

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: October 2, 2015

Call to order: An Executive Board meeting of the MRFA, was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary, Alberta on October 2, 2015. The meeting convened at 12:00pm, President, Marc Schroeder, presiding

Members Present:	Allison MacKenzie	Brenda Lang
Marc Schroeder	Sabrina Reed	Tracy Powell
Shiraz Kurji	Richard Sutherland	David Clemis
Brady Killough	Jarett Henderson	

Order of the Day, 1:00pm

Guest, David Docherty

1. MRFA 2015-2016 Advocacy Goals (att.)
The goals were approved by MRFA members and will be made available to the Board.
The MRFA will seek to collaborate with stakeholders on areas of common interest.
2. MRU Budget
 - a. Impact of the Government's Funding Announcements
Funding announcements have left MRU in a net plus position somewhere between one and three million dollars.
 - b. Reversing Changes Made in Anticipation of Cuts which have been Reversed
With compensation for full market modifiers and a 2% increase to operating funds for next year, we are looking at a balanced budget for 2016-2017: we are not currently in a position to reverse changes made.
 - c. 2016-2017 Budgeting Timelines and Expectations
After the provincial budget is announced we will start planning for 2016-2017
 - d. Securing Operational Funds for New Buildings
Following extensive advocacy efforts on the part of the administration, MRU just received confirmation that \$890,000 has been added to ongoing operational funds for the Conservatory.
 - e. Budget Implications and Planning related to the Growth Anticipated in the Strategic Plan
There may be potential for growth and hiring moving forward based on recent savings and potential increases to operational funding; however, we are awaiting details before making any decisions.
3. External MRU Communications and Government Relations
 - a. Status of Movement to Part 1 of the PSLA
This was submitted to the Minister on September 8
 - b. Transparency and Partnership around Ministerial Visits
There may be opportunities for collaboration as we move into funding formula discussions and review. We need a consistent message about how this would benefit Alberta PSE and students.
 - c. Representing the University with the Government and in the Media & Social Media Campaigns from the President's Office
The President's Office and MRU Communications will consider increasing external promotion of academic achievements at MRU.
 - d. MRU's Brand
The face to face brand is not gone yet but we need to decide how to move forward with it. We need to maintain branding that reflects what we do at MRU.
4. MRU Policy

- a. Policy Development Framework
The MRFA expressed concerns about there being limited involvement of GFC sub-committees in the initial stages of policy development and too much direction for policy development being provided by the University's legal counsel. David clarified the policy development process and agreed to make minor editorial changes to the flow chart to improve clarity.
 - b. Draft Salary Market Supplement Policy (att.)
This was drafted two years ago to improve transparency around market supplements.
- 5. Full Time to Contract Ratio – Plans for Hiring Full Time Faculty
There may be potential for growth and hiring moving forward based on recent savings and potential increases to operational funding, but not in the immediate future.
 - 6. Senior Administrator Evaluation Process
The process was changed in recent years to be more formative in nature (i.e. performance feedback is only invited from people in areas directly connected to the role of the person being evaluated).

Agenda

Approved

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Marc Schroeder to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2015 meeting. Motion Carried

Business Arising

- 1. Response to Academic Scheduling Policy (att.)
Motion THAT the MRFA Executive Board approve the feedback to the proposed Academic Scheduling Policy in principle as amended.
Moved: Brenda Lang
Seconded: Jarett Henderson
Vote
Carried Unanimously

New Business

- 1. September General Meeting Draft Minutes and Debrief (att.)
We will improve communications for the next general meeting.
- 2. Topics for Meeting with Michael Quinn
Topics discussed: additional topics to be sent to Chantelle.

In Camera Session

Vice-president Policy and Senior Grievance Officer's Report
President's Report

Officer's Reports

President's Report

- 1. Updates:
 - a. eSEIs
Evaluating every course violates the CA for sessional faculty, fixed term faculty and lab instructors: we can expect grievances related to this.
 - b. Honourary Membership
Darlene Windrem's Honourary membership was approved by the membership at the September 30, 2015 General Meeting.

- c. Advocacy Goals
The 2015-2016 Advocacy Goals were approved by the membership at the September 30, 2015 General Meeting.
 - d. New Activists Workshop
Kirk Niergarth is attending and he will be an observer at CAUT Council
 - e. VP SACL and VP UA Search Committees
The committee is meeting in October to do short listing for the VP Student Affairs and Campus Life and interviews will be in late October. No progress has been made by the hiring committee for the VP University Advancement.
 - f. Tenure and Promotion Training Workshops
These workshops were offered in August and September to all newly tenured members, to new tenurable faculty through NFSP, and to Deans' Council. The session will be presented to Chairs' Assembly soon.
 - g. Tenure and Promotion Review Steering Committee
Deferred
 - h. Code of Conduct Actions (att.)
Update on MRFA activities related to the Code of Conduct
 - i. Written Question to GFC Regarding MRU Policy Development Framework
This will be a discussion at GFC
 - j. Other
2. Institute for Community Prosperity "Strategy Roadmap"
Marc is participating in the planning process as a member of the MRU Community.

Contract Member Representative's Report

- 1. Contract Faculty Advisory Committee – Plans for Fair Employment Day
As part of Fair Employment Day, the committee will be sending out an informational email to all faculty, SAMRU, Admin, and Lori Sigurdson about contract faculty at MRU.

Treasurer's Report

- 1. Mid-Year Fiscal Update (att.)
Current account balances were provided and compared to the budget. The Faculty Centre Management Committee reviews the budget every month and this will be brought to the Executive Board every three months for review.

Announcements

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

Communications Officer,
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval