

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: April 7, 2017

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on April 7, 2017. The meeting convened at 2:34pm, President, Marc Schroeder, presiding

Members Present

Marc Schroeder
Allison Mackenzie
Sabrina Reed
David Clemis
Brenda Lang

Shiraz Kurji
Roberta Lexier
Jenn Solinas
Guy Obrecht
Lee Easton

Approval of Agenda

Approved

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2017 and April 3, 2017 Executive Board meetings. Motion Carried.

Order of the Day, 4:20pm

Presidential recusal from meeting

Discussion of Potential Bylaw Change Recommendations Related to a Potential Sabbatical for MRFA Presidents - Deferred

Business Arising

Appointment: MRFA Appointee to MRU Distinguished Team Award Review Committee

For clarification, Michael Huston was elected to serve on the Distinguished Team Award Review Committee.

Unfinished Business

MRFA Bylaws: Changes to Consider for 2017 AGM - Deferred

New Business

1. Discussion of Bill 7

If Bill 7 passes, we will be moved to the Labour Code. To fully consider the various changes and related impacts, the MRFA Executive Board will establish a labour code transition committee before the summer. The Bill does provide a five year transition period in which the MRFA will be deemed certified as a trade union, and unless decertified, this certification will remain in place after 2022. The Bill does not, however, include a transition period for strike/lockout. The MRFA will re-submit its rationale for providing this transition period in a letter to the Ministry, Dave Rodney and Greg Clark.

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board express its gratitude for the extensive, and very effective, work which Marc Schroeder dedicated to providing valuable feedback to the Ministry in the consultation process. The feedback submitted by the MRFA directly contributed to the changes currently being considered by the legislature.

Moved: Lee Easton

Seconded: Sabrina Reed

Vote - Carried Unanimously

2. Provincial Labour Relations Code Review

The government is in the midst of reviewing the labour code and the deadline to submit is April 18. This is too short a timeline for the MRFA to put in a significant submission.

3. April Regular Meeting Debrief

The draft minutes were amended and approved to be posted.

4. Communications Committee Recommendations

a. Compensation for Web Design

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board approve the following compensation for the website development through a directed readings course in Computer Science or Information Design. The supervising faculty member will be compensated at one third the rate of an overload contract, and, upon satisfactory completion of the project, the student will be provided with a \$2,000 honorarium and a letter of reference.

Moved: Sabrina Reed

Seconded: Roberta Lexier

Rationale provided by Communications Committee: The MRFA should provide compensation for the faculty member, as, otherwise, it is likely that this MRFA project would incur workload for the member which would not be adequately recognized given current provisions in the Collective Agreement. The one third overload payment was deemed appropriate because it has been proposed in Faculties that workload for Honours supervision be credited to faculty members by way of providing one course release for every three Honours students. For the student, the committee considered it to be fair that the student who did the work in building the website be provided with an honorarium at a rate comparable to but possibly higher than the supervisor. The total cost remains significantly lower than it would have been for the MRFA to hire a private company to build the website.

Discussion

Motion to Amend – remove provision of an honorarium for the student

Moved: Shiraz Kurji

Discussion

Vote - 4 in favour, 5 against - Defeated

Vote on main motion (subject to a student registering in the course)

Vote Carried

- b. Referral of Content for External Communications and Development of a Social Media Policy and Brand to the Advocacy Committee - Deferred
5. Financial Results and Budget
 - a. 2016-2017 Financial Results as of March 31 to be Presented at AGM
There is a substantial surplus which we were expecting and it will be explained at the AGM. This surplus will be used to pay for the CAUT Defense Fund.
 - b. Approval of Recommended 2017-2018 Budget to be Presented at AGM
After confirming details of excess dues revenue for 2016-17, this will be brought to the next Executive Board meeting for approval and recommendation to the membership.
 6. 2017 Alberta Federation of Labour Convention
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board approve the expenses for Lee Easton to attend the 2017 Alberta Federation of Labour Convention as a guest.
Moved: Brenda Lang
Seconded: Allison Mackenzie
Discussion
Vote – Carried Unanimously

In Camera Session

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board authorize initiating at Step 2 the grievance pertaining to termination without grounds and breach of privacy.

Moved Sabrina Reed

Seconded: Lee Easton

Discussion

Vote – Carried Unanimously

Officers' Reports

President's Report

1. Faculty Annual Report System Review
There is a working group reviewing feedback on the Annual report system: the MRFA will be submitting its input to this group based on feedback from FEC.
2. Update: Provincial Budget and MRU Budget
Marc reported on this in the March News to Use.
3. External Associations
CAUT has resolved its labour dispute, and now ACIFA is facing difficulties. It is important for Faculty Associations in Alberta to have one strong provincial association: we will need to work toward this in the coming years.

Vice-President, Policy and Senior Grievance Officer's Report

1. Travel Expense Solutions
Use of the University's travel agent and the University P card will assist in alleviating faculty members' concerns about delayed reimbursement of travel related expenses. Work is being done to improve the system and communications with members.

Academic Liaison Officer's Report

1. CUFA-BC Governance Conference
Deferred

Advocacy Officer's Report

1. Advocacy Week Debrief
Deferred

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval