

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: January 24, 2014

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on January 24, 2014. The meeting convened at 12:00pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Janice Paskey, Communications Officer.

Members Present

Gerry Cross
Scott Murray
Shiraz Kurji
Elaine Mullen
Janice Paskey

Andreas Tomaszewski
Tracy Powell
Marc Schroeder

Members not present:

Karen Manarin
Brenda Lang

Agenda

Added: Update on Tenure and Promotion Review Process
Diversity Committee Report
Appointment to the Sustainability Committee

Minutes

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Officers' Reports

In Camera Session Grievance Report
President and Grievance Officer's Reports

Presidents Report

1. Program Prioritization
We will express our concerns to the Provost and President.
2. Presidents Informal Meetings with Faculty
The format of these meetings may change to improve attendance.
3. Mount Allison University Strike Vote
The MRFA will send a note of support to the Mount Allison Faculty Association.
4. CAUT Forum for Presidents

Program Prioritization

Program prioritization should be discouraged. Dickeson asserts that program proliferation necessitates program prioritization: we do not have a problem with the former and, therefore, should not pursue the latter. The Dickeson model is, also, very one-sided and provides administrators with strategies for getting around faculty. However, it's possible to stop the process; at Brock, a motion at the senate stopped it.

Faculty Caucuses

Our objective, through facilitating successful caucus meetings, is to enable our colleagues to make GFC the serious academic decision making body that it should be. The MRFA has an interest when policies effect terms and conditions of employment.

University Budgets

Capital donations should be included in earned capital contributions.

Engaging Members

Associations' nominating committees identify and encourage emerging leaders.

Communications

According to CAUT, your most important communications should be in print. We will start sending out the Monthly Report in print.

Relationship with Negotiations

We should bring a proposal to the membership on this.

5. Dinner with Len Findlay
The Executive will cater dinner in the centre and have Len here for AA. If dinner is off campus, we will pay for Karen and Len's dinners.
6. Advocacy
 - Gerry is following up on some of the work of the MRU Coalition.
 - The Advocacy Committee wants to develop a print ad around Building Alberta through

- PSE. Someone in information design may be able to help with this.
- Rather than meeting with the editorial board, Janice will try to arrange a meeting with a journalist

Vice President Policy and Grievance Officer's Report

1. Strategic Plan Steering Committee
The scenarios will be modified and presented to the university community. There is nothing formal to respond to at this point.

Business Arising

1. Executive Board Goals
The goals for 2013-2014 were revised and approved.
2. Appointments to the Job Action Research Committee
Michael Truscello appointed from the Advocacy Committee
Joanna Szabo Heart appointed from Nursing

Unfinished Business

Additional Tenure and Promotion Review Feedback

Gerry will write up and distribute additional feedback to the Executive Board.

New Business

1. Priorities for the Executive Board Submission to the Negotiating Committee
The priorities were discussed and revised. The Executive Board will provide support, as needed, to the Negotiating Committee.
2. Format for Presidents' Discussion Series.
Members will comprise a panel to present the different perspectives involved in the proposed topic for the February 28 Presidents' Discussion Series.
To increase attendance, the March discussion series will be rescheduled to 8:00am with breakfast.
3. Concerns Regarding our Communications Policy
A member suggested that we should not include communications that do not relate to members' areas of expertise. The member will be informed that we do not intend to filter information: the newsletter is just a vehicle for communication.
4. Diversity Committee Report
The report summarizes their work thus far and their plans to host CAUT's equity workshop.
5. Update on the Tenure and Promotion Steering Committee
Based on the feedback received, the committee will identify common areas of concern and develop a more focussed survey to go out to members. The minor and un-contentious issues will be identified. Some things will be sent to negotiations and some will go through the governance process.
6. Appointment to the Sustainability Committee
No quorum. We will leave the position vacant till the May election.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:23pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval