

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: December 6, 2012

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on December 6, 2012. The meeting convened at 2:07pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Communications Officer

Members Present:

Marnie Kramer-Kile
Kit Dobson
David Sabiston
Elaine Mullen
Scott Murray

Marc Schroeder
Brenda Lang
Gerry Cross
Valerie Kinnear

Members not Present:

Pat Kostouros

Agenda: Approved

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2012 meeting as amended. **Motion carried.**

Officer's Reports

President's Report

1. Academic Affairs Budget Town Hall

- We need to consider increasing non fixed revenues, and ensure that increases in tuition revenues go directly to Academic Affairs' budget.
- We should look more closely at the decisions that were made which brought us to this deficit situation while other Universities have surpluses.

2. Report on Meeting with Bill Johnson

- Bill has a research assistant looking into this.
- We will constitute the committee in Fall 2013.

3. H Crowe Conference on Academic Freedom

- Jennifer Pettit has agreed to attend as the MRFA representative.

4. Separate Union for Contract Academic Staff.

- This is not possible. Under the PSLA we have to represent all credit faculty and the Board designates credit faculty. No subset of academic staff would be able to certify as a union unless they were de-designated by the board.
- Some unions have multiple bargaining units, but this is not possible here. We do not have a large enough institutional base to support two separate bargaining units. It would overcomplicate many processes and duplicate a lot of the work being done.

Unfinished Business

1. Instructional Hours

a) Impact Statements

- Two more impact statements were distributed this week.

b) Costing

- Since reducing hours is a way to deal with a budget shortfall it would be useful for each of these departments to include costing estimates.
 - Gerry has all the instructional budgets so will be able to cost it as a percentage of department budgets and as a percentage of the institutional shortfall.

2. Review of Criteria for Part-time Opportunities for Service

- Scott and Gerry will talk to Robin and Randy about what is/is not an eligible form of

service for Contract-Academic Staff and may possibly refer it to the joint committee.

- Using the full time definition of teaching and service in the part-time honorarium form is problematic. Moreover, the form is inconsistent in this regard as it lists MRFA service as ineligible.
- We need to determine if course coordination is considered part of Contract Academic Staff members' teaching load.

3. Guiding Principles for University Collaborations

- Gerry will suggest to David Docherty that we include this as a topic in the discussion series. Gerry will also send CAUT's policy to Michael Truscello who brought this matter forward.

New Business

1. Review of Joint Committees

- Joint Committee Regarding Financial Exigencies
 - Composition: David and Brady will likely be on the Committee to ensure continuity. The MRFA will appoint the third member in April-May. It will need to be someone interested and willing to put in the time and effort.
 - Timeline: the committee is to start its work by Sept 15.
- Joint Committee on the Interpretation of the Collective Agreement
 - The committee must now meet at least once per semester
 - We will elect two people at the 2013 AGM: 1 for 2 years and 1 for 1 year.
 - The current members, Kit, Kelly and David, have already agreed to continue on the committee for the remainder of the year.
- Committee Regarding Development of a Full Sabbatical System
 - This is going to the existing task force on Leaves and the Academic Year; though, we may need to replace one or two people. The deadline for the committee's work is March 2014
 - January 31, 2014 would be better: David will talk to Randy about this
- Copyright and Intellectual Property
 - The initial report along with the copyright lawyer's amendments will be used to draft a final article for inclusion in the agreement. The teams will have to negotiate it and we will have a ratification vote at the end of May.

2. Negotiating Committee Compensation

- Members of the Negotiating Committee should always be paid and always be doing work to ensure continuity and preparedness.

Motion THAT the MRFA provide reassigned time for members of the Negotiating Committee in Winter 2013 and consider revising the bylaws to always provide reassigned time for members of the Negotiating Committee.

Moved: David Sabiston

Seconded: Brenda Lang

Discussion:

- Work being done to assist the Negotiating Committee should be considered when determining their workload and compensation. And, if we are giving them release in non-negotiating rounds we should put something in the bylaws regarding the expectation that they continue working and doing research in preparation for the next round.

Vote

Carried Unanimously

3. By-Election for the MRFA Treasurer.

- We will close nominations five days prior to the election, and we will have a forum even

if there is only one candidate. It will be held at the beginning of the Special Meeting. We will send the nomination form out before Christmas and a reminder in January.

- Agreed.

Announcements

1. MRFA Meetings

- These may be moved to Wednesday Mornings.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Communications Officer
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval