



Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Anti-Racism in HSS: Building Capacity and Changing Practice June 10, 2020 Meeting Notes

The below provides a high level summary of the discussion at the June 10, 2020 meeting in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at MUN. Per an invitation sent via email to the arts-list, this meeting was in response to the call for a [strike](#) on June 10 as an opportunity to address anti-racist practice in our institutional and local settings. The meeting provided an opportunity to have a Faculty-wide focused conversation about anti-racism in HSS. Approximately 85 individuals attended the meeting on WebEx.

Primary Themes

- *Police studies.* There was discussion both about a) the role and existence of the Police Studies program at MUN and b) the relationship of the program to police organizations and institutions in the province.
- *Departments—possibilities and existing practices.* There was acknowledgement that each department might examine possibilities for anti-racism in their unit (related to curriculum and other areas). There was also attention to the potential usefulness of a better understanding of what departments are currently doing to address race and racism.
- *Training.* Are there possibilities for academic and administrative staff to engage in further training at MUN related to anti-racism?
- *Faculty hires.* Meeting participants addressed possibilities for diversifying academic staff in HSS; and noted related challenges including tokenism, and placing inappropriate expectations on these individuals (such as responsibility for courses addressing race and related issues, etc.).
- *Curriculum and programming.* Those at the meeting addressed a range of topics, including:
 - Requirement of a course addressing race;
 - Existence and prevalence of content representing African Canadian and African realities and experience in HSS courses; and
 - How all departments in HSS offer content related to race, ethnic studies, etc.
- *Possible initiatives/support for position.*
 - Support for position responsible for addressing racial harassment complaints.
 - Celebration of Black History month in HSS.

There will be a second meeting on July 15 from 1:00 – 2:00. The objective of that meeting will be to further narrow the focus of areas in which those in HSS might build capacity and change practice in the interests of anti-racism.

Last revised: 24 June 2020