

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association

Meeting date: November 26, 2013

Call to order: A General Meeting of the MRFA was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary on November 26, 2013. The meeting convened at 4:09pm, President Gerry Cross presiding.

Members in attendance:

See attached Attendance Sheets

Order of the Day, 4:00pm

Guest: Doug Short, ACIFA President

Doug Short is ACIFA's representative on the LAPP stakeholders group. His [presentation](#) and the recent ACIFA [LAPP update](#) outline the current situation and the proposed changes to LAPP. ACIFA will be submitting a letter in response to the proposed changes. It is ACIFA's opinion that we should reinforce our commitment to the defined pension plan, support neutralizing subsidies, and move quickly on joint sponsorship. It is important to make an impact where we can, since changes are necessary in ensuring the sustainability of the plan: the government will make changes regardless of our opposition. Should MRFA members decide a different response is required, members can respond [individually](#) and the MRFA could make its own response based on input from the membership. If members have further questions or comments they can email [Doug Short](#).

Agenda: Approved

Approval of minutes:

Motion was made by Gerry Cross to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2013. **Motion carried.**

Officer's reports

1. President's Report

The MRFA Executive Board is preparing a response to the initial survey for the review of the tenure and promotion system. A survey will be sent to all faculty in the beginning of the Winter term.

2. Vice President Negotiations Report

Pension plan and healthcare benefit changes are not part of the negotiations structure, but the Negotiating Committee will consider them while developing its positions.

A related matter is the maternity leave benefits. The Diversity Committee is preparing a brief that will go through the Executive Board to the Negotiating Committee. We hope there will be improvements in these articles.

3. Vice President Policy and Grievance Report

One grievance recently ended at step 1. There is another grievance moving to step 2 regarding a department not adhering to its definition of relevant accumulated experience.

New Business

1. Strategic Plan Committee, Scott Murray MRFA Representative

Since MRU has new academic and student plans it will be good to have an overarching strategic plan. The scenario planning being done now will produce a framework and a plan which is expected to be developed by the New Year.

2. Online Student Evaluation of Instruction Pilot

Guest: Val Kinnear, Chair of the Ad Hoc eSEI Implementation Steering Committee

The committee is looking at how to effectively implement this transition. Members of the committee are reviewing and summarizing articles on this topic and considering how we are going to evaluate response rates. The Committee's November 2013 report is available [online](#).

At upcoming Faculty Councils, tenured volunteers will be invited to participate in the pilot next semester.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.

Communications Officer
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval