

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: June 14, 2013

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on June 14, 2013. The meeting convened at 9:00am, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Communications Officer

Members Present:

Marnie Kramer-Kile
Elaine Mullen
Kit Dobson
Marc Schroeder
Brenda Lang

Scott Murray
David Sabiston
Gerry Cross
Not Present:
Pat Kostouros
Shiraz Kurji

Order of the Day, 2:00pm

Approval of Audited Financial Statements

Shiraz has discussed the statements and letters with the auditor and some changes were made to the management letter. He is unable to attend the meeting, but the drafts have his approval. Future audits will reflect expense groupings in the same way we present our budget to the membership.

Motion THAT the Executive Board approve the audited financial statements.

Moved: Gerry Cross

Seconded: Scott Murray

Vote

Carried Unanimously

Agenda

Added to President's Report: MRFA Lunch with New faculty
IP Joint Committee

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2013 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Officer's Reports

President's Report

1. ACIFA Report

The Minister stated that his interest in opening the PSLA is to give students a bigger voice in governance. Should the PSLA be opened, Faculty should submit requests to have the right to strike back, to have the labour code apply to faculty, to have a provision for bargaining in good faith, and for some changes to be made regarding designation of faculty, based on guidelines developed by ACIFA.

A motion was passed at ACIFA directing the ACIFA president, on behalf of Presidents Council, to submit a request that the Minister withdraw his letter to the boards with respect to bargaining over the next several years.

Faculty need to be stronger advocates for PSE. Individual associations can work toward this by creating advocacy committees, developing communications/ media relations policies or meeting with local newspapers' editorial Boards. Collectively, we should work toward the creation of a formal coalition that advocates for PSE in Alberta. Improving ACIFA's advocacy role is going to be discussed extensively at the October Presidents Council.

CAFA report at ACIFA's President's Council

CAFA recently met with the Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister. It was apparent in this meeting that the Minister has little knowledge of PSE and he is receiving bad advice. This may be an opportunity to inform and influence him. He informed CAFA that there were no advocates for PSE in the budget discussions and this is why PSE was cut so much. This is a clear message for Faculty Associations. One of our targets next year needs to be communicating with MLAs to ensure our voices are heard. This should be a strategic goal of the Executive and this should be moved forward by the Advocacy Committee.

- This could be as simple as a letter campaign from the Executive Board to all MLAs.
- It is also good to meet with MLAs personally.
- If each member of the board is to write their own letter, the letters need to be unique: we cannot use a form letter.
- We will get some good talking points from CAFA, they are working on developing a campaign using concrete images to show the benefits of PSE and also may look at what Alberta will be like without good PSE.

Opening the Post Secondary Learning Act

- Lukaszuk has no interest in meeting with faculty associations. He met with CAFA because they do not negotiate collective agreements.
- His interest in opening the PSLA is to give students a bigger voice in governance. There may be more student representatives on the Board and GFC.

2. Distinguished Service Award

The Awards Committee will be struck in August to develop the criteria.

3. New Faculty Lunch

The 2013-2014 Executive Board members are invited to attend the new faculty orientation and lunch from 11:15am – 1:00pm on Friday August 16. It will be on campus but the location has not been determined. Gerry and the Members at Large will speak to the new faculty members before lunch.

4. IP MOU

Clauses are being added to the article by the lawyers and the process is costing the MRFA thousands of dollars. The intent of the MOU was that contract language be developed based on the draft agreed to by the previous joint committee. MRFA and MRU should terminate the work of the joint committee, bring the article back to negotiations, extend the deadline so this work can happen in the fall, and go back to the basic principles. Articles on accessibility are to be removed as they are not needed. Gerry will discuss this with Randy on Monday.

Unfinished Business

1. Agenda for Jim Turk's Visit

If possible, Jim will also be meeting with the Advocacy Committee, the Executive Board and senior administration on September 10. At the special meeting, Jim will emphasize the importance of membership participation and speak about the problems being faced across Canada in Post Secondary Education.

2. MRU Coalition

Motion THAT one of the Executive Board goals for 2013-2014 be to establish a formal coalition, with an externally visible presence, of the MRFA, SAMRU and MRSA with a mandate to advocate for PSE.

Moved: Gerry Cross
Seconded: Marc Schroeder
Discussion
Called the Question: Scott Murray
Vote
Carried

3. MRFA Response to Science and Technology's RSAC Proposal
Motion THAT the MRFA send a letter to the Dean of Science and Technology indicating the contraventions of the collective agreement and the ways in which it will be grieved if implemented. The letter shall include a recommendation that the Faculty Council reconsider the adoption of the policy. A copy of the letter shall be sent to the new Provost and the Associate Vice President Academic.

Moved: Marc Schroeder
Seconded: Kit Dobson
Discussion
Vote
Carried Unanimously

4. Update on the Tenure and Promotion Review Process
The committee expects the review process to take two years, rather than three, since the institutional criteria will not likely need much modification. In the fall, a survey of the tenure and promotion system will be sent TPC Chairs, department Chairs, UPTPC, Deans Council and the MRFA Executive Board. After the results of the survey have been compiled and analyzed there will be further consultation with faculty members.

New Business

1. Online SEIs
The MRFA will write a letter of protest on this and discuss it with the new Provost in the Fall. This is a matter concerning the MRFA since online SEIs will affect the evaluation of our members.
2. Rights Responsibilities and Respect Committee
This work of this committee is being done by other groups and the Executive Board agrees with its dissolution. Gerry will contact the member to inform her of other ways she can be involved in this capacity.
3. Contingency Fund
Motion THAT the Executive Board approve an interfund transfer in the amount of \$11,996.86 from the Operating fund surplus to the Contingency fund bank account in order to restore it to a level of \$12,000
Moved: Gerry Cross
Second: Brenda Lang
Vote
Carried Unanimously
4. Mental Health First Aid Training (MHFA)
A more fulsome report will be drafted and Pat will be asked to review it prior to having it posted on mrfa.net.
5. MRSA update
Their dues vote passed

Gerry expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the outgoing

members of the Executive Board: David Sabiston, Pat Kostouros, Kit Dobson and Marnie Kramer-Kile.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval