

## Humanities and Social Sciences, Special Meeting of Faculty Council

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

The Special meeting of Faculty Council in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. via WebEx. The focus of this meeting was HSS and anti-racism efforts. Approximately 50 people attended this meeting, which was a follow-up meeting to one on June 10 on the same topic.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be approved (S. Curtis/P. Basabose). Carried.

### **Approval of Minutes of the Anti-Racism in HS meeting held on June 10, 2020**

Moved and Seconded to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting (N. Catto/L. Ashworth). Carried.

Dean stated meeting objective: to come to a clearer sense of a vision for Faculty-wide change specifically focusing on teaching and research and related to anti-racism.

[Documents provided prior to meeting: July 8 memorandum, July 10 minutes, July 14 memorandum.]

### Questions of Clarification and Context

The first agenda item offered those at the meeting an opportunity to ask questions of clarification and context regarding the July 14 memorandum. Those at the meeting had no questions.

### Discussion of Faculty-Wide Efforts in Relation to a) Teaching and b) Research

On the whole, discussion focused on several possible initiatives in the below themes:

#### *Curriculum and programming*

- Create a centralized faculty-wide list of all courses that address racism and colonialism.
- Departments might create new courses.
- Revisit the BA core requirements to ensure that sufficient numbers of courses focus on anti-racism.
- Revisit the Syllabus Development Resource provided by the Dean's Office to include a statement of commitment that HSS is an environment that does not tolerate racism.

#### *Training for Faculty and Administrative Staff in HSS*

- Identify possible training for faculty and staff to support a better sense of the systemic issues of racism and possibilities for anti-racism.
- Identify areas for education for ASMs related to anti-Black racism, various theoretical perspectives, etc.

#### *Miscellaneous*

- Increase enrolments of Black and Indigenous students within HSS; recruitment and retention of a more diverse student body.
- Review of Police Studies program.
- Petition to take down statue outside of Confederation Building

Next Steps, Timeline

- Dean's Office will bring one or two ways forward to September or October Faculty Council meeting for approval.
- Support for either new committee or sub-committee of the Planning and Research Committee to continue the discussion (with regular reports back to Faculty Council). Point was made that a new committee would allow for a more planned process of constituting the committee in relation to the committee's focus of anti-racism.

*Last revised: 22 July 2020*