

MINUTES of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: March 1, 2012

Call to order: A General Meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on March 1, 2012. The meeting convened at 3:02pm, President Gerry Cross presiding and Kit Dobson, Secretary.

Members in attendance:

See attached attendance sheets

Agenda

Approved

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Gerry Cross, and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2012 General Meeting. **Motion carried.**

Officers' Reports

President

1. Scheduling Grievance Update

- There is very little to report as the committee has cancelled most of its meetings. We will continue to pursue solutions despite the delays.

2. Voting Sub-Committee Report

- We have selected a mechanism for online voting and will implement it as an option for the committee elections in May. There is a demonstration of the system with the [Meeting resources](#) online.
- The system, Simply Voting, costs 876\$ per year for unlimited elections

3. University Budgeting Process

- Non cash items in the budget are currently impacting the forecast deficit. See budget presentation under [Meeting resources](#) online.
 - There will be excess cash at the fiscal year end due to budgeting for the non cash items amortization and earned capital contributions: this should be planned and budgeted for.
- Significant Considerations
 - Why are we using operating funds to build buildings when the government is more willing to fund capital investments than increase our operating funds?
 - Why do we not protect our core business of instruction? Most of the cuts that academic departments are making will result in fewer courses taught by part-time faculty. This is where we get the best value of all the money the University spends it is, arguably, the worst place to make cuts.
 - We should consider an audit as the University does not seem to be managing its finances well. We need to ensure we avoid deficit situations in the future.
- Changes to curriculum/credit hours/lab-lecture ratios
 - When considering changes to the number of hours of instruction for a course the initiator of a curriculum submission can determine if it is editorial or not and can submit it to APPC and GFC
 - They are trying to force us to make instructional hour adjustments to courses as editorial changes so there is no discussion: this needs to be resisted. These types of changes need to be submitted as substantive course changes and need to be discussed in Faculty Councils and then in GFC. This is where we can hopefully reveal the real extent of the budget problem and then start weighing options.
 - We are being told this is a budget matter not an academic matter: but this is not the case. There are huge pedagogical and learning implications. We need to have this discussion at GFC as soon as possible.

- Faculty Salary Expectations
 - The other kind of rhetoric we need to resist is the demonization of expected salary increases (e.g. “the budget situation would be solved if faculty didn’t insist on getting raises”).

4. Task Force on Faculty Leaves and the Academic Year

- The results of the survey will be posted with the [Meeting resources](#) online
- The survey results have gone to the Negotiating Committee. The task force has recommended that an MOU be put in the Collective Agreement to flesh out a more fully developed sabbatical program.
- Further consultation with all stakeholders will occur at a later date when some actual sabbatical/costing proposals are developed. All changes will go through negotiations. Faculty members will have input to the Negotiating committee.

5. Recommendations for Review of the SEI Processes and Form

- These recommendations come to the membership from both the FEC and the Executive Board. The recommendations are available with the [Meeting resources](#) online.

Motion THAT the motion “Review of the SEI Processes and Form” be revised to include the Chair of APTC as one of the recommended members of the Joint Committee

Moved: Scott Murray
 Seconded: Lee Easton
 Discussion
 Vote
 Carried

Motion THAT the MRFA recommend a member of the Chairs’ Assembly be appointed to the joint committee by the Chairs Assembly

Moved: Lee Easton
 Seconded: Scott Murray
 Vote
 Carried, 4 opposed, 3 abstentions

Motion THAT we use Simply Voting to vote on these recommendations. The vote will begin tomorrow, March 2, and end on March 16.

Moved: Jane Drover
 Seconded: David Bird
 Discussion
 Carried Unanimously

Motion THAT we add a further recommendation that the joint committee consider the impact of the diversity of instructors when interpreting SEI data.

Moved: Mary-Lee Mulholland
 Discussion
 Vote
 Carried, 1 opposed

The Arts Diversity Committee will send references supporting this motion

Committee Reports

1. Negotiating Committee, David Sabiston

- The Negotiating Committee received 50-60 time logs, 200 Full time responses to the survey (50% response rate), and 83 Part-time responses to the survey. This data will be very useful in negotiations.
- Faculty interests:
 - 4for5s will not be changed in this round

- Salary was the highest priority issue for faculty and workload was the second highest
- Board interests:
 - The board wants to address the MOUs
 - Identify and address Promotion issues

2. Sub-Committee on Faculty Organization, Cliff Werier

- This sub-committee of the MRFA Executive Board has been considering reorganizing the MRFA structure to make it more efficient and effective
- Presentation of possible scenarios available under [Meeting resources](#)

3. Professional Affairs Committee, Isha Sharma

- Survey response was overwhelming over 200 people responded. Based on these responses, PAC is hosting a roundtable discussion on April 30.

New Business

1. MRFA Political Action and Advocacy Policy

Deferred

2. Faculty Centre Services

- We provide lunch as a service to members. Unfortunately, there is so little business sometimes that we may need to consider discontinuing this service on certain days.
- Reminder: faculty members are welcome to book the centre for private functions at no charge. (There would be a fee if service were required).

Announcements

Spring 2012 PD Retreat, Registration coming soon! May 15-16

Registration for the retreat will start on Monday

ACIFA Conference, June 3-5, 2012

Winter 2012 MRFA Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, April 3, 2012. 2:00-3:50pm. Location: Y224

AGM: May 11, 9:00 - 2:00. Location: Jenkins Theatre (I115)

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm

Secretary
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval