

MINUTES of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: December 7, 2011

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on December 7, 2011. The meeting convened at 9:00am, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Secretary.

Members in attendance:

Cliff Werier
Gerard Lucyshyn
David Saviston
Gerry Cross
Elaine Mullen
Pat Kostouros

Guests:

Meghan Melnyk, President
Jennifer Langille, VP Academic
Michelle Dennis, VP External
Kaylene McTavish, VP Student Life

Members not in attendance:

Rafik Kurji
Kit Dobson
Qasim Syed

Orders of the Day

Guests, SAMRU Executive Board
Introductions

The upcoming Provincial Election

- Co-hosting election forums
 - It would be good to engage the parties in a conversation about PSE. Faculty and Students have several common interests in this matter. However, if the election is called in May it will be difficult to get students involved.

SAMRU in Governance and Relationship with MRFA

- It is important to have the other perspective, and we need to develop a relationship wherein we are comfortable going to each other for information.
- Developing a relationship is good and having a safe place to ask questions is what SAMRU is looking for. But, what the students really need is a way to help develop the students who are sitting on GFC and other councils. SAMRU is also missing useful information such as who the student faculty representatives are. Some areas are claiming FOIP prevents them from giving out this information
 - Gerry will assist with this.
- The MRFA will invite the Student Faculty Representatives to Faculty caucuses. The students could bring the faculty view back to their groups.
 - When appropriate, Pat will invite Jennifer Langille, SAMRU's VP Academic, and a designate, preferably Student Faculty Representatives, to attend Faculty Caucuses

SAMRU Executive: Workload and Organizational Structure

- The four SAMRU Executive Board members sit on over 100 committees combined. They know what is going on across campus and get a variety of perspectives; however, the members of the Executive do not have time to follow-up everything.
 - SAMRU has considered increasing the size of its executive
 - A lot of Faculty Associations have an Executive Director: this person would alleviate some workload and provide continuity for the association.
 - SAMRU does have an Executive Director, but the position is only involved in committees that pertain to SAMRU. Institutional committees would, likely, not want to have a non-student representing the students' perspective.
 - This role could be reserved for a former SAMRU president.

Academic Plan

- There is a lack of specific and measurable goals

- Based on suggestions from faculties, the committee renamed “outcomes” to “aims” which is less measurable.
 - Robin argues that we need data to prove we are fulfilling the outcomes. He is looking for measurements to bring to external bodies: we are already there, we have already proven our excellence, we do not need to do this.
 - Having outcomes does not affect course delivery so it is a waste of resources
- The focus on degrees and focus on accessibility do not always line up.
 - The Academic Plan seems to speak to degrees and not about educating the population.
- Some faculty did not appreciate the statement that we had to shift to more arts and science degrees because our degree ratio is not typical for a university.
 - Being like other universities is not a valid justification for change at MRU. We cannot be unique if our decisions are solely based on imitating other institutions.
- Emphasis on SotL is perceived by some faculty negatively as it seems to be a privileged form of scholarship.
- What is the MRFA perspective on the grading rubric?
 - This should be referred to as a standard percentage scale across the university.
 - It would be a good thing to work toward as different grade scales can have significant impact on students

Secretary
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval