

Minutes of the Mount Royal Faculty Association
Meeting date: October 25, 2013

Call to order: A General Meeting of the MRFA was held in Mount Royal University, Calgary on October 25, 2013. The meeting convened at 10:07am, President Gerry Cross presiding.

Members in attendance:

See attached Attendance Sheets

Agenda: Approved

Approval of minutes:

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

Len Findlay, the chair of CAUT's Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee, will likely be attending the January General Meeting. Similar to having Jim Turk here at the September General Meeting, Len's speech will build support among the membership for getting Academic Freedom in the Collective Agreement. It would be useful for GFC Councillors to attend this meeting so they are aware of the broader implications involved in academic freedom.

Officer's Reports

[President's Report](#)

1. Changes to the Local Authorities Pension Plan

LAPP is not fully funded due, in part, to investment losses in 2008, earlier retirements and longer life expectancies. To respond to this unfunded liability, the Minister of Finance is proposing changes to LAPP which will remove most of the current subsidies in the program. If approved at the end of Fall 2013, these changes will come into effect on January 1, 2016. The changes will not be retroactive but will significantly impact people who recently joined LAPP.

- The unreduced 85 factor pension will be eliminated.
- It will be possible to contribute for over 35 years and get more than a 70% pension.
- There may be a hard cap on contribution rates. This contribution cap could lead to benefits being reduced. This, combined with the targeted and lower COLA increases, means that some of the financial risk is shifted to pensioners.
- Contribution rates, with the current actuarial assumptions, will decrease between 3 - 3.5%. If they are decreased by 3%, then employees and employers would each pay 1.5% less. This additional money could be invested in an RRSP by employees.
- The changes made do not address the subsidy for people leaving the plan and so did not shift any of the risk to these people. ACIFA is going to make a response to this and likely recommend that this subsidy be removed.

More information will be posted [online](#) with the materials for this meeting. Members of LAPP have prepared a [website](#) in response to these changes. There is a form letter you can submit to protest the changes. This will also be linked under the meeting materials [online](#).

2. Child Care Committee

There was a motion last Fall from the membership for the MRFA to redo the survey. A committee was struck and redeveloped the survey. This was completed last February but it was not administered due to all the budget cuts. The survey is intended to assess future demand for child care and also to get a sense of how the membership would feel about certain initiatives the association could consider pursuing to support members with child care needs. The MRSA and SAMRU surveys are being developed, and all three will be sent to members in mid November.

3. Dues and Services Chart

The chart, available [online](#), demonstrates what our members pay in dues and the services they receive compared to other Associations at comparable institutions.

Vice President Negotiations Report, Karen Manarin

The Negotiating Committee is meeting with all departments this term to get input from the membership. The Committee is, also, negotiating the IP articles this fall. These articles will likely be ready for ratification in January 2014.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

1. MRU Governance Chart

This governance chart provides a broad view of governance at Mount Royal from the faculty perspective. Each section of the chart is linked to its respective committee charter or website. The chart is available [online](#).

2. Facebook

We communicate with our members in a number of ways. The Monday email is very useful way to keep up to date. We have a private [Facebook](#) page which we encourage members to join. Currently there are 100 members. Finally, our Department Communicators provide a point of contact with the MRFA and facilitate a two way flow of information. If you do not know who your communicator is, the list of Department Communicators is available [online](#).

New Business

Advocacy for Post Secondary Education

1. MRU Coalition

The MRFA Executive is working to establish an MRU coalition consisting of the Mount Royal Faculty Association, the Students' Association of Mount Royal University, and the Mount Royal Staff Association. The coalition would have an externally visible presence and seek a mandate from its member organizations to educate the citizens of Alberta about the value of post-secondary education and what needs to be done to properly support it. Once the coalition is established, we will try to expand it to the other post-secondary institutions in Calgary.

Gerry Cross and David Ohreen are the MRFA representatives on the MRU coalition

2. Goals

These goals are being presented for discussion and approval. They will inform the work of the Advocacy Committee and the MRU Coalition.

Motion THAT the MRFA advocate for the additional funding that was promised for the third and fourth years of Mount Royal University's degree programs.

Executive Board Motion

Discussion

Motion to Amend: Motion THAT the MRFA advocate for the additional funding that was promised [by the provincial government] for the third and fourth years of Mount Royal University's degree programs

Moved: Michael Truscello

Seconded: Roberta Lexier

Vote

Passed Unanimously

Vote on Motion

Carried Unanimously

Motion THAT the MRFA advocate for the continuation of the provincial government's 2013-2014 initiative to freeze tuition and add the amount of a cost of living tuition increase to operating grants for ___ years.

Executive Board Motion

Discussion

Motion to Amend: "Motion THAT the MRFA advocate for the continuation of the provincial government's 2013-2014 initiative to freeze tuition and [continue to] add the amount of a cost of living tuition increase to operating grants."

Moved: Jeremy Berry

Seconded: Scott Murray

Vote

Carried Unanimously

Vote on Motion

Carried Unanimously

Motion THAT the MRFA advocate for per capita FLE funding from the provincial government sufficient to ensure that no qualified Alberta applicant is turned away.

Executive Board Motion
Discussion
Vote
Carried

Motion THAT the MRFA advocate for increased government revenues so that the volatility and instability of funding for post-secondary education can be eliminated.

Executive Board Motion
Discussion
Called the question
 Moved: Scott Murray
 Seconded: Marc Schroeder
Vote
Carried
Vote on Motion
1 opposed and 3 abstentions
Carried

Motion THAT the MRFA advocate for the quality of education; for example, by explaining the impacts of increased class sizes

Executive Board Motion
Discussion
Vote
Carried Unanimously

3. Strategies

Membership vote on incorporating in its strategies the statement that it shall “be non-partisan in the sense of saying what is required for the future of the province, but don’t criticize party policy or individual politicians”

1 in favour

Motion THAT the MRFA incorporate in its strategies the statement that it shall “be non-partisan in the sense of saying what is required for the future of the province”

51 in favour
Statement adopted

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Communications Officer
Mount Royal Faculty Association

Date of approval