

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: March 27, 2013

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on March 27, 2013. The meeting convened at 3:30pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Communications Officer

Members Present:

Gerry Cross
Elaine Mullen
Kit Dobson
Shiraz Kurji
Scott Murray

Marnie Kramer-Kile

Brenda Lang

Members not Present:

David Sabiston
Pat Kostouros
Marc Schroeder

Agenda

New Business moved above Unfinished Business

Approved

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2013 meeting as amended. **Motion carried.**

Officers Reports

President's Report

1. Meeting with MacEwan

Parts of the discussion were quite useful. Gerry will be meeting with Aimee next month to discuss membership in external organizations.

2. University Mandate Letter

Due to the recent cuts to PSE in Alberta, the MRFA has significantly increased its media relations role. The MRFA is responsible for responding publicly to these types of situations and we need to continue to do so. To be more effective in the media, the MRFA will pay the travel and accommodation expenses to have CAUT provide its workshop on *Media and Communications* in early May. We will invite our colleagues at other institutions in Calgary.

Most budget decisions at the institutional level will need to be made by April 11 when the University Presidents will be meeting with the Minister. There is the possibility of bridge financing which will likely, along with FLE numbers, be discussed at this meeting.

3. Preparation for the Budget Discussion at the General Meeting

It is often recommended that faculty not take salary rollbacks: often salaries are cut and the positions and programs are cut the following year. If we were to open the Collective Agreement to consider rollbacks we would talk about a lot of other articles as well. Regardless, Gerry is not going to express an opinion on this at the April 3 General Meeting: he will prepare a report outlining the issues that members need to consider.

New Business

1. Ad Hoc Awards Committee Recommendations

The MRU Faculty Association Teaching Excellence Award and Distinguished Service Award were discussed and revised by the Executive Board. The revised award documents, along with the Executive Board notes, will be sent to members with the April GM agenda.

2. AGM

a. Agenda

The Executive Board will review this again before it is sent out.

b. Budget

We are reducing our planned revenues based on cutbacks: our revenues have been reduced by 4%. To accommodate this reduction in our revenues we have made cuts to several other budget lines. If there is going to be additional reassigned time approved at the AGM, we will reduce the budgeted amount for the contingency fund accordingly.

c. Elections

May election nomination forms revised. These will be sent to members by April 12.

d. 2014-2015 auditor

We are very happy with our current auditors but it seems the fees are too high. We give them a complete audit package every year and all they have to do is some minor tweaking and adjustments. Every year the same questions are asked because every year we have a new person working with the audit. In the past this may have been justified but now the package we give them is immaculate. Given the fact that we are trying to save money in certain areas we should call for bids from other auditors. We should inform our auditors that we are looking at other firms and request that they look at their audit fees.

Shiraz proposes that Gerry communicate to Buchanan Barry that we are looking at ways to control costs and are looking at bids from other firms.

Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board allow for bids to be entered from prospective auditors for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Moved: Shiraz Kurji

Seconded: Scott Murray

Discussion

Vote

Carried Unanimously

3. Picnic in the Park Donation

Motion that the Executive Board approve a donation of \$500 to the Picnic in the Park

Moved: Gerry Cross

Seconded: Shiraz Kurji

Vote

Carried Unanimously

4. Request to Use the Centre

Our policy states that we do not rent to student groups; so, the Executive Board cannot approve this request.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:44pm.

Communications Officer
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval