

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

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

A Special Meeting of Faculty Council in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. via WebEx. The focus of this meeting was HSS and anti-racism efforts. Approximately 40 people attended this meeting, which was a follow-up meeting to one on July 15 on the same topic. (For related documents, go to this [link](#).)

### October 8 Memorandum, Questions of Clarification and Context

- Interest in direct action possibilities and concrete steps (for example, how to respond to racist comments in the classroom; could be addressed in Brown Bag meetings).
- Support for addressing race and anti-racism connected to faculty hiring.
- Related to initiatives one and two in October 8 memorandum, interest in possibility of required course for HSS students.

### Discussion Related to Initiatives and Process/Timeline

- Comments pertaining to courses and programming
  - Might identify courses that address anti-racism and anti-colonialism as central to course; and courses that address these topics in less central way
  - Interest in possibility of interdisciplinary course, as well as possible reflection on Police Studies program (Dean clarified that any discussion of Police Studies program would centrally occur in that department)
  - Important that criteria for anti-racism and anti-colonialism are flexible
  - In considering inventory of courses vs. criteria for courses, perhaps most useful to attend to both, rather than trying to do one or the other
  - Important for criteria to be developed over time and with consultation, and to be invitational (i.e., possibilities that ASMs and instructors opt into)
- Comments pertaining to process/timeline
  - General support for the process and timeline
  - Noted that the process and timeline are a bit vague; ideally this allows for committee to shape next steps, etc.
- The Dean proposed that with a few adjustments to the initiatives, the process would move forward as indicated in the October 8 memorandum. A vote was taken, with one abstention and one opposed.

### Next Steps

- The Dean will make suggested edits to the list of initiatives, and send out the revised initiatives and process/timeline to those attending the October 14 meeting for comments. This document will serve as a preliminary terms of reference for the committee; the committee will likely choose to further develop these terms in early meetings.
- The Dean will consult with Faculty Relations to discuss how to proactively engage MUNFA.
- The Dean will send out the initial terms of reference to the Faculty; and will begin the process of constituting the committee.