

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: March 14, 2014

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on March 14, 2014. The meeting convened at 12:00pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Janice Paskey, Communications Officer.

Members present:

Gerry Cross	Elaine Mullen
Karen Manarin	Brenda Lang
Scott Murray	Shiraz Kurji
Marc Schroeder	Andreas Tomaszewski
Tracy Powell	Janice Paskey

Agenda

Added: Presidents Report: 7. Executive Board Dinner
New Business: 6. Negotiations Report
7. New Faculty Outreach
8. Tenure and Promotion Review update
9. Health and Community Studies Update

Minutes

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2014 meeting. **Motion carried.**

Officer's Report

President's Report

1. March Presidents' Discussion Series
The Discussion series in March will be in two parts: March 14 at 2:00 and March 27 at 12:00.
2. ACIFA Report (CAFA and RBB)
Distributed for information
3. Meeting with Laboratory Instructors
Gerry met with three of the laboratory instructors, and they raised several concerns. Gerry will be meeting with them again, and their chair, to see if the concerns can be addressed. Changes required in the Collective Agreement will be sent to the Negotiating Committee.
4. MRU Budget
 - a. Provincial Budget and BAC Update
The situation is likely better than it has been for the past two years. However, BAC still has not gotten the savings and revenue generating ideas into the budget. Gerry has urged them to continue working on this. Once trend data is available, BAC may be able to approve principles which can address the disproportionate amount spent at Mount Royal on administrative salaries compared to other similar institutions.
 - b. MRFA Press Release
This was issued last week but was not picked up.
Gerry and Janice will arrange to have the Herald's educational reporter here to do a story on the Theatre program cuts.
5. Diversity Committee Vacancies
There has been a resignation and the position will be left vacant till the May election. The Executive approved the continuation of the member's term who will be on maternity leave in the fall.
6. Presentation on May 14 by Loreleigh Keashly
Loreleigh Keashly will be coming back to Mount Royal to present on bystander efficacy, dealing with conflict and managing academic freedom in relation to civility. We will start promoting this: it will likely be a jointly sponsored event.
7. Executive Board Dinner
This will be scheduled during the winter exam period.

Business Arising

1. Job Action Research Committee
There is nothing to report at this time.

Unfinished Business

1. Changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual
A travel and expense policy and a gift section will be added.
Referred to the Bylaws Committee.
2. SEI Language in the Collective Agreement
Submitted to the Negotiating Committee for information.

New Business

1. Discussion of Possible Bylaw Changes
 - a. Timing of Election for the Contract Member Representative.
It would be good to have the elections all at the same time. The best way to do this would be to have an online advanced poll for this position then paper voting at the meeting. The advanced poll would only be sent to contract faculty, and the voter lists at the meeting would have the names of online voters crossed off. The totals would be combined and all results announced at the same time. We will discuss this with the membership and plan to make this change for the next election of the Contract Member Representative in 2016.
 - b. Nominations Committee
Motion THAT the Executive Board direct the Bylaws Committee to adopt the charter for a nominations committee and make the required revisions to make it clear that this committee does not nominate people: it seeks nominations and develops faculty leadership among faculty and encourages members to run for positions.
Moved: Gerry Cross
Seconded: Brenda Lang
Vote
Carried
 - c. Items Discussed in previous meetings
Motion THAT the these items be referred to the Bylaws Committee
Moved: Gerry Cross
Vote
Carried
 - d. Discussion of other Possible Changes
Gerry will meet with Marc to discuss other possible changes
 - The bylaws committee will add wording to the elections articles that members can only be nominated for up to two committees.
2. March 4, General Meeting Minutes and Notes
The minutes were reviewed by the Executive and will be posted.
3. Approval for Chantelle to Attend the COFAS Conference
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board approve Chantelle's attendance at the COFAS conference, and, that the MRFA cover the expenses of her attendance.
Moved: Scott Murray
Seconded: Marc Schroeder
Vote
Discussion
Carried
4. Consideration of a Donation to the COFAS
The Executive will consider this request at its next meeting after getting more information.

5. An Unusual Request
It is not our practice to invite students to the Spring Retreat. Gerry will inform the student of this.
6. Negotiations Report
The teams are having some progress in certain areas.
7. New Faculty Outreach
Tracy and Marc have heard back from some of the new faculty members and will be meeting with them soon.
8. Tenure and Promotion Review update
The process is in the second round of consultation. Once the survey closes, the steering committee will draft a list of items and changes to be considered and send these to the applicable groups to work out the details.
9. Health and Community Studies Update
Health and Community Studies hired a research development officer who will work 10-12 hours a week supporting faculty scholarship. This seems to be the role of Research Services, and it is not clear where the resources came from to pay for this position.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval