

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: March 20, 2015

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on March 20, 2015. The meeting convened at 12:00pm, President, Marc Schroeder, presiding.

Members Present:

Elaine Mullen
Richard Sutherland
Andreas Tomaszewski
Brenda Lang
Shiraz Kurji

Karen Manarin
Marc Schroeder
Tracy Powell
April McGrath
Not Present:
Scott Murray

Agenda

Added to New Business: Strike Fund and MRU Response to Water Main Break

Minutes

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2015 meeting.
Motion Carried

Officers' Reports

Vice President Negotiations Report

The Arbitration submission will be sent in on March 23 and the arbitration is April 1.

Unfinished Business

1. Bargaining Goals Development Committee Report
This committee has produced a bargaining goals matrix which is intended to be a working document to be referred to and updated by future Negotiating Committees. The committee has fulfilled its mandate and has been dissolved.
2. Contract Faculty IRG Funding Proposal
The Executive Board cannot sponsor nor bring this motion forward to the membership as it is clear that the membership would be divided on this matter. In spirit this is a good motion, but there are various reasons why it would not be supported by many of our members. We can, however, put this on the April 1 General Meeting agenda if the member who prepared it is willing to present and speak to it at the meeting.
3. COFAS
 - a. COFAS Subsidy Request
Due to the high cost of sending the MRFA Executive Assistant to the 2015 conference in Quebec, the MRFA will not be providing a subsidy this year.
 - b. Travel Authorization
Motion THAT the MRFA pay expenses for Chantelle to attend the 2015 COFAS conference in Quebec; including airfare, accommodation, registration and a meal allowance in accordance with the MRFA Travel Expense Policy.
Moved: Karen Manarin
Seconded: Tracy Powell
Discussion
Vote
Carried

Business Arising

1. Debrief Meetings with Guests
 - a. Meeting with the MRSA Executive Board
This was a productive and informative meeting which benefited from having an agenda circulated in advance. The MRFA and MRSA Executive Boards should meet more often.
 - i. Recommendation to BoG Rep to Speak Against the Code of Conduct

The Executive Boards of the MRFA and MRSA cannot tell the board representatives what to do or how to vote at the meetings. We can, however, inform them of our concerns.

- ii. Joint MRFA/MRSA Petition Against Code of Conduct Policy
No discussion.
 - b. David Docherty
David and the MRFA Executive, both, found this meeting useful.
 - c. SAMRU Executive Board
The MRFA has had a good working relationship with SAMRU this year and are continuing to meet regarding areas of mutual interest. We will continue to cooperate and support each other where we can, but certain matters not related to our mandate, such as pedagogy, cannot be affected by the MRFA.
2. Review of Topics for Meeting with Randy and Kathy
Agenda to be revised and sent to Randy and Kathy prior to the meeting.

New Business

1. April 1 General Meeting Agenda
Agenda to be revised and extra effort is to be made in promoting this meeting.
2. Proposed 2015-2016 MRFA Budget
We are refocusing expenses and accounting for reduced revenues next year. Due to some transitional matters we are not able to budget an optimal amount for the Contingency fund in 2015-2016; however, we should be able to budget over \$30,000 for the fund in 2016-2017.
 - a. Recommendation to Revise Policies and Procedures Manual
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board approve removing the gifts for MRFA service from the Policies and Procedures Manual.
Moved: Brenda Lang
Seconded: Shiraz Kurji
Vote
Carried
3. Bylaw Changes
 - a. Communications Committee
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board refer the change to the Communications Committee Bylaws to the Bylaws Committee as amended by the Executive Board.
Moved: April McGrath
Seconded: Richard Sutherland
Vote
Carried
 - b. Other
Other bylaw changes are to be sent to Marc or April
4. MRFA Elections
The Executive Board nomination form must be made available to the membership no later than April 10.
5. End of Year Executive Board Dinner
Due to the current fiscal context, the Executive Board's year-end dinner will be a potluck held at the house of a member of the Board. Details to be determined.
6. Donation to Big Bob's BBQ
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board approve a donation in the amount of \$500 to Big Bob's BBQ.
Moved: Shiraz Kurji
Seconded: Brenda Lang

Vote
Carried

7. Strike Fund Contribution

Motion that the MRFA Executive Board approve a donation in the amount of \$1,000 to the York University Faculty Associations currently on strike.

Moved: Richard Sutherland

Seconded: April McGrath

Discussion:

Motion withdrawn – to be considered again upon review of further information

8. MRU Response to Water Main Break

Marc will raise this with David at their next meeting

Officer's Reports

1. Meeting Agenda Structure and Placement of Reports

The current format has worked well and will continue to be used.

2. Updates

a. Application to CAUT

Our application for individual membership in CAUT meets all of CAUT's criteria; however, several Alberta Faculty Associations, including ACIFA, have submitted letters speaking against CAUT's approval of our application. Marc will ask to speak to their arguments at the CAUT Council meeting.

b. Budget Advisory Committee

There is a \$10 million deficit for next year based on all currently known variables and estimated cuts to the operating grant and increases to salaries.

c. Advocacy and Model PSE Platform

The MRU Coalition is preparing to respond to the budget when it is announced, and Marc is drafting a model PSE platform likely to be considered by the MRFA membership at the April 1 General Meeting.

d. Nominations to the Ad hoc Contract Faculty Advisory Committee

The Nominations Committee is seeking contract members to serve on this committee. The work of this committee will begin in the fall.

e. Postdoctoral Fellows Policy

The policy has been revised and now needs to be clarified. There needs to be a clear statement that Post Docs will not be given preference in sessional hiring. Also, if the policy identifies the Post Docs as employees, then, there will need to be an explicit statement in the policy that they are either academic or non-academic employees and therefore are members of either the MRFA or the MRSA, respectively.

f. Meeting with Minister McIver

The government is bringing in essential services legislation. Exactly what is an essential service is up for discussion. They seem to be open with harmonizing some of the issues and opening the PSLA to address some of the problems.

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

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval