

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: February 27, 2015

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on February 27, 2015. The meeting convened at 12:15pm, Vice-President Negotiations, Karen Manarin, presiding.

Members Present:

Scott Murray
Karen Manarin
Andreas Tomaszewski
April McGrath
Richard Sutherland
Brenda Lang
Elaine Mullen

Members Not Present:

Shiraz Kurji
Tracy Powell
Marc Schroeder

MRSA Members

Baset Zarrug
Kathy Homer
Rona Reitsema
Kirsten Garcia
Nadine Conklin
Cheryl Melatdoost
Karen Hiebert
Charissa Hovdebo
Elaine Ori
Whitney Struthers
Maureen Bedard

Order of the Day, 12:00 – 12:45

Lunch Meeting with the MRSA Executive

1. Adding non-academic staff councillors to GFC
The MRSA has representation on Faculty Councils but not on GFC. The MRSA is hoping to have faculty colleagues on GFC put this idea forward for discussion at GFC.
2. Maintaining and strengthening the dialogue around advocacy and Coalition work
Advocacy Week worked quite well. We got students talking about the issues and had some good media coverage. We need to continue our advocacy efforts as we move toward Elections.
3. Sharing some common items during Negotiations (e.g. dental benefits)
The MRFA and MRSA negotiating teams will work to improve communications prior to bargaining.
4. MRSA Arbitration
The MRSA expects the decision within the next week or two. The arbitration seemed to go well: this was a new experience and the MRSA learned from it. Arbitration is a tool we should not be afraid of using in the future. If we cannot get what we want there is no reason not to go to arbitration.
5. Thoughts on Ombudsperson Position
The Respectful Workplace Committee has a subcommittee looking at recreating this position. An Ombudsperson would provide support for all members of the MRU community. There is discussion of having this as a shared cost position to ensure neutrality of the position.
6. Code of Conduct
The Public Agencies Act requires a policy related to conflict of interest and financial impropriety; however, the University's Code of Conduct Policy is going way beyond this to the point of requiring faculty and staff to defend the interests of the University. While this policy will more negatively impact faculty than staff, it is important for the MRFA and MRSA to work together in responding to this policy.

Agenda

Approved

Minutes

Motion was made by Karen Manarin to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2015 meeting as amended. Motion Carried

In Camera Session, Grievance Reports

Vice-president Policy and Grievance Officer's Report

Decision Item: Advancing to Step 5 (Arbitration) of the Grievance Process

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board Approve moving to arbitration.

Moved: Scott Murray

Second: Andreas Tomaszewski

Vote

Carried Unanimously

Officer's Reports

Grievance Officer, Scott Murray

Scott is looking further into MRU's Post Doc policy in response to recent events at the University of Toronto.

Negotiations, Karen Manarin

The MoU committees are submitting their work and these will come forward to the March Special Meeting

Unfinished Business

1. Appointments to the Ad hoc Contract Faculty Committee (att.)
Deferred
2. Recommendation from the MRFA Communications Committee: Website Upgrade (att.)
Motion THAT the Executive Board approve moving the MRFA website to the LV50 Server provided by Canadian Web Hosting.
Moved: Richard Sutherland
Seconded: Brenda Lang
Discussion
Vote
Carried Unanimously
3. Planning Upcoming Meeting Topics
 - a. SAMRU Executive Board
 - b. David Docherty
 - c. Kathy Shailer and Randy GenereuxTopics Discussed for all upcoming meetings. Draft agendas will be circulated.

Business Arising

1. March General Meeting Agenda (att.)
Agenda finalized
2. Appointment to MRU Selection Committee for Alumni Achievement Awards (att.)
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board appoint Marc Schroeder to the Selection Committee for Alumni Achievement Awards
Moved: Karen Manarin
Seconded: Scott Murray
Vote
Carried Unanimously

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:10pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval