

## **Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association**

**Meeting date: April 10, 2013**

**Call to order:** An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on April 10, 2013. The meeting convened at 3:32pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Communications Officer

### **Members Present**

Gerry Cross  
David Sabiston  
Scott Murray  
Pat Kostouros  
Brenda Lang

Kit Dobson  
Marc Schroeder  
Marnie Kramer-Kile  
Shiraz Kurji  
Elaine Mullen

### **Order of the Day**

Negotiating Committee Bylaw Changes

The proposed changes were drafted by the Organization subcommittee of the Executive Board. The intent is good but the bylaws need to better reflect the processes currently followed by the Negotiating Committee. The committee cannot be required to consult with the Executive Board on strategies or other matters in the negotiations process.

The Organization Committee and Negotiating Committee will meet to revise the bylaw changes on April 17 at 12:00pm.

### **Agenda**

Moved the last new business item to the beginning of the section.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2013 meeting as amended. **Motion carried.**

### **Officers Reports**

President's Report

1. Responding to the Provincial Budget

a) Rally Debrief

There were about 300 people there and it was well covered by the media.

b) Board of Governors Meeting on April 15

Gerry will be reporting at the beginning of the confidential sessions of the Board of Governors on April 15.

c) Future Plans

In the immediate future our actions depend on the severity of the cuts that will be announced in the coming weeks. In the long term we need to continue to support students and inform people of what is going on. This is a long term educational campaign which we need to approach strategically.

When cuts are announced, the MRFA will make public its perception of the cuts and may initiate a protest in response to each cut. The Executive will also send a message to the member(ship) indicating that we understand this is happening and that we do not agree with it. The letter will provide members, particularly Chairs, with advice on ensuring fairness and equitable treatment of members through the application of the Collective Agreement. This message will, also, refer members to the resources available and invite them to inform the Executive of how we could best support them.

d) Open Letter to Alberta Citizens.

The Executive needs to revise the letter before it can be sent out.

e) Letter to the Board of Governors

Gerry gave them a day to respond to the letter. Tomorrow it will be sent to the membership and then to ACIFA, CAFA and CAUT. Gerry will also be sending the letter to the media.

2. Process for Advocacy Committee Research Projects

The committee has done quite a bit of good work this year. Next year they will be required to

select a Chair whose role is to serve the members of the committee and liaise with the MRFA office and Executive Board.

3. Draft Plan for Review of Tenure and Promotion Criteria

A steering committee will be established to review and approve the process and plan the collection of data. The committee will include the Chairs of APTC and UTPC, a representative from each Negotiating Committee, a member of the MRFA Executive Board, and a member of Deans' Council.

Brenda will bring this to the Negotiating Committee

4. Travel Expense Claims for Contract Faculty

The change in the application of the Travel and Expense policy is only being applied to Contract Faculty. This is an equity issue which we will protest. Gerry will be sending a message to Manuel about this and Randy agreed to discuss the matter with Heather. In the meantime, Jan Lovestone is going to provide some assistance and training on how Contract faculty can get the best possible return on these expenses through taxes.

5. Year End Dinner

Due to the current fiscal situation the Executive Board will not be having dinner at a restaurant this year. Scott will host dinner at his house, members of the Executive are to bring their own beverages and Scott will be reimbursed for his expenses.

**Unfinished Business**

1. Progress Report on Executive Board Goals

Gerry will follow up on Relocation expenses, Committee Charters, the Chairs Advisory Committee, and the development of a written grievance procedure. Spousal hiring will be referred to the negotiating committee as this is something all members should have input on through the negotiations survey. A brief will be sent with the survey informing members on the related issues and concerns.

2. Organization Committee Report

The Vice President Policy and Grievance Officer will be elected in odd numbers years. To accommodate this change the Communications Officer will be elected for a 1 year term this year and in the future be elected in even numbered years.

The nomination form will state that elections are pending approval of the bylaw changes

All part-time terminology will be changed to Contract Faculty, and the Contract Member Representative will be restricted to Contract Faculty if it is not already.

**New Business**

1. Executive Board Approval of Bylaw Changes

The context of the bylaw changes was briefly discussed. Further discussion was deferred to the next Executive Board Meeting.

2. April General Meeting, Review of Minutes

Deferred

3. Interfund Transfers

Deferred

4. Recruiting for Executive Board Positions

Members have expressed interest in most positions that we will be electing to in May.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

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Communications Officer  
Mount Royal Faculty Association

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Date of approval