Discussion:
- Faculty mentioned that department subscriptions to detection software would be beneficial although a counter-mention stated that this software is not always reliable nor accurate.
  - One faculty member asks students to cite the AI source if they use it (and the excerpt from AI does not count towards word count of paper). Recognizes that we need to work with AI and that it is not going anywhere. It is constantly evolving.
  - Another faculty member stated that they would like to learn how to use AI as a formulative tool and especially liked the previous suggestions of using openness and citation. Would welcome training in an accessible time slot.
  - Another idea from faculty was to re-examine how one does their quizzes and assignments, making them either work in tandem with AI or make it harder to use AI for these assignments.
  - CAS will have an orientation session next week that will discuss AI as well
  - EDCW has developed a policy regarding AI use and have given it to CAS instructors, posted to website and given to students. The department may have to re-visit the policy annually but wanted something in writing for both faculty and students.
  - A suggestion was made to start a discussion with students on how they already use AI and then discuss the class policy together.
  - Another suggestion is to use reflective pieces for assignments as AI cannot tell you how you feel about something
  - Student representative appreciates that we are acknowledging that students use it and then hope to teach them how to use it to assist the students, not complete the assignments.

#### **6.0 Chairs Report**

See attached report.

#### **7.0 New Business**

##### **7.1 Arts Policies for Approval - Chair**

###### **7.1.1 PDA Pool**

**MOTION (Smid/Rose) – THAT the proposed PDA Pool Policy be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

### **7.1.2 – Course Outlines**

**MOTION (Grills/Petrella) – THAT the proposed course outline policy be approved as presented, with friendly amendments: “course description, objectives and learning outcomes” be changed to “course description and goals” and that said policy be reviewed biannually.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion:

- Much discussion ensued on this subject, ranging from the history in Arts regarding course outline policy, intellectual property, wording, access to course outlines, and the submission of course outlines to the Dean/Faculty Office/chairperson. This discussion will be referred to the BU Joint Action Committee

### **7.1.3 Evaluations**

**MOTION (Smid/Marshall) – THAT the proposed Faculty Evaluation policy be approved as presented, with a friendly amendment: change “the following documents are *required* for regular faculty” to “the following documents are *requested* for regular faculty”.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion:

- Discussion took place around many issues including special contract evaluations and the role of the requested documents.

## **7.2 Arts Policies to Revise/Develop – Chair/Review and Planning Committee**

### **7.2.1 Faculty of Arts Student Prize/Recognition –**

- Need to develop a policy

### **7.2.2 Arts Selection Committee Procedures**

- Current policy is no longer in line with the new CA: needs to be updated.

**MOTION (Marshall/Maud) – THAT the AFC Review and Planning Committee draft/develop a new policy for both the Faculty of Arts Student Recognition/Awards policy and the Arts Selection Committee Procedures policy.**

**CARRIED.**

## **7.3 Department Policies and AFC/Senate – Chair**

- Reminder that all department policies need to be adopted by AFC and shared with Senate.

## **7.4 Course and Program Changes – Various**

### **7.4.1 Sociology**

**MOTION (Grills/Hétu) – THAT the proposed course changes for Sociology be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Grills/Gasse) – THAT the proposed calendar changes to the Sociology 4-yr Honours Program be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

### **7.4.2 English, Drama and Creative Writing**

**MOTION (Smid/Rose) – THAT the two new EDCW policies be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Smid/Kramer) – THAT the EDCW course requirement changes be approved as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Smid/Saunders) – THAT the EDCW course calendar changes be approved as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Smid/Medd) – THAT the calendar change and proposal be approved as presented.**  
**CARRIED.**

#### **7.5 Rural Development Thesis Guidelines – D. Ramsey**

**MOTION (Ramsey/Marshall) – THAT the updated Rural Development Thesis Guidelines be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

Discussion:

- Question whether an external reviewer is necessary when not a doctoral candidate, especially due to in-person costs etc. The proposed language is a compromise that leaves open the possibility of another colleague from BU performing the role of external examiner, while preferring truly external examiners where possible
- Suggestion for elaboration on outcome of thesis defense ie rejection: failed oral, insufficient defense, both. The term rejection will be considered.

#### **7.6 Committee Elections**

**MOTION (Naylor/Maud) – THAT all committee volunteers be elected as presented.**

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION (Smid/Hétu) – THAT the self-nomination of Deanna Smid to the University Promotions Committee be approved by AFC.**

**CARRIED.**

Cameron Boulton will be recruiting for the few remaining vacancies.

#### **7.7 Orientation for Academic Plan and Arts Equity Plan – Chair**

- Departments start thinking about Academic Plan and where they want their programs to be in the next 5-10 years
- The Equity Plan is still being developed so there is not much to report on this yet. Institutional training is expected at the end of September for all

#### **8.0 Other Business/Announcements**

- A zoom version of AFC will be planned for early November in order to submit calendar changes to Senate on time.
- Congratulations to Emily Holland for being appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Residential Schools Missing Children and Unmarked Burials.

#### **8.1 Discussion Topic for next AFC 6 Dec – Student Retention Strategy**

#### **9.0 Adjournment (Hétu)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:48pm