

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: January 29, 2013

Call to order: A General Meeting of the MRFA was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on January 29, 2013. The meeting convened at 12:15pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Communications Officer.

Members in attendance:

See attached Attendance Sheets

Agenda: Approved

Approval of minutes:

Motions were made by Gerry Cross to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2012 meeting, as amended, and the November 23, 2012 meeting. **Motions carried.**

Officer's Reports

President's report

1. Department Visits

These visits have been valuable and have generated a lot of ongoing work for the Executive. Notes from most department meetings are available [online](#).

2. Budget

Budget Advisory Committee update:

Gerry's notes from the town hall are available on the [website](#). Some measures, such as ensuring we have funding for all FLEs in nursing or that institutes are operating on a cost recovery basis, are already being put in place. The President's Executive Committee has assigned several of the ideas generated by BAC to various groups for further investigation. They hope to present the budget at the April 15 Board of Governors meeting, which means we may be looking at a more compressed decision making timeline. This also means that if work is not done in time on BAC's ideas we may be forced into some across the board cuts.

Quorum achieved for Special Meeting

General Meeting recessed at 12:22pm and resumed at 12:45pm

Instructional hours update:

In November, there was an attempt to coerce APPC into adding reductions to instructional hours for budgetary purposes to the list of editorial changes. This was defeated.

In the November [President's Report](#), Gerry wrote about what faculty members can do to maintain instructional hours for pedagogical purposes. There is, also, an impact statement available [online](#) that provides comparisons with other Alberta Universities and some MRU comparator institutions.

3. CAUT Forum for Presidents

Gerry will report further on this in the January [Presidents Report](#).

In its studies CAUT has found that most institutions perceive GFC/Senates to be merely "rubber stamp[ing]." In this regard we have done fairly well this year: in the Fall we had a good discussion on academic freedom as it relates to teaching, we beat back the editorial changes to instructional hours, and there was a good discussion on continuance. However, it is through collective bargaining that we are best able to have a voice. Any management rights that are not constrained or taken away in the Agreement are residual management rights. The employment standards act and the labour code do not apply to us: the Collective Agreement is the only thing that applies to us regarding the terms and conditions of our employment. Finally, faculty can have significant impact on the operations of GFC. GFC is responsible for amending its bylaws and two thirds of GFC members are faculty members; so, faculty members can make changes they consider important.

4. Presidents Discussion Series

Notes of previous meetings are posted [online](#). The next discussion is on February 26, 12:00 - 1:30pm. The topic is donor agreements and revenue generation principles.

Announcements

- Any concerns or comments pertaining to parking and transportation can be sent to the MRFA representatives on the Transportation Advisory Committee, Monica Baehr or Janet Monteith.
- All members are invited to submit, to Chantelle Anderson, their experiences with Infosilem and comparative examples of schedules prior to and after the implementation of this software.
- The Tenure and Promotion Celebration is on February 7 and the program starts at 4:00pm.
- Brett McCollum is this year's recipient of ACIFA's Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award

Part-time Member Representative, Brenda Lang

The Part-time Service honorarium form has been revised. All faculty members are asked to inform contract faculty of this fund and encourage them to apply. The form is available on the MRFA website at mrfanet.net/forms

The Executive Board, also, requests that you promote the social and informational event for contract faculty being held tomorrow, January 30, 4:00 – 7:00pm in the Faculty Centre.

Negotiating Committee Report

1. Clarification on Terminology

The term part-time, as a generic term, has been replaced with Contract Faculty or Contract Academic Staff. A chart of the different ranks and terms is available [online](#).

2. Update for Winter Negotiations

The new Collective Agreement has been finalized. The electronic version should be available by next week and the paper version shortly thereafter.

A new IP and Copyright article is to be ratified in May. The Negotiating Committee will be clarifying some of the benefits and reappointment processes for contract faculty. And, the Committee will be looking at the pool of money in List A, at where it is going, how much we are short, and if any significant changes are needed.

There will be a full round of negotiations starting in January 2014

Unfinished Business

[MRFA Position on Tenure Restrictions for Service.](#)

Please refer to the [November General meeting notes](#) for more information on this matter.

Motion 1: Resolved, That Articles 4.3.2, 4.3.4, 4.5.5, 4.7.1, 6.2, 6.4.5, 9.3.7 and 9.3.9 be referred to the Negotiating Committee in the next round of collective bargaining and that the negotiations survey be used to determine whether to negotiate changes.

No Discussion

Vote

Carried Unanimously

Motion 2: Resolved, That the ad-hoc Organization of the MRFA Sub-Committee of the MRFA Executive review and update the document listing tenure requirements for Executive Board and Standing Committee positions that it prepared last year and determine whether to recommend any changes to the membership.

No Discussion

Vote

Carried Unanimously

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:26pm.

Communications Officer
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval