

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: February 27, 2013

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on February 27, 2013. The meeting convened at 3:30pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Communications Officer

Members Present

Scott Murray
Elaine Mullen
Marc Schroeder
Shiraz Kurji
Kit Dobson

Brenda Lang
Marnie Kramer-Kile
Gerry Cross

Members Not Present

David Sabiston
Pat Kostouros

Order of the Day, 3:30pm

Guest: David Docherty

1. Budget

We may not get the 2% funding increase, approximately \$1.8 million, we were expecting. If we do not, we will have to look at reserves and other measures to get us through this period. There is a chance that there will be increases to funding in nursing and the potential of getting tuition normalization. We are trying to cut back as much as possible so we can allocate some funds to reserves, but these measures will not be enough: there will be increases to things such as parking fees. However, we may still get money for the library and learning centre as this is from a different pool of funds. BAC will meet after the budget is announced on March 7, and will be following up on work done developing cost savings and revenue generating ideas.

2. MRFA Position on Applied Research and Economic Diversification

The press release drafted by the MRFA is well crafted: it is the role of the Faculty Association to make such statements.

3. Governance

a) Overlap between the Collective Agreement and Academic Policies

We need to develop written protocol that defines which matters are dealt with in policy and which must go through bargaining. This will be on the radar for the incoming Provost.

b) ALO on APPC

For the duration of the review of tenure and promotion process and the review of the curriculum approval process the ALO will remain on APTC, but in the long run it may be better to have this person on APPC.

4. Process for Review of Tenure and Promotion Criteria

Marc Schroeder has drafted a plan for how to best conduct the review of tenure and promotion criteria. Once the plan has been reviewed and revised Marc will send it to David.

5. Next Discussion Series

This is being held on Tuesday March 26. Divisions to be discussed are Research/ Teaching or TS/TSS, the more recently hired faculty and the more senior faculty and Full time and Part time faculty. We need to ensure that this discussion does not further promote the divisions: we need an exercise in community building that addresses these real or imagined threats to the community.

Gerry and David will discuss this further next week.

Agenda

Added to new business: 4. Topics for Meeting with Randy and Manuel

Approval of Minutes

Deferred.

Officers' Reports

President's Report

1. Presidents' Discussion Series on Revenue Generation
Hope Henderson is going to canvass her peers at other universities and we will work toward developing a policy on donor agreements.
2. Students' Association Ignite Conference (Feb 21-22)
Gerry will prepare a report for this for the President's Monthly Report
3. Travel Expense Claims for Contract Faculty
This change was made because it was perceived to be mutually beneficial: departments saved money and faculty got to use it as a tax write off. Randy is going to confirm whether this policy applies to everyone, and a sampling will be done to determine the cost/benefit of this change for Contract Faculty. If it turns out that this does not apply to everyone then we will request that they reverse it for contract faculty.
4. ACIFA Guidelines for Academic Staff Representatives on the Board of Governors
The final version is attached to the meeting agenda.
5. Directors' Liability Insurance
We will consider this coverage after our meeting with MacEwan on March 22.

Unfinished Business:

1. ACIFA Climate Survey
Gerry will discuss these results with David Docherty and request that he share them with the Board of Governors.

New Business

1. MRFA Policy on Drafting Press Releases
In the future, the President will be invited to the Advocacy Committee meetings to be involved in the discussion and development of such press releases.
 - o This will be included in the Advocacy Committee's Bylaws.
 - o The communications committee will make a recommendation to the bylaws committee for articulating the role of the advocacy committee in the MRFA's communications policy.
2. Task Force on Leaves and the Academic Year
The Task Force has to make recommendations for a full sabbatical system to the Negotiating Committees by January 31 2014.
 - o Sabbaticals and four for fives are two separate things and should not be linked in the Task Force's development of a sabbatical system. Four for fives were agreed to in negotiations and are a huge benefit for our members that we should not readily give up.
3. Vacancy on the Ethics Committee
Motion THAT the Executive Board appoint Pam MacQuarrie to the Ethics Committee till June 15, 2013.
Moved: Gerry Cross
Seconded: Scott Murray
Discussion
Vote
Carried Unanimously
5. Topics for meeting with Manuel and Randy
Meeting topics established

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.

Communications Officer, MRFA

Date of approval