

**Academic Standards Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee of Senate  
Special Sub-Committee on New Faculty Curriculum**

**Record of Consultation**

Date	Tuesday, August 13, 2019
Attendees	Sarah Bay-Cheng, Dean, AMPD Andrea Davis, Chair, Humanities (LA&PS) Leslie Sanders, University Professor, Humanities
Sub-Committee Members	Kim Michasiw, Chair of ASCP, Chair Alice Hovorka, Dean FES Alice Pitt, Vice-Provost Academic Tarmo Remmel, Co-Coordinator (Geography) Robert Everett, Secretary

**Overall Focus of the Consultation**

Participants were provided with a three-page overview of a proposed Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Arts and Justice. It is currently conceived as a minor but which may evolve. AMPD and Humanities courses are listed among the those satisfying requirements for the extant Certificate in Cultural and Artistic Practices for Environmental and Social Justice, although enrolments are not strong. Colleagues from Humanities described the nature and thrust of a major curriculum review under way, one which may result in re-naming the Department itself and which is likely to have a public humanities dimension. Culture and Expression will be a driver.

The new Faculty's proponents described a critical mass of scholars who identify strongly with artistic praxis even if enrolments have not matched with this cohort. For them, the ordering of words in the name of the proposed minor reflects their commitment to cultural production, an aspect of scholarship that others are embedding in the curriculum.

There was a consensus that curriculum development must not result in competition or confusion for students. It is essential that no harm to reputation follow from curriculum reforms.

**Specific Matters Addressed**

Among the points that emerged were the following:

- it is imperative to provide students with a clear sense of the options available to them at York

- streams and programs be distinctive even when there is some curriculum in common
- as in other forms of collaboration discussed during this round of consultations, it was noted that MOUs can pave the way to appropriate resource sharing
- AMPD students have shown little interest in the current Certificate and it is also not clear how much the Faculty could contribute to collaborative programs
- collaborative options could include partnerships, shared core curriculum, cross-listings and the like
- the term media, used in the new Faculty curriculum overview, is a contested term and further discussion would be appropriate; the language of “hands on artistic creation” also needs greater clarity
- there is an emphasis on racism in the draft proposal; proponents should be aware that a focus on racism has been widely adopted by others at the University and needs to be developed with sensitivity to this

### **Outcomes and Further Steps**

It was agreed that there should be sustained conversations about the curriculum given different mandates / shared interests and need to obviate risks associated with duplication and competition.

Colleagues from Humanities will provide additional information to the FES-Geography working group about the streams they are contemplating. Dean Bay-Cheng will forward the three-page overview to AMPD chairs in the first instance to provide feedback. It would be beneficial to invite an AMPD colleague to participate in discussions (a step that could lead to a smaller representative group to explore opportunities and issues).

By way of a follow up and in anticipation of a second round of consultations in September, the Sub-Committee itself will issue an open call to those interested in the broad topic areas covered by the minor.