

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: June 12, 2015

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on June 12, 2015. The meeting convened at 12:05pm, President, Marc Schroeder, presiding

Members Present

Marc Schroeder
Richard Sutherland
April McGrath
Scott Murray
Tracy Powell
Brenda Lang
Andreas Tomaszewski
Elaine Mullen

Members not present:

Karen Manarin
Shiraz Kurji

Guests:

Allison Mackenzie
David Clemis
Sabrina Reed
Brady Killough
Jarett Henderson

Agenda

Added Board of Governors Representative's Report - Teaching Excellence Award
Added to Communications Officer's Report - Department Communicators Appointment Update
Approved

Minutes

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2015 meeting.
Motion Carried

Order of the Day, 12:00pm

Discussion with Incoming Executive Board Members

1. MRFA Vision and Mission Statements
2. MRFA Documents
Copies of the CA, Policies and Procedures and Bylaws provided to new members
3. Early Year Events
Review of Fall 2015 events and scheduling.
4. Provincial Funding Situation
The Minister has confirmed that the NDP government is reversing the market modifier approvals and will be implementing a tuition freeze. They will not be tabling any legislation till the fall.
5. Update from the Board of Governors
6. ALC: Faculty Caucuses / GFC Package summaries
Faculty caucuses have been a struggle and not well attended. ALC could consider alternative ways of getting information out
7. PDC Keynote Proposal for 2016 Retreat
Jarett and Marc will arrange for an invitation to be sent to Rachel Notley to be keynote at the 2016 Retreat.

Discussion

- Changing how board appointments work in Alberta will be added to our advocacy goals
- New Executive Board members are to read through Executive Board responsibilities in the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures

Business Arising

1. Appointment to Grievance Committee
Scott was appointed for a one year term we need to appoint another for a two year term.

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board appoint Khatija Westbrook to the Grievance Committee for a two year term.

Moved: Andreas Tomaszewski

Seconded: Scott Murray

Vote

Carried Unanimously

2. Recommendations to AVP HR Regarding MRFA Priorities for HR Operations Plan
HR is developing a new HR operations plan and Marc will provide Ariane with the MRFA's input on priorities we would like them to consider.

New Business

1. Social Memberships
 - a. Approval of new Social Members
There were no new academic administrators interested in Social Membership
 - b. Consideration of Invitation for Social Membership for non-Academic position
Nonacademic managers are not typically members of the association and we do not want to encourage this.
2. COFAS Conference
Report provided and discussed. These conferences have been useful and the Association will continue to send the Executive Assistant to attend.
3. Report on Civility Symposium
Incivility is a problematic issue in academia due to the nature of academic freedom, the culture of debate, and the culture of autonomy. The takeaway message from the Symposium was that Faculty need to be involved in their own self-discipline and in identifying incivility, and we need to take a progressive and informal approach in dealing with potential conflicts.

In Camera Session

Vice-President Policy and Senior Grievance Officer's Report

Officers' Reports

President's Report, Marc Schroeder

1. Updates
 - a. LabourWare Implementation Update
This membership and grievance management software has been purchased and implemented
 - b. Code of Conduct Update
They are considering making revisions to the draft before it goes forward.
2. MRU's Emergency Response Plan
MRU has improved its emergency response plan in recent years and further modifications are being considered.
3. MRU Smoking Policy
Changes were made in response to the emergence of vaping cigarettes. Scott will inform Amy Nixon that the MRFA is fine with the policy changes and has no questions.
4. Other Recent Activity

Contract Faculty Representative Report, Brenda Lang

Bissett Dean Search Update

Members of the committee have been asked to provide criteria by August 24.

Communications Officer's Report, Richard Sutherland

CASL Update

We still have a year before we need to be in compliance. We will be bringing consent forms to orientations and following up with members who have not responded.

Department Communicators Appointments

Motion THAT new Department Communicators recommended by the Communications Committee be appointed by the Executive Board

Moved: Scott Murray

Seconded: Brenda Lang

Vote

Carried unanimously

Board of Governors Representative's Report, Elaine Mullen

Teaching Excellence Award

The first award was given in 2014 and the 2015 recipients have been selected. Micheline Maylor received the contract faculty award and Yaw Asante received the full time award. The awards will be presented at the October 2, 2015 Tenure, Promotion and Awards Celebration.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval